

*Susan McEachern - Clip 5*

## Studying Feminism and Gender Relations

OISE I would say was one of the places that probably contributed a tremendous amount to my sense of confidence and who I am, a tremendously validating experience. The work I'd been doing up until this point was very much about feminism, and about trying to understand who I was, as a female artist... I was working at the art college in Halifax, and feeling probably that there weren't a lot of representatives of the type of voice, the type of interests that I wanted to explore.

Working on food, and the kitchen, and the structure of the family, and the sort of desire around domesticity and the home...on completion of a couple of those projects I decided that I really wanted to get my Masters in Feminism and Gender Relations at OISE. And I suddenly found, I guess at the age of 34 or 35, I was... I was in a feminist community, with female instructors with PhD's, that seemed to know everything, and colleagues that were of the same mind as I was. So coming there as an adult and as an artist, I fit right in with the sociologists, and the philosophers, and the school teachers, and the nurses, and the women from the military... all of these women from different walks of life sort of joined together in the same conversation, and it was tremendously validating, I felt very informed and I felt no need to apologize, you know, for the fact that my work was a little different than

what was the work of my, I would say male colleagues, in the fine arts program at NSCAD. It sort of took another route, as did many other women's work at the same time. We began to give ourselves permission to explore.

