



Duration

Track 1: 01:01:06

Reference

OH20

Subjects

Woodcarving / Wooden Toys / Craft Education / Japan / Collecting

Recording date

25 February 2016

Recording location

Crafts Council, 44a Pentonville Road, London, N1 9BY

Interviewee

Raybould, Howard (HR - speaker, male)

Interviewer

McGregor, Christina (CMG - speaker, female)

Synopsis

In this 2016 First Decade interview, Howard Raybould (b.1946) speaks to Christina McGregor, Keeper of Collections, about the influences and events that have shaped his practice and his relationship with the Crafts Council. From his early forays into the film industry to discovering the architecture of Menorca, Raybould reflects on his path to woodcarving and his ongoing love of the material. He provides extensive commentary on his work held in the Crafts Council Primary and Handling Collections, offering a unique insight into his motivations behind these objects.

Recording

Track 1

HR talks about being accepted into Hammersmith College of Art and specialising in Audiovisual Communication and Graphic Design.

[02:06] HR discusses his work as a prop-maker, including working on the film *2001: A Space Odyssey*. He talks about his decision to train as a woodcarver and the skills he developed while working for the company HC Boards: 'And, there I was taught the fundamentals of actually how to work with wood efficiently, quickly, and to break it down into its essentials. Art school hadn't taught me any of that.'

[04:09] HR describes how a commission to make a rocking horse saw him explore his interest in wood and the market for what he could make.



[05:43] CMG asks HR about his first encounter with the Crafts Council. HR recalls meeting Ralph Turner and his one-man Crafts Council show *The Framing of Howard Raybould*.

[08:45] HR discusses receiving a travel grant from Crafts Council to familiarise himself with American galleries. He talks about how he was represented in Britain at the time and his impressions of the Crafts Council. 'Crafts Council seemed to be like, a smaller institution, struggling with itself, and as a maker we, we bonded more because we didn't feel we were lost. And it was a very, a family feeling. And certainly with the other artists, it was like that.'

[12:18] HR discusses *Carved Crocodile* (1979; W35).

[14:16] HR discusses *Carved Articulating Snake* (1979; W34).

[15:37] HR discusses *Fish* (1982: W47), making a giant fountain pen and taking inspiration from shop signs.

[19:54] HR his Winston Churchill Fellowship trip to Japan, a postcard he made while there (see AM39) and his solo exhibition *The Framing of Howard Raybould* organised by the Crafts Advisory Committee.

[22:44] HR talks about the influence of Japan on his work.

[24:52] HR discusses *Blue Interlacing Mirror Frame* (1979; W32).

[25:36] HR discusses *Wandering Through the Interior* (1984; W55)

[28:38] HR comments on pieces from the Crafts Council Handling Collection (HC587, HC581, HC586, HC585, HC393, HC569, HC579, HC583, HC574, HC570, HC575, HC576, HC578, HC577, HC588, HC568).

[56:35] CMG asks HR if he recalls donating material to the Handling Collection. HR responds.



[58:24] HR offers a closing comment on the subject of wood and his relationship with the material.

