



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Ruth Penington

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Ruth Penington
Date:	1983 Feb. 10-11
Identifier:	AAA.pening83
Creator:	Penington, Ruth, b. 1905 (Interviewee) Harrington, LaMar, 1917-2005 (Interviewer)
Extent:	63 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Ruth Penington, 1983 Feb. 10-11, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Ruth Penington, 1983 Feb. 10-11, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

This interview is part of the Archives' Northwest Oral History Project, begun in 1982 to document the Northwest artistic community through interviews with painters, sculptors, craftsmen, educators, curators, and others, in Oregon, Washington and Montana.

Location of Originals

Transcript also available at the University of Washington, Manuscripts Collection, and at the Oregon Historical Society.

Biographical / Historical

Ruth Penington (1905-1998) was an educator, metalworker, and printmaker from Seattle, Wash.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Ruth Penington conducted 1983 Feb. 10-11, by LaMar Harrington, at the artist's home in Seattle, Wash., for the Archives of American Art's Northwest Oral History Project. Penington speaks of her family background; her early interests; her education; the beginnings of the Northwest Printmakers; teaching at the University of California; the change in the definition of art in universities; the influence of Gilbert Rohde; her philosophy of teaching, of art, and of commercialism; various shows and exhibitions she has been involved in; her work methods and her current work.

General

Originally recorded on 3 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 5 digital wav files. Duration is 3 hrs., 48 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Decorative arts
- Women artists
- Women printmakers
- Women printmakers

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Northwest Printmakers
- Rohde, Gilbert, 1894-1944

Occupations:

- Educators -- Washington (State) -- Seattle
- Metal-workers -- Washington (State) -- Seattle
- Printmakers
- Printmakers -- Washington (State) -- Seattle