



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## Oral history interview with Jo Harvey Allen

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with Jo Harvey Allen
<b>Date:</b>	1998 April 21
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.allenj98
<b>Creator:</b>	Allen, Jo Harvey, 1942- (Interviewee) Karlstrom, Paul J. (Interviewer)
<b>Extent:</b>	25 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Digital Content: Oral history interview with Jo Harvey Allen, 1998 April 21, Transcript</a> <a href="#">Audio: Oral history interview with Jo Harvey Allen, 1998 April 21, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)</a>

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

This interview is part of the Archives of American Art Oral History Program, started in 1958 to document the history of the visual arts in the United States, primarily through interviews with artists, historians, dealers, critics and administrators.

### Available Formats

Transcript available on line

### Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

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## Biographical / Historical

Jo Harvey Allen (1942- ) is a performance artist, writer, and actress of Sante Fe, New Mexico.

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## Scope and Contents

An interview of Jo Harvey Allen conducted 1998 April 21, by Paul Karlstrom, for the Archives of American Art, at Allen's studio, in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

## Scope and Contents

Allen discusses her roles of writer, actress, and performance artist; her early career which included working at underground radio station KPPC as the first woman country music announcer; her views on feminism and the degradation of motherhood, describing her most creative act as the birth of her children; her childhood in Lubbock, Texas; life with husband Terry Allen, with whom she moved to Los Angeles where he attended Chouinard Art Institute; conducting interviews with waitresses as material for a photo book, which led to writing, producing, and acting in her own plays; her relationship with Terry Allen and working with him and the discovery of her artistic independence.

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## General

Originally recorded on 2 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 4 digital wav files. Duration is 2 hrs., 3 minutes.

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## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

### Subjects:

Women artists

### Types of Materials:

Interviews

Sound recordings

### Occupations:

Actors

Performance artists

Playwrights