



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with
Ruth Asawa and Albert Lanier

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Ruth Asawa and Albert Lanier
Identifier:	AAA.asawa02
Date:	2002 June 21-July 5
Extent:	34 Pages (Transcript)
Creator:	Asawa, Ruth Lanier, Albert Johnson, Mark Karlstrom, Paul J.
Language:	English .

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 online.

Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

Biographical / Historical

Ruth Asawa (1926-2013) was a Japanese American sculptor based in San Francisco, California. Albert Lanier is an architect from San Francisco, California. Interviewer Mark Johnson is head of the California Asian American Artists Biographical Survey and resides in San Francisco, California.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Ruth Asawa and her husband, Albert Lanier, 2002 June 21-July 5, conducted by Mark Johnson on June 21 and Paul Karlstrom on July 5, for the Archives of American Art, in the subjects' home/studio in San Francisco, California.

Scope and Contents

Asawa and Lanier shared their memories of Black Mountain College, Josef and Anni Albers (with whom they became close friends) and Buckminster Fuller. Part of their account of those years and the early stage of their marriage dealt with issues of race.

General

Originally recorded on 3 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 5 digital wav files. Duration is 2 hr., 20 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Art -- Philosophy
- Asian American art
- Asian American artists
- Asian American sculptors
- Asian American women artists
- Japanese American art
- Japanese American artists
- Japanese American women artists
- Japanese Americans -- Evacuation and relocation, 1942-1945
- Women artists

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Albers, Anni
- Albers, Josef
- Black Mountain College (Black Mountain, N.C.)
- Fuller, R. Buckminster (Richard Buckminster), 1895-1983