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Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Ginny Ruffner

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Ginny Ruffner
Identifier:	AAA.ruffne06
Date:	2006 September 13-14
Creator:	Ruffner, Ginny (Interviewee) Riedel, Mija, 1958- (Interviewer) Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America
Extent:	36 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Ginny Ruffner, 2006 September 13-14, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Ginny Ruffner, 2006 September 13-14, 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.

Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

Biographical / Historical

Ginny Ruffner (1952-) is a glass artist from Seattle, Washington. Mija Riedel (1958-) is a curator and writer, from San Francisco, California.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Ginny Ruffner conducted 2006 September 13-14, by Mija Riedel, for the Archives of American Art's Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America, at the artist's home and studio, in Seattle, Washington.

Scope and Contents

Ruffner speaks of her new outdoor sculpture piece, "The Urban Garden," in Seattle, Washington; receiving her B.F.A. and M.F.A. in painting and drawing at the University of Georgia; developing an interest in glass after seeing Marcel Duchamp's, "The Bride Stripped Bare By Her Bachelors, Even (Large Glass)"; spending five years learning lampworking as an apprentice/employee; teaching experiences at Pilchuck School of Glass; moving to Seattle, Washington from Atlanta, Georgia; reading as a strong influence; the significance of language and words; an interest in mathematic theories, particle physics, and cosmology; various series of artwork including Beauty, Aesthetic Engineering, Balance, and Patterns of Thought; plans for her three-part pop-up book about creativity, imagination, and wonder; travels to Japan, Italy, Australia, Thailand, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Ireland, and France; universal and subjective concepts of beauty; her recovery from the accident she suffered in 1991; a change of perception following the accident; her dislike of labeling art as whimsical; the transformative effects of experiencing installation pieces; and exhibition and installation plans for the future. Ruffner also recalls Flora Mace, Joey Kirkpatrick, Deborah Dohne, Fred Tschida, Maurine Littleton, Tom Robbins, Alvy Ray Smith, George C. Scott, Mark Leach, and others.

General

Originally recorded on 3 sound discs. Reformatted in 2010 as 10 digital wav files. Duration is 3 hr.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Art -- Philosophy
- Decorative arts
- Glass artists -- Washington (State) -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Dohne, Deborah
- Duchamp, Marcel, 1887-1968
- Kirkpatrick, Joey
- Leach, Mark
- Littleton, Maurine
- Mace, Flora, 1949-
- Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America
- Pilchuck Glass Center (Stanwood, Wash.) -- Faculty
- Robbins, Tom
- Scott, George C., 1927-1999
- Smith, Alvy Ray
- Tschida, Fred
- University of Georgia -- Students