



Smithsonian  
*Archives of American Art*

Oral history interview with Mark Peiser

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 Mark Peiser
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.peiser04
<b>Date:</b>	2004 February 26
<b>Extent:</b>	68 Pages (Transcript) 6 Items (Sound recording: 6 sound files (3 hr., 55 min.); digital, wav)
<b>Creator:</b>	Peiser, Mark, 1938- Halem, Henry 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.

### Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

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## Biographical / Historical

Mark Peiser (1938- ) is a glass artist from Penland, North Carolina. Henry Halem (1938- ) is a glass artist from Kent, Ohio.

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## Scope and Contents

An interview of Mark Peiser conducted 2004 February 26, by Henry Halem, for the Archives of American Art's Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America, in Penland, North Carolina.

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## Scope and Contents

Peiser speaks of growing up in Chicago; his relationship with his parents; developing an early interest in music and engineering; attending Perdue University and transferring to the Institute of Design, Illinois Institute of Technology; working for a design firm in Chicago; becoming interested in glass after seeing an exhibit at the Art Institute of Chicago; attending a workshop at Penland School of Crafts; becoming Penland's first Artist-in-Residence in glass and developing a technique on his own; working with Fritz Dreisbach to set up the first Glass Art Society conference; making improvements to the Penland glass studio; teaching at Penland; making a living as an artist; making opal glass for the first time; choosing certain imagery and color in his work; experimenting with technique including glass casting; making his Innerspace series; his relationship with collectors; finding challenges with his latest body of work; and the influence of Zen on his art. Peiser also recalls Harvey Littleton, Bill Brown, Billy Bernstein, and others.

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## General

Originally recorded on 3 sound discs. Reformatted in 2010 as 6 digital wav files. Duration is 3 hr., 55 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
- Glass art -- Equipment and supplies
- Glass art -- Study and teaching
- Glass art -- Technique
- Glass artists -- North Carolina -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Art Institute of Chicago
- Bernstein, William, 1945-
- Brown, William J. (William Joseph), 1923-1992
- Dreisbach, Fritz
- Glass Art Society
- Illinois Institute of Technology. Institute of Design -- Students
- Littleton, Harvey K.
- Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America
- Penland School of Crafts -- Faculty
- Penland School of Crafts -- Students
- Purdue University -- Students