



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Jack Waters

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Scope and Contents.....	1
Scope and Contents.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Jack Waters
Identifier:	AAA.waters18
Date:	2018 February 21-22
Creator:	Waters, Jack (Interviewee) Fialho, Alex, 1989- (Interviewer)
Extent:	4 Items (sound files (5 hr., 59 min.) Audio; digital, wav) 72 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Jack Waters, 2018 February 21-22, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Jack Waters, 2018 February 21-22, 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.

Related Materials

The Archives of American Art also holds the papers of First name Last name.

Available Formats

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

Biographical / Historical

Jack Waters (1954-) is a visual artist in New York, New York. Alex Fialho (1989-) is a curator and arts writer and works as Programs Director for Visual AIDS in New York, New York.

Scope and Contents

An interview with Jack Waters, conducted 2018 February 21 and 22, by Alex Fialho, for the Archives of American Art's Visual Arts and the AIDS Epidemic: An Oral History Project, at the Visual AIDS office in New York, New York.

Scope and Contents

Waters speaks of his early exposure to the arts through his family and their frequent visitors and boarders; the beginnings of his political consciousness, race consciousness, sex consciousness, and self-identity during the 1960s; his dance education at the Miquon School in Philadelphia; teaching at Miquon after briefly dancing in California; his dance and choreography education at the Julliard School and the Ailey School; his experience of the Lower East Side in the 1980s; the genesis and development of the Performing On One Leg collective; the start of the AIDS epidemic; collaborations with Gordon Kurtti and Brian Taylor, and their AIDS-related deaths; the importance of art-making and documentary practice during the AIDS epidemic; the beginning and development of his film and video work; collaborating with Peter Cramer on *Black and White Study* as both film and performance; receiving his HIV-positive diagnosis; the beginning and development of his work as a writer and journalist; his involvement in AIDS activist and queer activist organizations; a formative period in Ibiza during the fall 1983; his films *The Male GaYze* and *Short Memory/No History*; changes in queer activism he has observed since the 1980s, and the lack of historical memory about them; his experience of intergenerational queer dialogue; his involvement with *Visual AIDS*; and his thoughts on the idea of artistic legacy, both generally and in his particular case.

System Details

Recorded on unknown recorder.

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
Filmmakers -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews
Performance artists -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

Interviews

Names:

Visual Arts and the AIDS Epidemic: An Oral History Project
Waters, Jack