



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Toshiko Takaezu

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Toshiko Takaezu
Identifier:	AAA.takaez03
Date:	2003 June 16
Creator:	Takaezu, Toshiko (Interviewee) Williams, Gerald, 1926-2014 (Interviewer) Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America
Extent:	33 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Toshiko Takaezu, 2003 June 16, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Toshiko Takaezu, 2003 June 16, 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

Toshiko Takaezu (1922-2011) was a Japanese American ceramist of Quakertown, New Jersey. Gerry Williams (1926-) is the co-founder and former editor of Studio Potter in Dunbarton, New Hampshire. Takaezu's birth date is also cited as 1929.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Toshiko Takaezu conducted 2003 June 16, by Gerry Williams, for the Archives of American Art's Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America, in Quakertown, N.J.

Scope and Contents

Takaezu describes growing up in Hawaii in a large family; her first work as a commercial potter; working with Claude Horan; how religion factors into her work; studying ceramics at Cranbrook Academy of Art with Maija Grotell; the role of universities and apprenticeships in the craft movement; teaching at Princeton

and the Cleveland Institute of Art; visiting artists in Japan; setting up a studio in Clinton, N.J.; her teaching philosophy; the evolution of her work from functional to closed vessels; the inside of her large pots; the importance of color and glazes; her career highlights; the inspiration she finds in nature; her role in political and social activities; her relationship with galleries, including Perimeter and Charles Cowles Gallery; her exhibition history; and the changing face of the American craft movement. She also recalls Claude Horan, Maija Grotell, Otagaki Rengetsu, Kaneshige, Rosanjin, Jeff Schlanger, and others.

General

Originally recorded on 1 sound cassette. Reformatted in 2010 as 2 digital wav files. Duration is 1 hr., 38 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Asian American art
- Asian American artists
- Asian American ceramicists
- Asian American women artists
- Ceramics -- Technique
- Decorative arts
- Japanese American art
- Japanese American artists
- Japanese American women artists
- Women artists
- Women potters

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Cleveland Institute of Art -- Faculty
- Cranbrook Academy of Art -- Students
- Grotell, Maija
- Horan, Claude.
- Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America
- Princeton University -- Faculty

Occupations:

- Ceramicists -- New Jersey