



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the Lynn Schmidt Interviews with Isamu Noguchi and Tom Nakashima, 1980-1990, in the Archives of American Art

Christopher DeMairo

The processing of this collection received Federal support from the Smithsonian Collections Care and Preservation Fund, administered by the National Collections Program and the Smithsonian Collections Advisory Committee.

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Archives of American Art  
750 9th Street, NW  
Victor Building, Suite 2200  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

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## Collection Overview

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>Repository:</b> | Archives of American Art  |
| <b>Title:</b>      | Lynn Schmidt interviews with Isamu Noguchi and Tom Nakashima  |
| <b>Date:</b>       | 1980-1990   |
| <b>Identifier:</b> | AAA.schmlynn  |
| <b>Creator:</b>    | Schmidt, Lynn, 1949- (Interviewer)  |
| <b>Extent:</b>     | 0.9 Linear feet   |
| <b>Language:</b>   | English .   |
| <b>Summary:</b>    | The Lynn Schmidt interviews with Isamu Noguchi and Tom Nakashima measure 0.9 linear feet and date from 1980 to 1990. The collection consists of recorded interviews with Isamu Noguchi that were conducted 9 July and 5 August 1980 in his studio (now the Noguchi Museum), in Long Island City, N.Y.; as well as interviews with Tom Nakashima, conducted 31 July 1989 to 10 March 1990. |

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The collection was donated by Lynn Schmidt in 2006.

### Processing Information

The collection was processed and a finding aid prepared by Christopher DeMairo in 2021.

### Preferred Citation

Lynn Schmidt interviews with Isamu Noguchi and Tom Nakashima, 1980-1990. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions

This collection is open for research. Access to original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center. Researchers interested in accessing born-digital and audiovisual recordings in this collection must use access copies. Contact References Services for more information.

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## Biographical / Historical

Lynn Schmidt (1949- ) is an artist, author, and curator based in Washington, D.C. Schmidt was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and worked for the U.S. information Agency. Isamu Noguchi (1904-1988) was a Japanese American sculptor based in Long Island City, New York. Tom Nakashima (1941- ) is a Japanese American artist based in Washington, D.C.

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## Scope and Contents

The Lynn Schmidt interviews with Isamu Noguchi and Tom Nakashima measure 0.9 linear feet and date from 1980 to 1990. The collection consists of recorded interviews with Isamu Noguchi that were conducted 9 July and 5 August, 1980, in his studio (now the Noguchi Museum), in Long Island City, N.Y.; as well as interviews with Tom Nakashima, conducted 31 July 1989 to 10 March 1990. Schmidt, a former employee of the United States Information Agency, was assigned to interview Noguchi and write an article about him for the agency. The interviews with Tom Nakashima were completed as part of an exhibition in conjunction with the Washington Project for the Arts, which Schmidt curated. The catalog from this exhibition is also in the collection. Also found here is a radio interview with Nakashima on WPFW, Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D.C.

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## Arrangement

To the small size of this collection the interviews are arranged as one series.

- Series 1: Recorded Interviews and Printed Material, 1980-1990 (Box 1-2; .9 linear feet)
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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:

Asian American artists  
Asian American authors  
Asian American sculptors  
Japanese American artists

### Types of Materials:

Interviews  
Sound recordings

### Names:

Nakashima, Tom, 1941-  
Noguchi, Isamu, 1904-1988

### Occupations:

Furniture designers -- New York (State)  
Landscape architects  
Sculptors -- New York (State)

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Recorded Interviews and Printed Material, 1980-1990

#### 0.9 Linear feet (Box 1-2)

Scope and Contents: Found here are tape-recorded interviews with Isamu Noguchi and Tom Nakashima on 13 cassettes and duplicates on 25 CDs. Schmidt was assigned to interview Noguchi for the U.S. Information Agency and write an article about him. The interviews with Tom Nakashima were completed as part of an exhibition in conjunction with the Washington Project for the Arts, *Tom Nakashima: 1984-1990* (1990), curated by Schmidt. A copy of the exhibition catalog is found here as well. Also included is a radio interview with Nakashima on WPFW, Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D.C.

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Box 1, Folder 1 | Tom Nakashima with Mel, Digital Recording, 1989 July 10-11<br>4 Electronic discs (CD) |
| Box 2, Item 1-2 | Tom Nakashima with Mel, 1989 July 10-11<br>2 Sound cassettes                          |
| Box 1, Folder 2 | Tom Nakashima, Digital Recording, 1989 July 31<br>2 Electronic discs (CD)             |
| Box 2, Item 3   | Tom Nakashima, 1989 July 31<br>1 Sound cassette                                       |
| Box 1, Folder 3 | Tom Nakashima, Digital Recording, 1989 September 15<br>4 Electronic discs (CD)        |
| Box 2, Item 4-5 | Tom Nakashima, 1989 September 15<br>2 Sound cassettes                                 |
| Box 1, Folder 4 | Tom Nakashima, Digital Recording, 1989 November 3<br>3 Electronic discs (CD)          |
| Box 2, Item 6-7 | Tom Nakashima, 1989 November 3<br>2 Sound cassettes                                   |
| Box 1, Folder 5 | Tom Nakashima, Digital Recording, 1990 January<br>2 Electronic discs (CD)             |
| Box 2, Item 8   | Tom Nakashima, 1990 January<br>1 Sound cassette                                       |
| Box 1, Folder 6 | Tom Nakashima, Digital Recording, 1990 March 10<br>2 Electronic discs (CD)            |
| Box 2, Item 9   | Tom Nakashima, 1990 March 10  |

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
|                   | 1 Sound cassette   |
| Box 1, Folder 7   | Tom Nakashima, Radio Interview WPFW, Digital Recording, 1990 May 25<br>2 Electronic discs (CD) |
| Box 2, Item 10-11 | Tom Nakashima, Radio Interview WPFW, 1990 May 25<br>2 Sound cassettes                          |
| Box 1, Folder 8   | Tom Nakashima: 1984-1990 (1990), Catalog, 1990   |
| Box 1, Folder 9   | Isamu Noguchi, Digital Recording, 1980 July 9<br>1 Electronic discs (CD)                       |
| Box 2, Item 12    | Isamu Noguchi, 1980 July 9<br>1 Sound cassette   |
| Box 1, Folder 11  | Isamu Noguchi, Digital Recording, 1980 August 5<br>2 Electronic discs (CD)                     |
| Box 2, Item 13    | Isamu Noguchi, 1980 August 5<br>1 Sound cassette   |

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