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Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Alexandra Juhasz

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Scope and Contents.....	1
Scope and Contents.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Alexandra Juhasz
Date:	2017 December 19-21
Identifier:	AAA.juhasz17
Creator:	Juhasz, Alexandra (Interviewee) Kerr, Theodore (Interviewer)
Extent:	6 Items (sound files (5 hr., 56 min.) Audio; digital, wav) 117 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Alexandra Juhasz, 2017 December 19-21, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Alexandra Juhasz, 2017 December 19-21, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

This interview is part of the Archives of American Art Oral History Program, started in 1958 to document the history of the visual arts in the United States, primarily through interviews with artists, historians, dealers, critics and administrators.

Available Formats

Transcript is available on the Archives of American Art's website.

Biographical / Historical

Alexandra Juhasz (1964-) is an AIDS activist, media maker, and scholar in New York, New York. Theodore Kerr (1979-) is a writer and organizer in New York, New York.

Scope and Contents

An interview with Alexandra Juhasz conducted 2017 December 19 and 21, by Theodore Kerr, for the Archives of American Art's Visual Arts and the AIDS Epidemic: An Oral History Project, at Juhasz's home in Brooklyn, New York.

Scope and Contents

Juhasz speaks of her commitment to AIDS activism; her intellectual, bohemian, culturally Jewish upbringing; developing her feminism, political consciousness and activism in high school and college; her relationship with James "Jim" Robert Lamb; moving to New York for graduate school in 1986; the beginning of her AIDS activism and video-making practice in the late '80s; reflecting on her privilege and positionality in her activist work; her commitment to making marginal work; Jim Lamb's role in *Video Remains*, followed by his death and enduring inspiration for her work; the striking and surprising aspects of participating in an oral history; historical and theoretical underpinnings of video-making as an activist strategy and process; making activist video with the WAVE collective; the stakes, challenges, and costs of marginalized communities fighting for self-representation; making activist video with Swarthmore college students; the artistic milieu of New Queer Cinema; producing *The Watermelon Woman* and recently re-releasing it; moving to Los Angeles and having a period of silence in AIDS activism; returning to AIDS activism by making *Video Remains*; her ongoing collaborative writing about AIDS with Theodore Kerr; and her most recent projects. Juhasz also recalls Eve Sedgwick, Joe Guimento, Jon Engebretson, Jean Carlomusto, Tom Kalin, Avram Finkelstein, Amber Hollibaugh, Maxine Wolfe, Miguel Prieto, Robert Vasquez-Pacheco, Charles Ludlam, Everett Quinton, Carolyn Lesjak, Yannick Durand, Juanita Mohammed, Sharon Penceal, Aida Matta, Glenda Hasty, Marcia Edwards, Kenrick Cato, Megan Cunningham, Cheryl Dunye, Zoe Leonard, Pato Hebert, Alisa Lebow, Sarah Schulman, Todd Haynes, Ellen Spiro, and others.

System Details

Recorded on Tascam DR-100MKII R00329.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- AIDS (Disease)
- Authors -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews
- Educators -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews
- Feminists
- Filmmakers -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews
- Oral history
- Political activists -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Carlomusto, Jean
- Cato, Kenrick
- Cunningham, Megan
- Dunye, Cheryl
- Durand, Yannick
- Edwards, Marcia
- Engebreston, Jon

Finkelstein, Avram, 1952-
Guimento, Joe
Hasty, Glenda
Haynes, Todd
Hebert, Pato
Hollibaugh, Amber L., 1946-
Kalin, Tom
Lamb, James Robert
Lebow, Alisa
Leonard, Zoe
Lesjak, Carolyn, 1963-
Ludlam, Charles
Matta, Aida
Mohammed, Juanita
Penceal, Sharon
Prieto, Miguel
Quinton, Everett
Schulman, Sarah, 1958-
Sedgwick, Eve Kosofsky
Spiro, Ellen
Swarthmore College
Vasquez-Pacheco, Robert
Visual Arts and the AIDS Epidemic: An Oral History Project
Wolf, Maxine