



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## Oral history interview with Jerry Rothman

Funding for this interview was provided by the Nanette L. Laitman  
Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America.

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with Jerry Rothman
<b>Date:</b>	2010 August 30-31
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.rothma10
<b>Creator:</b>	Rothman, Jerry, 1933-2014 (Interviewee) Riedel, Mija, 1958- (Interviewer) Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America
<b>Extent:</b>	109 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Digital Content: Oral history interview with Jerry Rothman, 2010 August 30-31, Transcript</a> <a href="#">Audio: Oral history interview with Jerry Rothman, 2010 August 30-31, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)</a>

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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.

### 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.

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## Biographical / Historical

Jerry Rothman (1933- ) is a ceramist in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. Mija Riedel is a writer and independent scholar in San Francisco, California.

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## Scope and Contents

An interview of Jerry Rothman conducted 2010 August 30 and 31, by Mija Riedel, for the Archives of American Art's Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America, at Rothman's home and studio, in San Miguel del Allende, Mexico. Jerry Rothman and Mija Riedel discuss

the artist's relocation to Mexico in 2004, the influence of Mexican folk art, his first design job as a teenager, his early marriage to Catherine Bosley the sculptor, her death caused by progressive MS, his experience creating public sculpture, designing dinnerware, the switch to working with clay sculpture, political commentary through artwork, the use of eroticism in his artwork, particularly Leda and the Swan, the form and color used for the Bay Views series as well as others, and his philosophy on form and perspective in artwork and renaissance artists.

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## General

Originally recorded on 5 memory cards as 6 digital sound files. Duration is 4 hr., 31 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:

Ceramicists -- Mexico -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

Interviews  
Sound recordings

Names:

Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America