

ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION

MAIN ENTRY: Watkins, James

DATE OF INTERVIEW: November 20, 2009

LOCATION OF INTERVIEW: Lubbock, Texas

INTERVIEWER: B. Lynn Whitfield, Andy Wilkinson

FORMAT: Digital Recording

IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:

LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 1.07 hours

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE: James Watkins talks about his art work in ceramics, and how he came to be an artist. The interview is about his career leading up to and at Texas Tech University, as well as his career as an artist. He also discusses finding inspiration in his dreams, Eastern travels, martial arts and the land.

ABSTRACT:

DVD	TIME STAMP
Video Start-up	00:01
Background	04:24
Born in Louisville, Kentucky, on May 28, 1951	
Grew up in Athens, Alabama, in farming family	
Family History	
Undergraduate - Kansas City Art Institute, Graduate - Indiana University	
Used old calendars as drawing pad in grandparents house	
Encouragement from grandmother and mother	
“Draw Me” magazine correspondence course (1 st – 10 th grades)	10:00
College	
Drawing and painting at Calhoun Community College in Decatur, Alabama	
Discovered working with clay	11:50
Paul Moleski(?) – instructor introduced Kansas City Art Institute	
Describes working with clay	15:45
Graduate school - people of influence	
Ken Fergusson(?), Carl Martz, John Goodheart(?), and others	
Teaching & TTU Career	19:20
Taught at Indiana University and Hampton University	
Wife taught at TTU, and moved to Lubbock	

Mackenzie Terrace Pottery Center (City of Lubbock)	
Taught courses in both Art and Architecture Departments	
Student Guidance	
Growth of the arts in Lubbock	
Martial Arts Influence	26:00
Travel and its incorporation in art work	28:00
Eastern Ceramics	
Techniques	
Vietnam trips	
Vietnam landscape in art work	35:00
Texas South Plains Influence	
Dust storm firing techniques from local area	
Rattlesnake Canyon	
Bird forms on pot rims	
Scale, Texture, Color & Technique	40:30
Scale importance - from childhood experiences (cauldron shapes)	
Dreams in work	
“Serendipity” in certain techniques	46:50
Recognition as Horn Professor	48:30
White House Craft Collection	
Books of work	
Production of glazes	
Recognition of work	
Video Questions	52:30
Creative Processes	
Use of land as a “theme” of inspiration in works (Cambodia, Vietnam)	
Creativity thru the use of dreams	58:10
Project Inspirations	01:00:00

DATE OF BIRTH OF INFORMANT: 1951

GENDER OF INFORMANT: Male

ETHNICITY OF INFORMANT: