



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## Oral history interview with Ruth Asawa and Albert Lanier

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with Ruth Asawa and Albert Lanier
<b>Date:</b>	2002 June 21-July 5
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.asawa02
<b>Creator:</b>	Asawa, Ruth (Interviewee) Johnson, Mark (Interviewer) Lanier, Albert (Interviewee) Karlstrom, Paul J. (Interviewer)
<b>Extent:</b>	34 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Digital Content: Oral history interview with Ruth Asawa and Albert Lanier, 2002 June 21-July 5, Transcript</a> <a href="#">Audio: Oral history interview with Ruth Asawa and Albert Lanier, 2002 June 21-July 5, 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 online.

### Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## General

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

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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:

- Art -- Philosophy
- Asian American art
- Asian American artists
- Asian American sculptors
- Japanese American art
- Japanese American artists
- Japanese Americans -- Forced removal and internment, 1942-1945
- Women artists
- Women sculptors

### 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

### Occupations:

- Sculptors -- California -- San Francisco