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Oral history interview with Ken Shores

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Ken Shores
Identifier:	AAA.shores07
Date:	2007 November 13-14
Extent:	4 Items (sound discs (7 hr.); digital; 2 5/8 in.) 127 Pages (Transcript)
Creator:	Shores, Kenneth, 1928- Riedel, Mija, 1958- Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America
Language:	English

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

Ken Shores (1928-) is an artist and teacher from Portland, Oregon. Mija Riedel (1958-) is a curator and writer from San Francisco, California.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Ken Shores conducted 2007 November 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 Shores' home and studio, in Portland, Oregon.

Scope and Contents

Shores speaks of growing up during the Depression; working with clay in high school; collecting art at a young age; working part-time to pay for college; his introduction to religious philosophy; being drafted to Germany and touring Europe; going back to college for studio art; summer classes at Pond Farm; teaching during graduate school; his lack of interest in the technical aspects of clay; working for various

studios and galleries; incorporating different techniques and materials into his work; creating works based on architecture; South American influences; becoming a regional representative for the ACC; teaching art at a private school; his profiles in magazines; traveling and collecting in India; the impact of his changing spirituality on his work; the importance of a positive attitude toward life; spiritually influential books; and his working process. Shores also recalls Isabel Schmier, Brian Connley, Victoria Avakian, Maud Kerns, Louis Bunce, Darren Pierce, Vivian Wilkenson, Max Nixon, Antonio Prieto, Kay McNab, Sue Cooley, Paul Soldner, Beatrice Wood, Trude Guermonfrez, Mary McFadden, Patrick Lennon, Mrs. Vanderbilt Webb, Don Foster, Marguerite Wildenhain, and others.

General

Originally recorded on 4 sound discs. Reformatted in 2010 as 13 digital wav files. Duration is 7 hr.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Decorative arts

Types of Materials:

Interviews

Sound recordings

Names:

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