



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Kay WalkingStick

Funding for this interview was provided by the Nanette L. Laitman
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 Kay WalkingStick
Date:	2011 December 14-15
Identifier:	AAA.walkin11
Creator:	WalkingStick, Kay (Interviewee) Riedel, Mija, 1958- (Interviewer) Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America
Extent:	7 Items (Sound recording: 7 sound files (5 hr., 21 min.)) 105 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Kay WalkingStick, 2011 December 14-15, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Kay WalkingStick, 2011 December 14-15, 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 available on the Archives of American Art's website.

Restrictions

This interview is open for research. Contact Reference Services for more information.

Biographical / Historical

Kay WalkingStick (1935-) is a Cherokee painter and professor in Jackson Heights, New York. Mija Riedel (1958-) is an independent scholar in San Francisco, California.

Scope and Contents

An oral history interview of Kay WalkingStick conducted 2011 December 14-15, by Mija Riedel, for the Archives of American Art's Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America, at WalkingStick's studio, in Jackson Heights, Queens, New York.

Scope and Contents

WalkingStick speaks of her childhood experiences and her parents; her grandfather Simon Ridge Walkingstick and jurisprudence; Dartmouth and Indian scholarships; how her parents met; her mother as a big influence; drawing and art in the family; her siblings; Syracuse; outdoors; Onondaga Valley; painting; winning a Scholastic Art Award; moving to Huntington Valley, Pennsylvania; attending Beaver; the 1950s; Pratt; review in Artnews; Danforth Foundation; Christianity; the women's movement; Cannabis Gallery; Native American heritage; Teepee Form and Chief Joseph; using wax; Dawes Commission; influences and artists; Catholicism; Italy; Bowling Green; sketchbooks; eroticism; Edward Albee's summer camp; Wenger Gallery; The Cardinal Points; being biracial; spirituality; Rome; abstraction and patterns; Il Cortile; Cairo; traveling; teaching; Cornell; Stony Brook; photography; technology; social and political commentary in art; changes to artwork over time; landscapes; mountains and the Rockies; Colorado; dialogues with God; symbols; art world; dealers; the WalkingSticks; Late Afternoon on the Rio Grande; art theory; drawing; diptych format; Venere Alpina; Sex, Fear and Aging; prints and books; and curiosity and humor. WalkingStick also recalls Simon Ralph WalkingStick, Margaret Emma McKaig, Charles WalkingStick, Murray Peterson McKaig, Benton Spruance, Michael Echols, Bear Paw, Bertha Urdang, Ramona Sakiestewa, Jody Folwell, Jaune Quick-To-See Smith, Emmi Whitehorse, George Longfish, David Penny, Dirk Bach, Bryn Mawr, and Marsden Hartley.

General

Originally recorded as 7 sound files. Duration is 5 hr., 21 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Catholicism
- Cherokee artists -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews
- Christianity
- Feminism and art
- Native American
- Native American artists
- Painting
- Photography
- Women artists
- Women painters

Cultures:

- Native American

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Sketchbooks
Sound recordings

Names:

Bach, Dirk, 1961-2012
Bryn Mawr College
Cannabis Gallery
Danforth Foundation (Saint Louis, Mo.)
Echols, Michael
Edward F. Albee Foundation
Folwell-Turipa, Jody, 1942-
Hartley, Marsden, 1877-1943
Joseph (Nez Percé Chief), 1840-1904
Longfish, George C.
McKaig, Margaret Emma
McKaig, Murray Peterson
Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America
Penny, David, (Illustrator)
Sakiestewa, Ramona
Smith, Jaune Quick-to-See, 1940-
Spruance, Benton, 1904-1967
United States. Commission to the Five Civilized Tribes
Urdang, Bertha
WalkingStick, Charles
WalkingStick, Simon Ridge
WalkingStick, Sinom Ralph
Wenger Gallery
Whitehorse, Emmi

Occupations:

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