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11-21-2009

## Interview with Robert Dozono, Blackfish Gallery, 2009 (audio)

Robert Dozono

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# PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

## INTERVIEW INDEX

INTERVIEWEE: Robert Dozono

Interviewer: Greg Plath

Date: November 21, 2009

Location of Interview: Blackfish Gallery (Portland Oregon)

Research Assistant: Sean Quigley

Interview Series: SUSTAINING NORTHWEST LANDSCAPES & COMMUNITIES

Recording Equipment: DIGITAL RECORDER (WINDOWS MEDIA AUDIO FILE) WITH AN  
EXTERNAL, OMNIDIRECTIONAL MICROPHONE

Time	Notes
0:0	Introduction
0:30	How long have you lived in Portland?
	55 years, on and off
0:55	What brought you to Portland?
	Mother originally from here, then came back after WW II
1:50	What is your education after high school?
	Oregon State, art major
	University of Oregon, architecture major
	Masters degree in NY
3:00	How did being born out of U.S. effect view of sustainability?
	Resources were scarce in Japan
	Sustainability is not as much culture as it is generational
4:15	How did you get involved in Blackfish co-op?
	It was started by PCC faculty
	Been part of Blackfish for 22 years, started as an artist
6:15	Blackfish and the community
	Must be a local resident to be a member
7:35	How do you define sustainability?

Time	Notes
	Hard to define in simple terms
	Don't make the environment any worse than it is
	Everyone must do there small part
	No garbage service for many years
9:45	U.S. occupation of Japan and the destruction of the environment
	Downfall of organic farming in Japan due to Western influence
12:15	Reusing items as a kid in Japan
	Empty food cans used for games
	Make toys from bamboo (fishing poles, kites)
15:10	Why rivers important subject in your art?
	Clackamas County commissioned a mural
	Conscientious about material use and pollution after a trip to the river years ago
18:06	What helps you choose the materials you use in your art?
	Any trash that can't be recycled
	Some things are too heavy to put on the paintings
20:50	How does living in a "green" city affect you?
	Feel lucky about the communities recycling efforts
	Big cities around the world recycle everything
	Pick up garbage he finds in the community off streets and in rivers
22:55	Is your art appreciated more in Portland?
	Children enjoy finding things in the art
25:25	What message do you want viewers to come away with from your art?
	Natural beauty should be left as is
	Everyone needs to do their own small part in the world
29:00	How do you gauge progress toward sustainability?
	Economy in turmoil, producing & buying should be limited
30:45	Reusing things we have
32:45	Personal responsibility
33:38	Concluding remarks