



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## Oral history interview with Billy Al Bengston

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with Billy Al Bengston
<b>Date:</b>	2002 August 7 and October 2
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.bengst02
<b>Creator:</b>	Bengston, Billy Al (Interviewee) Morgan, Susan Ford (Interviewer)
<b>Extent:</b>	33 Pages (Transcript) 4 Items (4 sound files (2 hrs, 6 min))
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Audio: Oral history interview with Billy Al Bengston, 2002 August 7-October 2, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)</a> <a href="#">Digital Content: Oral history interview with Billy Al Bengston, 2002 August 7 and October 2, Transcript</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 is available on the Archives of American Art's website.

### Restrictions

This interview is open for research. Contact Reference Services for more information.

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## Biographical / Historical

Billy Al Bengston (1934-2022) was a painter from Venice, California.

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## Scope and Contents

An interview with Billy Al Bengston conducted 2002 August 7 and 2002 October 2, by Susan Ford Morgan, for the Archives of American Art, in Bengston's studio and home, in Venice, California.

## General

Originally recorded on 2 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 4 digital wav file. Duration is 2 hrs., 6 min.

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## General

Sound Quality is poor. Session 2 is largely inaudible. Interviewer did not check taping quality before taping interview.

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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, Modern -- 20th century  
Painting, Modern -- 20th century -- California

### Types of Materials:

Interviews  
Sound recordings

### Names:

Ferus Gallery (Los Angeles, Calif.)  
Ruscha, Edward  
Westermann, H. C. (Horace Clifford), 1922-