



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Betty Woodman

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Betty Woodman
Identifier:	AAA.woodma03
Date:	2003 April 22 and 29
Creator:	Woodman, Betty, 1930-2018 (Interviewee) Perreault, John, 1937-2015 (Interviewer) Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America
Extent:	5 Items (Sound recording: 5 sound files (2 hr., 55 min.); digital wav) 69 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Betty Woodman, 2003 April 22 and 29, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Betty Woodman, 2003 April 22 and 29, 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

Betty Woodman (1930-2018) was a ceramist from New York, New York. John Perreault (1937-) is an independent critic and curator from New York, New York.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Betty Woodman conducted 2003 April 22 and 29, by John Perreault, for the Archives of American Art's Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America, in New York, New York.

Scope and Contents

Woodman speaks of frequent moves with her family during her childhood; her father's woodworking skills; gaining an interest in arts and crafts at four when she made a tablecloth with crayon drawings; attending

summer camps, including Girl Scout Camp, where she participated in arts and crafts activities; being the first girl to take shop in her middle school; making model airplanes for air raid wardens during World War II; her interest in making functional objects; her introduction to clay and hand-building in high school; attending the School for American Craftsmen in New York City; collaborating with fellow students; her early desire to be a "craftsperson and not an artist"; her work with silk-screen fabric for The Fabric Workshop in Philadelphia and glass at CIRVA in Marseille, France; teaching at the University of Colorado and the City of Boulder Recreation Department; working at the European Ceramic Work Center in Den Bosch, Holland, and the Bellagio Study Center in Italy; her studios in New York, Colorado, and Italy; her travels to India, The Netherlands, and Mexico; living in New Mexico, New York, Colorado, and Italy; her business Roadrunner Pottery in New Mexico with partner Elenita Brown; collaborative projects with Joyce Kozloff, Cynthia Carlson, Bud Shark, Judith Solodkin, and her husband George Woodman; developing a following in New York; how being a woman has affected her work and how she enjoys working with other women artists; the change of market for American crafts; Italian, Greek, and Etruscan influences; teaching experiences; the importance of getting reviews in art magazines; and the strong support from her husband George, a painter. Betty Woodman recalls Lynn Feelyn, Olan Wassen, Bernard Leach, Peter Voulkos, Shoji Hamada, Bob Kushner, Richard Serra, Wayne Higby, and others.

General

Originally recorded on 3 sound discs. Reformatted in 2010 as 5 digital wav files. Duration is 2 hr., 55 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Airplanes -- Models
- Art -- Study and teaching
- Ceramics -- Study and teaching
- Decorative arts
- Glass art
- Handicraft -- United States
- Screen process printing
- Women artists
- Women ceramicists
- World War, 1939-1945

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Bellagio Study and Conference Center
- Boulder (Colo.).. Parks & Recreation Department
- Brown, Elenita
- Carlson, Cynthia, 1942-
- Centre internationale de recherche sur le verre et les arts plastiques (Marseille, France)
- Europees Keramisch Werkcentrum
- Fabric Workshop
- Girl Scouts of the United States of America

Hamada, Shōji, 1894-1978
Higby, Wayne
Kozloff, Joyce
Kushner, Robert, 1949-
Leach, Bernard, 1887-1979
Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America
School for American Crafts
Serra, Richard, 1938-
Shark, Bud
University of Colorado -- Faculty
Voukos, Peter, 1924-2002
Woodman, George, 1932-

Occupations:

Ceramicists -- New York (State) -- New York

Functions:

Artists' studios

Places:

Boulder (Colo.)
India -- description and travel
Mexico -- description and travel
Netherlands -- description and travel