



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## Oral history interview with Johsel Namkung

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## Collection Overview

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|-------------------------|---|
| <b>Repository:</b>      | Archives of American Art  |
| <b>Title:</b>           | Oral history interview with Johsel Namkung  |
| <b>Date:</b>            | 1989 Oct. 5-1991 Feb. 25  |
| <b>Identifier:</b>      | AAA.namkun89  |
| <b>Creator:</b>         | Namkung, Johsel, 1919-2013 (Interviewee)<br>Takami, David (Interviewer)<br>Lau, Alan Chong (Interviewer)  |
| <b>Extent:</b>          | 74 Pages (Transcript)   |
| <b>Language:</b>        | English .   |
| <b>Digital Content:</b> | <a href="#">Digital Content: Oral history interview with Johsel Namkung, 1989 Oct. 5-1991 Feb. 25, Transcript</a><br><a href="#">Audio: Oral history interview with Johsel Namkung, 1989 Oct. 5-1991 Feb. 25, 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.

### Location of Originals

Transcript also available at the University of Washington, Manuscripts Collection, and at the Oregon Historical Society.

### Available Formats

Transcript available on line

### Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

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## Biographical / Historical

Johsel Namkung (1919- ) is a Korean American photographer based in Seattle, Washington.

## Scope and Contents

An interview of Johsel Namkung conducted 1989 Oct. 5-1991 Feb. 25, by Alan Chong Lau (1989) and David Takami (1991), in Seattle, Wash., for the Archives of American Art Northwest Asian American Project. Namkung discusses his family background and the effect of living under Japanese occupation in Korea; U.S. immigration in the late 1940's; studies in music; his determination to become a photographer, early color photography, his philosophy as a photographer; and the Asian American community in Seattle. Namkung recalls Paul Horiuchi, Mark Tobey, George Tsutakawa and Chao-Chen Yang.

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## General

Originally recorded on 5 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 8 digital wav files. Duration is 4 hrs., 37 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:

- Asian American art
- Asian American artists
- Asian American photographers
- Korean American Artists
- Korean American art

### Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

### Names:

- Horiuchi, Paul, 1906-
- Northwest Asian American Project
- Tobey, Mark
- Tsutakawa, George
- Yang, Chao-Chen, 1910-1969

### Occupations:

- Photographers -- Washington (State) -- Seattle