

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with William Pajaud

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Pajaud, William E., 1925-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with William Pajaud,
Dates:	August 1, 2014
Bulk Dates:	2014
Physical Description:	8 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:19:12).
Abstract:	Artist and insurance executive William Pajaud (1925 - 2015) developed and was curator of the Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Company's famous African American art collection. He was also an accomplished painter and exhibited his own artwork in Los Angeles, California and across the United States. Pajaud was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on August 1, 2014, in Los Angeles, California. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2014_231
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Artist and insurance executive William Etienne Pajaud, Jr. was born on August 3, 1925 in New Orleans, Louisiana. His father, William Etienne Pajaud, Sr., was a trumpet player and bandleader; his mother, Audrey DuConge, a college professor of social work. Pajaud and his mother moved around in his youth, from Nashville to Chattanooga, Tennessee, and then to Tyler, Texas. He returned to New Orleans to attend Xavier University, where he graduated with his B.F.A. degree in 1946.

Upon graduation, Pajaud moved to Chicago, Illinois and worked as a sign artist and a freelance designer. In 1949, he relocated to Los Angeles, California, where he enrolled at the Chouinard Art Institute and earned a certificate in advertising and design while working as a postal clerk. Pajaud was the first African American to be admitted to Chouinard's day school and to complete a degree.

In 1957, Pajaud was hired at the Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Company in Los Angeles, California, where he later became vice president of public relations and advertising. At Golden State, he developed and was curator of the company's African American art collection, which was considered one of the most important in the world. In his free time, Pajaud painted and exhibited his own artwork in Los Angeles at places such as the Heritage Art Gallery, black-owned Brockman Gallery, and later at the M. Hanks Gallery in Santa Monica, California. He retired from the Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Company in 1987, but continued to paint and exhibit his art widely in museums and galleries throughout the United States.

Pajaud was a member of the Society of Graphic Designers, the Los Angeles County Art Association, and the National Watercolor Society, of which he served as president from 1974 to 1975. His honors include the 1969 PRSA Art Exhibition Award of Merit, the 1971 National Association of Media Women Communications Award, the 1975 University of the Pacific Honor, the 1978 Paul Robeson Special Award for Contribution to the Arts, the

1981 PR News Gold Key Award, the 1981 League of Allied Arts Corporation Artists of Achievement Award, and the 2004 Samella Award.

Pajaud passed away on June 16, 2015 at the age of 89.

William Pajaud was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on August 1, 2014.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with William Pajaud was conducted by Larry Crowe on August 1, 2014, in Los Angeles, California, and was recorded on 8 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Artist and insurance executive William Pajaud (1925 - 2015) developed and was curator of the Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Company's famous African American art collection. He was also an accomplished painter and exhibited his own artwork in Los Angeles, California and across the United States.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Persons:

Pajaud, William E., 1925-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Pajaud, William E., 1925---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Artist

Insurance Executive

HistoryMakers® Category:

ArtMakers

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with William Pajaud, August 1, 2014. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with William Pajaud, Section A2014_231_001_001, TRT: 1:28:03 ?
Video Oral History Interview with William Pajaud, Section A2014_231_001_002, TRT: 2:28:19 ?
Video Oral History Interview with William Pajaud, Section A2014_231_001_003, TRT: 3:30:02 ?
Video Oral History Interview with William Pajaud, Section A2014_231_001_004, TRT: 4:29:12 ?
Video Oral History Interview with William Pajaud, Section A2014_231_001_005, TRT: 5:28:51 ?
Video Oral History Interview with William Pajaud, Section A2014_231_001_006, TRT: 6:30:57 ?
Video Oral History Interview with William Pajaud, Section A2014_231_001_007, TRT: 7:11:48 ?
Video Oral History Interview with William Pajaud, Section A2014_231_001_008, TRT: 8:12:00 ?