

Susan McEachern - Clip 6

Working at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design

Well I've worked at NSCAD since, I don't know, yes, the late 80's or let me...sorry, the late 70's is probably the best way to put it. And of course the environment has had a huge impression on every aspect of my art practice. I...working in an environment which is composed primarily of artists, craftspeople, designers, that... that think that culture is the essential, and most meaningful part of their lives, and that the teaching of that to other people, giving people the ability to explore that element of their lives, is essential, has been extremely important. I would say that there are many, many kinds of practices there. I probably align myself with, you know, mostly the emergence of a... more of a feminist art practice in the late 70's, early 80's where... there suddenly were not only a handful of women faculty, but there began to be a very strong female presence within the student body...

...And of course this huge amount of literature coming out, that was in all aspects of art practice, but of course exploring what then was seen to be the other gender...

At that point it was like this, you know, revolutionary other voice... and so of course that was extremely important for my work, having people that... that didn't necessarily attack my right to make the work, actually quite celebrated it, and found it interesting. I have

always been very gratified by the fact that, you know if I'm giving a talk about my work, or showing my students the work, it is about everyday practice, and everyday life, and they all are experts. They all have experiences to bring to this. And it sort of makes them feel included, and makes them feel that their voice could add something to this.

