



Duration

Track 1: 00:45:23 / Track 2: 00:01:06

Reference

OH15.1 / OH15.2

Subjects

Quilting / Textiles

Recording date

14 September 2015

Recording location

Interviewee's home, Berwickshire, Scotland

Interviewee

Burbidge, Pauline (PB – speaker, female)

Interviewer

Lin, Gloria (GL – speaker, female)

The renowned quiltmaker Pauline Burbidge's intricate stitch work began after she found a classic quilting book on Portobello Road and discovered her life's calling. In this 2015 First Decade interview, Burbidge (b. 1950) talks about her early involvement with the Crafts Council, her work inspirations and transformations, a growing public interest in textiles during the 1970s and the importance of art college to her success. She describes how she struggled through the first years of making, with her breakthrough works of the late 1970s supported by a setting-up grant from the Crafts Council.

Recording

Track 1

00:00 PB begins by discussing her early involvement with the Crafts Council (CC) in 1975.

01:07 PB talks about her experience of applying for a CC grant and how the eventual grant meant so much to her.

06:03 PB recounts what led her to making quilts and how a book she found sparked her initial interest.

09:59 PB talks about her exhibition at Foyles Art Gallery.





11:44 GL asks if there was a lot of public interest in quiltmaking. PB talks about an exhibition of quilts from the American Museum at the Commonwealth Institute (a 'spark off').

12:42 PB talks about how the CC acquired a quilt of hers and a growing interest in quiltmaking during the 70s.

16:46 PB discusses the Quilters' Guild and the founding of the CC helping to create a profession from craft and 'treat it seriously'.

19:27 GL asks about PB's studio in Westbourne Grove. PB talks about starting out in London.

21:56 PB reflects on her work and inspiration, highlighting an Egyptian quilt commission, 'hard-edged, geometric' pieces and her recent, freer work.

29:48 PB talks about moving around and how her various surroundings have influenced her work; she describes different studios.

33:00 PB remarks on the importance of her time at art college.

37:26 PB talks about winning the John Ruskin Award in 1982 through the CC.

Track 2

PB talks briefly about staff she met at the CC, such as Barclay Price.