



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with John Marshall

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

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with John Marshall
Identifier:	AAA.marsha01
Date:	2001 April 5
Creator:	Marshall, John, 1936- (Interviewee) Herman, Lloyd E. (Interviewer) Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America
Extent:	6 Items (Sound recording: 6 sound files (3 hrs., 2 min.); digital, wav) 45 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with John Marshall, 2001 April 5, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with John Marshall, 2001 April 5, 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.

Biographical / Historical

John Marshall (1936-) is a jeweler and metalsmith from Edmonds, Washington. Lloyd Herman (1936-) is the former director of the Smithsonian Institution's Renwick Gallery from Seattle, Washington.

Scope and Contents

An interview of John Marshall conducted 2001 April 5, by Lloyd Herman, for the Archives of American Art's Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America, in Edmonds, Washington.

Scope and Contents

Marshall speaks of his childhood in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; participating in an educational program with the Carnegie Museum; his exposure to art while in grade school and throughout his education; joining the

army after high school; spending time in Germany with the army and experiencing the metalwork of that area; learning to work hard from his father; his family background; attending Grove City College, then working in construction during the day and going to classes at Carnegie Tech during the night; finally attending Cleveland Institute of Art; some of his teachers at the Institute, Kenneth Bates, Toshiko Takaezu, and John Clague; his first experiences with metal, Fred Miller, and learning how to design metal pieces; getting a job as head of the metals department at Syracuse and completing his MFA there; meeting Paul Smith and Lee Nordness, and participating in Objects: USA; his travels throughout Europe; the many commissions he has done for churches, everything from baptismal bowls, chalices, and crosses; Patrick Lannan, and how instrumental he was in Marshall's career, his collection of work that Lannan bought and where it all is now located; the different types of communities in the different areas he lived; commissions and how they were important to his career; how he challenges himself with new ideas and creations; the Handy and Harman Workshop; the difference between a university trained artist and one who has learned his/her craft outside academia; his students and how much satisfaction he has received from teaching; the decline in metal working programs at the university level; the influence of other faculty members on his work, such as Lee DuSell; the critics of metalwork, Bruce Metcalf and Gary Griffin; his involvement in the Society of North American Goldsmiths; and his two sons. Marshall also recalls John Paul Miller, Winifred Lutz, Ramona Solberg, Ruth Penington, Michael Scott, Don Bacorn, Annie Hauberg, and others.

General

Originally recorded on 4 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 6 digital wav files. Duration is 3 hrs., 2 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Decorative arts
- Jewelers -- Washington (State) -- Interviews
- Metal-workers -- Washington (State) -- Interviews
- Religious articles

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Bacorn, Don
- Bates, Kenneth F. (Kenneth Francis), 1904-1994
- Carnegie Institute of Technology -- Students
- Carnegie Museum of Art -- Students
- Clague, John, 1928-
- Cleveland Institute of Art -- Students
- DuSell, Lee
- Griffin, Gary, 1945-
- Grove City College -- Students
- Hauberg, Anne Gould
- Lannan, J. Patrick
- Lutz, Winifred
- Metcalf, Bruce, 1949-

Miller, Fred, (Decorative artist)
Miller, John Paul, 1918-
Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America
Nordness, Lee
Penington, Ruth, b. 1905
Scott, Michael, 1958-
Smith, Paul J., 1931-
Society of North American Goldsmiths
Solberg, Ramona
Syracuse University -- Faculty
Takaezu, Toshiko

Places:

Europe -- description and travel
Germany -- description and travel