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*Archives of American Art*

Oral history interview with Gyöngy Laky

Funding for this interview was provided by the Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America. Funding for the digital preservation of this interview was provided by a grant from the Save America's Treasures Program of the National Park Service.

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with Gyöngy Laky
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.laky07
<b>Date:</b>	2007 December 11-12
<b>Extent:</b>	11 Items (Sound recordings: 11 sound files (4 hr., 8 min.); digital, wav) 66 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Creator:</b>	Laky, Gyöngy, 1944- Riedel, Mija, 1958- Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## 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.

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## Biographical / Historical

Gyöngy Laky (1944- ) is a textile artist from San Francisco, California. Mija Riedel (1958- ) is a curator and writer from San Francisco, California.

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## Scope and Contents

An interview of Gyöngy Laky conducted 2007 December 11-12, by Mija Riedel, for the Archives of American Art's Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America, at Laky's home and studio, in San Francisco, California.

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## Scope and Contents

Laky speaks of her recent exhibitions; leaving Hungary as a child; using words in art; learning languages; family influences in her art; the family art gallery and Chinese painting; changing majors in college; working with various materials; using recycled materials in her work; retirement; planning her works; working with assistants; working with a small community in Europe; construction of her works; using

computers to create art; the craft "renaissance"; scale and outdoor projects; working with dealers and commissioned pieces; emphasis on negative space. Laky also recalls Emile Lahner, Mary Dumas, Ed Rossbach, Judy Foosaner, Peter Voukos, Joanne Branford, Lillian Elliott, Henry Miller, Louise Nevelson, Darryl Dobras, Brett Christiansen, Kim Ocampo, Jack Lenor Larsen, Martin Puryear, Ann Hamilton, Suzi Gablik, Susan Sontag, and others.

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## General

Originally recorded on 2 sound discs. Reformatted in 2010 as 11 digital wav files. Duration is 4 hr., 8 min.

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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 and computers
- Computer Art
- Decorative arts
- Painting -- China
- Textile artists -- California -- San Francisco

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Branford, Joanne Segal, 1933-1994
- Christiansen, Brett
- Dobras, Darryl
- Dumas, Mary
- Elliott, Lillian, 1930-1994
- Foosaner, Judith, 1940-
- Gablik, Suzi, 1934-
- Hamilton, Ann, 1956-
- Lahner, Émile, 1893-1980
- Larsen, Jack Lenor, 1927-2020
- Miller, Henry, 1891-1980
- Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America
- Nevelson, Louise, 1899-1988
- Ocampo, Kim
- Puryear, Martin, 1941-
- Rossbach, Ed
- Sontag, Susan, 1933-2004
- Voukos, Peter, 1924-2002