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Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Raymond Charles Pierotti

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Raymond Charles Pierotti
Date:	2005 September 4
Identifier:	AAA.pierot05
Creator:	Pierotti, Raymond Charles, 1932- (Interviewee) Herman, Lloyd E. (Interviewer) Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America
Extent:	30 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Raymond Charles Pierotti, 2005 September 4, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Raymond Charles Pierotti, 2005 September 4, 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

Raymond Charles Pierotti (1932-) is a former director of the Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Lloyd E. Herman (1936-) is a curator and former director of the Smithsonian Institution's Renwick Gallery from Seattle, Washington.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Raymond Charles Pierotti conducted 2005 September 4, by Lloyd Herman, for the Archives of American Art's Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America, at Herman's home, in Seattle, Washington.

Scope and Contents

Pierotti speaks of his childhood in Bountiful, Utah; his Italian grandfather, who made ornamental plaster casts in a barn near their home; his time in France as a Mormon missionary; his military service in Korea, which led him to Paris on the GI Bill, allowing him to take classes at La Sorbonne; his early years in New York, which included a job at Rizzoli's Books starting up their music department; his sale during that time of his first paintings, and the opening of a gallery on 34th and 2nd; his position working for Paul Smith at the Museum of Contemporary Crafts (now the Museum of Arts and Design); his initial involvement with the American Craft Council; his eventual acceptance of the executive director position at Arrowmont; the various improvements and changes he instituted while director of the school; his reasons for leaving Arrowmont; and his involvement with other craft schools and art centers, including the Hambidge Center for Creative Arts and Sciences and the Sawtooth Center for Visual Art. Pierotti also recalls Don Wykoff, Marian G. Heard, Sandra J. Blain, Aileen Osborne Webb, Joan Mondale, Lucy Morgan, Mary Crovatt Hambidge, Verne Funk, Mark Peiser, Jim Wallace, and others.

General

Originally recorded on 2 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 3 digital wav files. Duration is 1 hr., 27 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts
- Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America

Occupations:

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