

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Naomi Beckwith

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## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Beckwith, Naomi
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Naomi Beckwith,
<b>Dates:</b>	July 8, 2019
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2019
<b>Physical Description:</b>	11 uncompressed MOV digital video files (4:47:56).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Art curator Naomi Beckwith (1976- ) was associate curator at the Studio Museum in Harlem prior to becoming associate, and then senior curator, at Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art. Beckwith was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on July 8, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2019_046
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Art curator Naomi Beckwith was born on March 9, 1976 in Chicago, Illinois where she grew up in the Hyde Park neighborhood. She graduated from Lincoln Park High School in 1994. She attended Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois and graduated from there in 1998 with her B.A. degree in history and African American studies. Beckwith then graduated with distinction from the Courtauld Institute of Art in London with her M.A. degree in 1999.

From 1999 to 2000, Beckwith was awarded one of the six critical studies fellowship positions at the Whitney Museum Independent Study Program in New York. She then worked at the Brooklyn Academy of Music as an art project coordinator from 2000 to 2005. Beckwith was selected as the 2005-2006 Whitney Lauder curatorial fellow at the University of Pennsylvania's Institute of Contemporary Art. In 2007, Beckwith joined the Studio Museum in Harlem as an associate curator, where she curated one of her first major exhibits, "30 Seconds Off an Inch," under the leadership of museum director and chief curator, Thelma Golden. In 2011, she returned to Chicago, Illinois when she was hired as an associate curator at the Museum of Contemporary Art. In 2017, she was awarded both the Visionary Initiatives in Art Art Fund Curatorial Fellowship and the Center for Curatorial Leadership Fellowship. Beckwith was promoted to Manilow Senior Curator of the Museum of Contemporary Art in 2018. She has worked with artists from all over the world to produce both solo and collaborative works at the museum. She also served as the curatorial advisor of a staff of three, for the featured exhibition at the biennial celebration of a nonprofit contemporary arts organization called SITElines, in Santa Fe, New Mexico in 2018. The event featured twenty-three artists and the highest number of commissioned works presented in SITE's history.

Beckwith resides in Chicago, and serves on the boards of the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Art Table, and the Laundromat Project in New York, an organization that supports artists and their neighbors to serve as agents of change in their communities. Her exhibitions and writings have been featured in the *New York Times*, the *Chicago Tribune*, and *Ebony* magazine, where she also was listed as a Top 100 Leader in Arts and Letters.

Naomi Beckwith was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on July 8, 2019.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Naomi Beckwith was conducted by Harriette Cole on July 8, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 11 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Art curator Naomi Beckwith (1976- ) was associate curator at the Studio Museum in Harlem prior to becoming associate, and then senior curator, at Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art.

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## 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®.

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## 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.

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## Controlled Access Terms

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

### Persons:

Beckwith, Naomi

Cole, Harriette (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Beckwith, Naomi--Interviews

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## Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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## Occupations:

Art Curator

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

ArtMakers

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## 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 Naomi Beckwith, July 8, 2019. 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).

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## 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.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Naomi Beckwith, Section A2019\_046\_001\_001, TRT: 1:12:25 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Naomi Beckwith, Section A2019\_046\_001\_002, TRT: 2:29:35 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Naomi Beckwith, Section A2019\_046\_001\_003, TRT: 3:29:44 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Naomi Beckwith, Section A2019\_046\_001\_004, TRT: 4:29:33 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Naomi Beckwith, Section A2019\_046\_001\_005, TRT: 5:29:16 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Naomi Beckwith, Section A2019\_046\_001\_006, TRT: 6:29:05 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Naomi Beckwith, Section A2019\_046\_001\_007, TRT: 7:29:12 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Naomi Beckwith, Section A2019\_046\_001\_008, TRT: 8:36:56 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Naomi Beckwith, Section A2019\_046\_001\_009, TRT: 9:28:42 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Naomi Beckwith, Section A2019\_046\_001\_010, TRT: 10:28:49 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Naomi Beckwith, Section A2019\_046\_001\_011, TRT: 11:04:39 ?