



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## Oral history interview with Michelle Stuart

Funding for this interview was provided by the Lichtenberg Family Foundation.

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with Michelle Stuart
<b>Date:</b>	2015 November 3-2017 May 23
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.stuart15
<b>Creator:</b>	Stuart, Michelle, 1933- (Interviewee) Leddy, Annette (Interviewer)
<b>Extent:</b>	7 Items (Sound recording: 7 sound files (5 hr., 9 min.); digital, wav) 154 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Digital Content: Oral history interview with Michelle Stuart, 2015 November 3-2017 May 23, Transcript</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 recording is restricted. Contact Reference Services for more information.

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## Biographical / Historical

Michelle Stuart (1933- ) is a visual artist in New York, New York. Annette Leddy is a collector for the Archives of American Art.

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## Scope and Contents

An interview of Michelle Stuart, conducted 2015 November 3 and 13, and 2017 May 23 by Annette Leddy, for the Archives of American Art at Stuart's studio in New York, New York.

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## Scope and Contents

Stuart speaks of her Los Angeles childhood with a Swiss mother and Australian father; her paternal and maternal grandparents; her early interest in history, travel, and art; her schooling; her father's enlistment in the U.S. military during World War II and being raised during her teenage years by her mother; her fascination with Captain Cook; art classes at Chouinard Institute of Art; her work with Diego Rivera in Mexico City; her marriage to Spanish painter Joseph Bartoli and their home life in Paris, France; her return to the U.S. in the late 1950s and life in New York City's West Village; courses at the New School; early exhibitions of her work in New York City gallery group shows; her breakthrough Art Park piece; her relationship to the "Land" artists; Lucy Lippard; Eleanor Munro; the influence of Fluxus; Lawrence Alloway's early essay on her scroll pieces; how she was brought into Galerie Schmela; the founding of Heresies; site specific work in the American Southwest; the enduring impact of the Pacific Ocean on her imagination and art; her use of rocks and other natural materials; her transition to photographic collage; commissions in Sweden, Japan, Alaska, and New York City.

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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:

- Collage
- Women artists
- Women painters
- Women sculptors

### Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

### Names:

- Alfred Schmela Galerie
- Alloway, Lawrence, 1926-1990
- Bartoli, Joseph
- Chouinard Art Institute (Los Angeles, Calif.) -- Students
- Cook, James, 1728-1779
- Fluxus
- Heresies Collective, Inc.
- Lippard, Lucy R.
- Munro, Eleanor, 1928-
- New School for Social Research (New York, N.Y.) -- Students
- Rivera, Diego, 1886-1957

### Occupations:

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

### Places:

- France -- Paris -- Description and Travel
- Pacific Ocean