



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## Oral history interview with Laurie Simmons

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# Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	1
Administrative Information .....	1
Scope and Contents.....	1
Scope and Contents.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Names and Subjects .....	2
Container Listing .....	

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with Laurie Simmons
<b>Date:</b>	2017 May 25-September 27
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.simmon17
<b>Creator:</b>	Simmons, Laurie (Interviewee) Lyon, Christopher (Interviewer)
<b>Extent:</b>	4 Items (sound files (2 hrs., 41 min.) Audio; digital, wav) 54 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Digital Content: Oral history interview with Laurie Simmons, 2017 May 25-September 27, Transcript</a> <a href="#">Audio: Oral history interview with Laurie Simmons, 2017 May 25-September 27, 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

This transcript is open for research. Access to the entire audio recording is restricted. Contact Reference Services for more information.

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## Biographical / Historical

Laurie Simmons is a photographer, filmmaker, and artist in New York, New York. Christopher Lyon (1949- ) is a writer in Brooklyn, New York.

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## Scope and Contents

An interview with Laurie Simmons conducted 2017 May 25 and September 27 by Christopher Lyon, for the Archives of American Art, at Simmons' home and studio in Brooklyn, New York.

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## Scope and Contents

Simmons speaks of her childhood and adolescence in Great Neck, New York; early exposure to photography; attending Tyler School of Art and studying in Rome; renting a loft in New York with Jimmy DeSana in 1973; attending formative exhibitions in the mid-1970s; beginning her body of photographic artwork in 1976; forming social bonds with other artists in New York; "girl parties" and openings in the 1980s with Gretchen Bender, Jennifer Bolande, Nancy Dwyer, Jenny Holzer, Barbara Kruger, Cindy Sherman, and others; the trajectory of her body of work's subject matter; becoming a mother; her ambivalence toward engaging with critical theory; the cinematic urge in her early work, later realized in her work as a filmmaker; the current stage of her career; and her burgeoning interest in Internet culture. Simmons also recalls Deborah Turbeville, Sarah Charlesworth, Carroll Dunham, Mel Bochner, Dorothea Rockburne, Barry Le Va, Tara Suzuki, Rosalie Onorato, Ellen Brooks, and others.

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## System Details

Recorded on Tascam DR-100MKII R000330.

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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:

- Women artists
- Women filmmakers
- Women photographers

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Occupations:

- Filmmakers -- New York (State) -- New York
- Photographers -- New York (State) -- New York