



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## Oral history interview with Rudolf Staffel

Funding for the digital preservation of this interview was provided by a grant from the Save America's Treasures Program of the National Park Service.

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>	Oral history interview with Rudolf Staffel
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.staffe87
<b>Date:</b>	1987 July 17-August 6
<b>Creator:</b>	Staffel, Rudolf, 1911-2002 (Interviewee) Drutt, Helen Williams (Interviewer)
<b>Extent:</b>	90 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Audio: Oral history interview with Rudolf Staffel, 1987 July 17-August 6, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)</a>

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

These interviews are part of the Archives' 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 others.

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## Biographical / Historical

Rudolf Staffel (1911-2002) was a craftsman from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

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## Scope and Contents

An interview of Rudolf Staffel conducted 1987 July 17-August 6, by Helen Drutt, for the Archives of American Art.

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## Scope and Contents

Staffel speaks of his childhood in San Antonio, Texas; his discovery of blown glass and traveling to Mexico to learn glassblowing techniques; studying ceramics; teaching at Temple University's Tyler School of Art; his teaching philosophy; his exhibition history; Philadelphia as a crafts city; the influence of Chinese art; the development of his own work; his techniques.

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## General

Originally recorded on 3 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 6 digital wav files. Duration is 3 hr.

## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Subjects:

Artisans -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia -- Interviews  
Ceramics -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia  
Decorative arts  
Glass craft -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia

### Types of Materials:

Interviews  
Sound recordings