



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Joan Snyder

Funding for this interview was provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art.

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Joan Snyder
Date:	2010 February 25-26
Identifier:	AAA.snyder10
Creator:	Snyder, Joan, 1940- (Interviewee) Richards, Judith Olch (Interviewer)
Extent:	6 Items (Sound recording: 6 sound files (5 hr., 18 min.); digital, wav) 91 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Joan Snyder, 2010 February 25-26, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Joan Snyder, 2010 February 25-26, 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.

Available Formats

Transcript is available on the Archives of American Art's website.

Biographical / Historical

Joan Snyder (1940-) is an abstract artist in Brooklyn, New York. Judith Olch Richards (1947-) is former executive director of iCI in New York, New York.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Joan Snyder conducted 2010 February 25-26, by Judith Olch Richards, for the Archives of American Art, at Snyder's home and studio in Brooklyn, New York.

Scope and Contents

Snyder speaks of her childhood and education, growing up in a Jewish household in Brooklyn; education at Douglass College at Rutgers University, New Jersey; work with anti-poverty programs; her involvement in the wave of feminism, WAC (Women Art Collective), and Women Against War; Snyder's work on the magazine "Heresies: A Feminist Publication on Art and Politics"; relationship with ex-husband, photographer Larry Fink; Snyder's important early showing at Bykert Gallery and Hirschl & Adler; the works *Small Symphony for Women* (1974), *Resurrection* (1977), *Love's Pale Grapes* (1982), *Apple Tree Mass* (1983), *Beanfield with Music for Molly* (1984), *Savage Dreams*, (1981-82), *Women in Camps* (1988), *Morning Requiem for the Children* (1987-88), *Faces*, *Journey of the Souls* (1993), *Cherry Tree* (1993), and her work into the 21st century; themes in her work that refer to the AIDS crisis, the treatment of women and female sensibility, lives of children, and religion; recipient of the MacArthur Fellowship in 2007; her teaching experience at Parsons and School of Visual Art (SVA). Snyder also recalls Ulfred Wilke, Lucy Lippard, and various individuals associated with the Feminist/women's movement, daughter Molly Snyder-Fink, and partner Maggie Cammer.

General

Originally recorded on 6 memory cards. Reformatted in 2010 as 6 digital wav files. Duration is 5 hr., 18 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- AIDS (Disease) and the arts
- Art, Abstract
- Artists (LGBTQ)
- Feminism
- Feminism and art
- Lesbian artists
- Poverty
- Social justice
- Women artists
- Women painters

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Bykert Gallery (New York, N.Y.)
- Cammer, Maggie
- Fink, Larry, 1941-
- Heresies Collective, Inc.
- Hirschl & Adler Galleries
- Lippard, Lucy R.
- Parsons School of Design -- Faculty

Rutgers University -- Students
School of Visual Arts (New York, N.Y.) -- Faculty
Snyder-Fink, Molly
Wilke, Ulfert, 1907-1987
Women Against War

Occupations:

Painters -- New York (State) -- New York