



Smithsonian  
*Archives of American Art*

Oral history interview with Flora Mace

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 Flora Mace
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.mace05a
<b>Date:</b>	2005 August 17-18
<b>Extent:</b>	3 Items (sound discs (3 hrs., 25 min.) Audio; digital) 58 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Creator:</b>	Mace, Flora, 1949- Herman, Lloyd E. 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.

### Available Formats

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

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## Biographical / Historical

Flora Mace (1949- ) is a glass artist from Seattle, Washington. Lloyd E. Herman (1936- ) is a curator and former director of the Smithsonian's American Art Museum's Renwick Gallery and currently lives in Seattle, Washington.

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## Scope and Contents

An interview of Flora Mace conducted 2005 August 17-18, by Lloyd E. Herman, for the Archives of American Art's Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America, at the artist's home and studio, which she shares with Joey Kirkpatrick, in Seattle, Washington.

## Scope and Contents

Ms. Mace discusses growing up in New Hampshire, in a house that her family had lived in for generations; various family businesses, including clam-shucking; how her mother suffered from depression throughout her childhood; her grandparents, who played a large role in her upbringing; joining the 4-H and becoming a skilled shepherd; her family's hunting, fishing, and gathering, on which they survived during her childhood; the various art projects she did with her mother and grandmother, including making wreaths for friends and relatives; building tree houses out of scrap wood; trapping animals and making their pelts into clothes for her dolls; saving up her money from after school jobs and the 4-H competitions to buy tools; getting a scholarship from her grandmother's old employer to go to college; attending Plymouth State; her involvement in college athletics, including field hockey, skiing, and softball; early artistic influences, especially Alexander Calder; traveling to Norway on the International Farm Youth Exchange; attending the University of Illinois for graduate school and being their sculpture technician; attending a summer workshop at the University of Utah with Dale Chihuly; being invited by Chihuly to go to Pilchuck Glass School to continue her work; becoming an artist-in-residence at Wheaton Glass Village; having her first show at the Contemporary Glass Gallery (later the Heller Gallery) in New York; the growth of the studio glass movement in the late 1970s; and finally going to Pilchuck Glass School for the first time in 1979, where she met Joey Kirkpatrick. The continuation of Mace's story, and her lifelong collaboration with Kirkpatrick, is discussed in a joint interview of Kirkpatrick and Mace. Mace also recalls Bill Morris, Ben Moore, Audrey Handler, Paul Stankard, Mary and Frank Wheaton, and others.

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## General

Originally recorded on 3 sound discs. Reformatted in 2010 as 6 digital wav files. Duration is 3 hrs., 25 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:

- Decorative arts
- Depression in women
- Glass artists -- Washington (State) -- Seattle -- Interviews
- Women artists

### Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

### Names:

- 4-H Youth Development Program (U.S.)
- Calder, Alexander, 1898-1976
- Chihuly, Dale, 1941-
- Contemporary Glass Gallery
- Handler, Audrey
- International Farm Youth Exchange
- Kirkpatrick, Joey

Moore, Ben  
Morris, William, 1957-  
Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America  
Pilchuck Glass Center (Stanwood, Wash.)  
Plymouth State College -- Students  
Stankard, Paul, 1943-  
University of Illinois. -- Student  
University of Utah  
Wheaton Glass Village  
Wheaton, Frank  
Wheaton, Mary

Geographic Names:

Norway -- description and travel