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

Overview of the Collection

Repository: The HistoryMakers® 1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616
info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com

Creator: Beckwith, Naomi

Title: The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Naomi Beckwith,

Dates: July 8, 2019

Bulk Dates: 2019

Physical Description: 11 uncompressed MOV digital video files (4:47:56).

Abstract: 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.

Identification: A2019_046

Language: The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®


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.

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.

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:

Beckwith, Naomi

Cole, Harriette (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Beckwith, Naomi--Interviews

Organizations:
Occupations:

Art Curator

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 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).

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 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