



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Michael W. Monroe

Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Michael W. Monroe
Identifier:	AAA.monroe18
Date:	2018 January 22-March 1
Creator:	Monroe, Michael W. (Interviewee) Herman, Lloyd E.
Extent:	8 Items (sound files (3 hr., 59 min.) Audio; digital, wav) 71 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Michael W. Monroe, 2018 January 22-March 1, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Michael W. Monroe, 2018 January 22-March 1, 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.

Restrictions

The transcript and recording are open for research. Contact Reference Services for more information.

Biographical / Historical

Michael W. Monroe (1940-) is director emeritus of the Bellevue Arts Museum in Bellevue, Washington. Lloyd Herman (1936-) is the founding director (emeritus) of the Renwick Gallery in Washington, D.C. who resides in Seattle, Washington.

Scope and Contents

An interview with Michael W. Monroe conducted 2018 January 22-March 1, by Lloyd Herman, for the Archives of American Art, at the home of Michael Monroe and at the home of Lloyd Herman, in Seattle, Washington.

Scope and Contents

Monroe speaks of his childhood in Racine, Wisconsin; his Danish immigrant community and early exposure to Danish design; early experiences of art-making; his art and teaching education at the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee; experiences with Midwestern art museums in adolescence and young adulthood; his graduate art education at the Cranbrook Academy of Art; his work as gallery director at SUNY Oneonta in the early 1970s; his approach to evaluating and curating craftwork; his curatorial tenure and close collaboration with Herman at the Renwick Gallery; securing the Renwick's Albert Paley gates; his lifestyle in the Washington, DC area; the American craft movement's shift towards the marketplace, social media, and quick do-it-yourself methods; organizing the "Craft Multiples" traveling exhibition; the beginning of the Renwick's collections policy; organizing "Celebration: A World of Art and Ritual;" organizing the White House Collection of Crafts and its eventual transfer to the Clinton Presidential Library; his continued involvement with the craft world after retirement from the Renwick; his tenure as executive director of the Bellevue Arts Museum; his mentorship of young craft artists; and his sense of the past and future of American crafts. Monroe also recalls Sylvester Jerry, Cherry Barr Jerry, Robert Verizer, Robert Kidd, George Ortman, Julius Schmidt, Richard DeVore, Steve Frykholm, Jon Eric Riis, Arturo Sandoval, Gretchen Bellinger, Bernadette Monroe, Robert Arneson, David Gilhooly, William Harper, Wendell Castle, Françoise Gossen, Claire Zeisler, Sarah Booth Conroy, Sheila Hicks, Dale Chihuly, Arthur Mason, Jane Mason, Betty Ford, Joan Mondale, Rosalynn Carter, Barbara Bush, Hillary Clinton, Paul Gottlieb, Peter Joseph, Matthew Kangas, Mark Haley, Nora Atkinson, and others. Herman recalls Susan Mellon, Joshua Taylor, Paul Gardner, Charles Eldredge, Elizabeth Broun, Paul Smith, Rose Slivka, Diane Douglas, Janet Kardon, William Morris, and others.

System Details

Recorded on Tascam DR-100MKII R00037

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Arts -- Management
- Arts administrators -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews
- Arts administrators -- Washington (D.C.) -- Interviews
- Curators -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews
- Curators -- Washington (D.C.) -- Interviews
- Curators -- Washington (State) -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Bellevue Art Museum (Wash.)
- Smithsonian American Art Museum. Renwick Gallery

Occupations:

- Arts administrators -- Washington (State) -- Interviews