

Interview Questions

Aesthetics

Background

What kind of art are you involved in?

How long have you been involve with the arts?

Did you always know you wanted to be in the arts? How did you get involved?

Do you come from an artistic family?

If not, what got you interested?

Did/Do you face any struggle?

Does your interest and/or involvement extend beyond one art?

Questions about Art

Tailor these to the art(s) with which your interviewee is involved

What do you think art is about?

What role should art play in society?

Do you see art as more about feelings or ideas? Or both? Or neither?

How has your art changed over the years? Has tour relationship to it changed?

Questions about Artists

Are artists different from other people? How so or not?

Do you believe artists are born or made?

Questions about the Critical Component

Do you believe some art is better than other? If yes, what criteria would you use? If not, why not?

How do you respond to critics, positive and negative?

Do you think children can be artists? Why or why not?

Women and Philosophy

Family Questions

What kind of family did you grow up in? (Did you parents both work and in what ways?)

How much schooling did you have? Where did you go?

Do you have children? If yes, how did you resolve the problems that occur if you are working outside the home? (child care, guilt, job responsibilities, schools)

Did having a family affect your career choice or vice versa?

Career

Do your work outside the home?

Do you think you have a “woman’s job?”

Do you know the ratio of men to women in your workplace?

Have you ever not been able to accept or keep a job due to a low salary, little benefits or traveling?

What sort of training or education was necessary for your position?

Have you ever had trouble getting a job simply because you are a woman and the job is dominantly done by males or because of some perceived bias against women?

What made you choose that profession or job?

Do men get paid more in your field?

Are the opportunities for advancement the same for men and women in your profession?

Why do you think that most men feel the need to be more work oriented than most women? (Do they?)

What hardships have you encountered while achieving your goals?

Have you ever felt as if you were not as respected as your male co-workers?

Do you know if the benefits for men and women (if they exist in your profession) are equal?

If you had not ended up in this career, what might you think you could have done?

In what ways has your profession affected your personal life?

Do you find that you must present yourself in ways different than the men in your field?

Issues

Do you consider yourself to be a feminist? Why or why not?

What does “feminism” mean to you?

Have you ever encountered any problems relating to gender in your profession?

Have you ever experienced or witnessed sexual harassment in your work?

What do you think “sexual harassment” includes?

Do you think that men and women think differently about life? If yes, why?

Is it ok for a woman to have an abortion without the consent of her partner? Why or why not?

What is your view of the roles of men and women today?

Has there ever been a moment in your life when you wished you were male?

Ethics

First set of questions:

Are ethical principles important to you? Why?

What are the ethical principles and values that are most important to you?

Are human beings responsible for their actions in the sense that they can choose what they will or will not do? Are you free to choose what you will or will not do?

Do you consider yourself a religious person? Does religion affect the way you choose to live your life?

Do you think that happiness is the goal of human life? Can it be achieved during this life?

Do you think that there is life after death? Does it include reward and punishment?

Do you think that science helps us to understand the world around us?

Do scientific theories about human nature help you to understand your own thoughts and behavior? Do they affect the way you choose to live your life?

Do you think that human beings can know what is really right or wrong?

Second set of questions:

How do you make important decisions?

To what degree are your decisions guided by facts, reason and logic?

To what degree are they influenced by your emotions?

To what degree are they influenced by other people?

What roles do pleasure and pain play in your life?

How important is it for you to experience pleasure?

How important is it for you to avoid pain?

Do you have a conscience?

If so, when and how do you experience it?

How do you know that what your conscience tells you to do is right?

When you make judgments about human behavior - either your own or the behavior of others - how important are:

the person's good or bad intentions, regardless of the consequences?

the actual consequences of the action?

whether or not the action follows or breaks to a moral law?

Do you think that people are genuinely concerned about the happiness of others or are they basically selfish?

What about you?

Are there any important questions or issues about your ethical views that we have not discussed?