



# 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 AI Bengston
<b>Date:</b>	2020 July 29
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.bengst20
<b>Creator:</b>	Bengston, Billy AI Simms, Matthew Thomas (Interviewer)
<b>Extent:</b>	1 Item ((27 min.); digital, mp4)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Video: Oral history interview with Billy AI Bengston, 2020 July 29, Digital Video Recording</a> <a href="#">Digital Content: Oral history interview with Billy AI Bengston, 2020 July 29, 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.

### Related Materials

The Archives of American Art also holds an interview with Billy AI Bengston conducted 1980 September 9, by Susan Larsen, an interview with Bengston conducted 2002 August 7 and 2002 October 2, by Susan Ford Morgan, and the Billy AI Bengston papers.

### Restrictions

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

### Terms of Use

The Archives of American Art makes its Oral History Program interviews available for non-commercial, educational and personal use unless restricted by donor restrictions, including but not limited to access and publication restrictions. Quotation, reproduction and publication of the audio is governed by restrictions. If an interview has been transcribed, researchers must quote from the transcript. If an interview has not been transcribed, researchers must quote from the audio recording. Please refer to the Smithsonian's Terms of Use for additional information.

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## Biographical / Historical

Billy AI Bengston (1934-2022) was a painter in Venice, California.

## Scope and Contents

An interview with Billy Al Bengston conducted 2020 July 29, by Matthew Simms, for the Archives of American Art's Pandemic Oral History Project at Bengston's home in Venice, California.

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## Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements

Recorded on Zoom (videoconferencing software)

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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:

COVID-19 (Disease)  
Pandemics

Types of Materials:

Interviews  
Video recordings

Names:

Pandemic Oral History Project

Occupations:

Painters -- California -- Venice