



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Preston Singletary

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Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America.

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Preston Singletary
Date:	2011 March 23-24
Identifier:	AAA.single11
Creator:	Singletary, Preston, 1963- (Interviewee) Savig, Mary, 1982- (Interviewer) Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America
Extent:	8 Items (Sound recording: 8 sound files (3 hr., 48 min.); digital, wav) 55 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Preston Singletary, 2011 March 23-24, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Preston Singletary, 2011 March 23-24, 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.

Biographical / Historical

Preston Singletary (1963-) is a Tlingit glass artist in Seattle, Washington.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Preston Singletary conducted 2011 March 23-24, by Mary Savig, for the Archives of American Art's Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America, at Singletary's studio, in Seattle, Washington.

Scope and Contents

Singletary speaks of his family background, especially his Tlingit heritage and his grandmother; his early interest in music; his job at the Glass Eye Studio in Seattle; his formative years as a glass blower in Seattle and at Pilchuck Glass School; his early styles and processes in the modern Venetian tradition; his interest in

Tlingit motifs; early mentors including David Svenson, Joe David, and Tony Jojola; collaboration in the studio with other glass artists and other native artists who work with various media; his interest in the modernist primitivist art movement; the character of significant exhibitions and commissions; his collaborative project with David Svenson and native Alaskans on the Pilchuck Founders' Totem; how he met his wife in Sweden; descriptions of his processes and techniques, including lighting techniques; his retrospective at the Museum of Glass in Tacoma and the Smithsonian's Gustave Heye Center in New York; current and future directions of his work; the character of his studio, including the contributions of his assistants; collaborations with other native artists including Tammy Garcia, Joe Feddersen, and Maori jade carver Lewis Gardiner; his interest in Jungian psychology and shamanism; his relationship with critics, collectors, and dealers; and his involvement with native communities. Singletary also recalls Dante Marioni, Paul Marioni, Benjamin Moore, Lino Tagliapietra, Dale Chihuly, Dan Dailey, Stanislav Libensky, Napoleone Martinuzzi, David Svenson, Keke Cribbs, Joe David, Tony Jojola, John Hauberg, Richard Royal, Tammy Garcia, Joe Feddersen, Brian Jungen, and James Luna.

General

Originally recorded on 3 memory cards as 8 digital sound files. Duration is 3 hr., 48 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Glass art -- Technique
- Glass artists -- Washington (State) -- Interviews
- Glass blowing and working
- Modernism (Art)
- Native American artists
- Primitivism in art
- Tlingit
- Tlingit art
- Tlingit sculpture

Cultures:

- Tlingit

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Chihuly, Dale, 1941-
- Cribbs, Keke
- Dailey, Dan, 1947-
- David, Joe, 1946-
- Feddersen, Joe, 1953-
- Garcia, Tammy
- Gardiner, Lewis, 1972-
- Hauberg, John H. (John Henry), 1916-
- Jojola, Tony

Jungen, Brian
Libenský, Stanislav, 1921-2002
Luna, James
Marioni, Dante, 1964-
Marioni, Paul
Martinuzzi, Napoleone, 1892-1977
Moore, Benjamin P.
Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America
National Museum of the American Indian (U.S.). George Gustav Heye Center
Pilchuck Glass Center (Stanwood, Wash.)
Royal, Richard
Svenson, David, 1953-
Tagliapietra, Lino

Functions:

Artists' studios