



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## Oral history interview with Karen Karnes

This interview received support from the Smithsonian  
American Women's History Initiative Pool.

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with Karen Karnes
<b>Date:</b>	1971 Oct. 4
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.karnes71
<b>Creator:</b>	Karnes, Karen, 1925-2016 (Interviewee) Cummings, Paul (Interviewer)
<b>Extent:</b>	1 Sound tape reel (Sound recording: (1 hour 30 min.); 5 in.) 78 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Audio: Oral history interview with Karen Karnes, 1971 Oct. 4, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)</a> <a href="#">Digital Content: Oral history interview with Karen Karnes, 1971 October 4, Transcript</a>

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

This interview is part of the Archives' 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 others.

### Available Formats

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

### Restrictions

This interview is open for research. Contact Reference Services for more information.

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## Biographical / Historical

Karen Karnes (1925-2016) was a ceramist from New York, NY. She worked and at Black Mountain College, and later lived and worked in Stony Point cooperative art village, and then lived and worked in Vermont. She is known for her salt-glazed ceramics.

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## Scope and Contents

An interview of Karen Karnes conducted 1971 Oct. 4, by Paul Cummings, for the Archives of American Art. She discusses growing up in the Bronx, New York City; her husband, David Weinrib; early work in Italy; her time at Black

Mountain College; Southern Highland Handicraft Guild; Stony Point artists' cooperative. She also discusses the form and aesthetic of her cermaics.

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## General

Sound quality is poor.

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Subjects:

- Art, American
- Ceramicists -- Vermont -- Interviews
- Ceramics
- Decorative arts

### Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

### Names:

- Black Mountain College (Black Mountain, N.C.)