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Bernard L. Herman Biography

Bernard L. Herman is the George B. Tindall Distinguished Professor of American Studies and Folklore at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Previously he enjoyed a long career at the University of Delaware, where he co-founded two interdisciplinary research centers and taught art history, history, urban affairs and public policy, and material culture studies. Three of his books received the Abbott Lowell Cummings Award as best work on North American vernacular architecture. Herman has published essays on quilts, self-taught and outsider arts, foodways, historical archaeology, vernacular photography, and theoretical approaches to the study and interpretation of objects. Herman teaches courses on visual and material culture, contemporary craft, vernacular art, Southern studies, architectural history, and everyday life. He works with students on hands-on research projects leading to public engagement through publications and exhibitions, including *“The mind do the imagining”: The Emergence of Thornton Dial’s Works on Paper, 1990-1991*, an exhibition and book scheduled for 2012 at the University of North Carolina’s Ackland Museum of Art. His current research projects include *Quilt Spaces*, an oral history-based exploration of Gee’s Bend, Alabama, quilts and quiltmakers, and *Troublesome Things: In the Borderlands of Contemporary Art* for which he received a 2010 Guggenheim Fellowship.