APA Interviews & Oral Histories at the Smithsonian Institution

The Smithsonian Institution is a repository for a wealth of oral histories that document the vibrant cultures and histories of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Oral histories can be found at the National Museum of American History and other Smithsonian museums and affiliates. This list presents selected oral histories relating to APA history across the Smithsonian units, representing the breadth and depth of materials available. To view additional APA holdings, please browse the respective webpages and search for keywords such as “Asian Pacific American.”

National Museum of American History

The Philanthropy Initiative: Oral History Project

The National Philanthropy Collection includes an oral history project that explores the experiences of a wide range of people involved in philanthropy. Stories from these oral histories will be shared. In the coming months, these oral histories and their transcriptions will be shared through the National Museum of American History’s Archives Center.

During the first phase of the oral history project, Dr. Amanda Moniz conducted oral histories with people from diverse backgrounds who have been engaged in philanthropy.

Look for:

Irene Hirano Inouye, U.S.-Japan Council; board chair, Ford and Kresge Foundations (link to come)

Morgan Marcel, original cast of Hamilton: An American Musical (Marcel is her stage name; her given last name is Matayoshi) (link to come)

Regina Lee, Charles B. Wang Community Health Center, NYC

Marie Lam (Charles B. Wang Community Health Center, NYC)
Oral History interview of Akio Takamori, 2009


https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/interviews/oral-history-interview-akio-takamori-15660#overview

Oral history interview with Alice Kagawa Parrott

An interview of Alice Kagawa Parrott conducted 2005 July 10, by Paul J. Smith, for the Archives of American Art's Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America, in Santa Fe, N.M.

Alice Kagawa Parrott (1929-2009) was a Japanese American fiber artist from Santa Fe, New Mexico. Paul J. Smith is the Director Emeritus, American Craft Museum, New York City, New York.

https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/interviews/oral-history-interview-alice-kagawa-parrott-13248

Oral History interview of Andrew Chinn, 1965

An interview of Andrew Chinn conducted 1965 May 24, by Dorothy Bestor, for the Archives of American Art. Chinn speaks of his memories of the Federal Art Project in Washington state; how the program affected Seattle as an art center; and he recalls other artists involved in the project: Fay Chong, William Cumming, Jacob Elshin, and Morris Graves.

Andrew Chinn (1915-1996) was a Chinese American painter based in Seattle, Washington.

https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/interviews/oral-history-interview-andrew-chinn-12153
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Oral History interview of Andrew Chinn, 1991</th>
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<tr>
<td>An interview of Andrew Chinn conducted 1991 August 9, by Matthew Kangas, for the Archives of American Art Northwest Asian American Project.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chinn speaks of his childhood; the formation of the Chinese Art Club in Seattle in the 1930s; exhibitions of his work in the 1940s; the Chinese and Western styles of his paintings; his teaching career; his friendship with Fay Chong; and his opinion of the Asian influence in Mark Tobey's work.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andrew Chinn (1915-1995) was a Chinese American painter based in Seattle, Washington.</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/interviews/oral-history-interview-andrew-chinn-11841">https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/interviews/oral-history-interview-andrew-chinn-11841</a></td>
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<tr>
<th>Oral History interview of Bruce Yonemoto, 2020</th>
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<tr>
<td>An interview with Bruce Yonemoto conducted 2020 August 19, by Benjamin Gillespie, for the Archives of American Art's Pandemic Oral History Project at Yonemoto's home in Crestline, California.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bruce Yonemoto (1949- ) is a Japanese American video and installation artist in Los Angeles, California. Yonemoto teaches at the University of California, Irvine.</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/interviews/oral-history-interview-bruce-yonemoto-21961">https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/interviews/oral-history-interview-bruce-yonemoto-21961</a></td>
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<tr>
<th>Oral History interview of Carlos Villa, 1989</th>
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<tr>
<td>An interview with Carlos Villa conducted 1989 July 11, by Moira Roth, for the Archives of American Art, at Villa's studio in Oakland, California.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carlos Villa (1936- 2013) was a Filipino American painter, curator, and educator based in San Francisco, California. Moira Roth (1933- ) is an art historian and writer in Berkeley, California.</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/interviews/oral-history-interview-carlos-villa-17608">https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/interviews/oral-history-interview-carlos-villa-17608</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Oral History interview of Carlos Villa, 1995

An interview of Carlos Villa conducted 1995 June 20-July 10, by Paul Karlstrom, for the Archives of American Art.

Carlos Villa (1936-2013) was a Filipino American painter, curator, and educator in San Francisco, California.

[https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/interviews/oral-history-interview-carlos-villa-5561](https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/interviews/oral-history-interview-carlos-villa-5561)

### Oral History interview of Chitra Ganesh, 2020

An interview with Chitra Ganesh conducted 2020 September 1, by Benjamin Gillespie, for the Archives of American Art's Pandemic Oral History Project, at Ganesh's home in Brooklyn, New York.-

Chitra Ganesh (1975 - ) is a multimedia artist in Brooklyn, New York. Ganesh examines feminine and queer representation in mythology and pop culture through media including digital collage, comics, sculpture, and murals.

[https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/interviews/oral-history-interview-chitra-ganesh-22014](https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/interviews/oral-history-interview-chitra-ganesh-22014)

### Oral History interview of Chunghi Choo, 2007-08

An interview of Chunghi Choo conducted 2007 July 30-2008 July 26, by Jane Milosch, for the Archives of American Art's Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America, at the artist's home, in Iowa City, Iowa.

Chunghi Choo (1938- ) is a Korean American educator, metalsmith, jeweler, and textile and mixed media artist based in Iowa City, Iowa. Interviewer Jane Milosch is a curator from Silver Spring, Maryland.

[https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/interviews/oral-history-interview-chunghi-choo-13621](https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/interviews/oral-history-interview-chunghi-choo-13621)
Oral History interview of Chuzo Tamotzu, 1964

An interview of Chuzo Tamotzu (Tamotsu) conducted 1964 September 3 by Sylvia Loomis for the Archives of American Art.

Chuzo Tamotzu (1888-1975) was a Japanese American painter based in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Tamotzu was born in Japan and came to the United States in 1920. He moved to Santa Fe in 1948.

https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/interviews/oral-history-interview-chuzo-tamotzu-11756

Oral History interview of Don Kingman, 1965


Dong Kingman (1911-2000) was a Chinese American painter and illustrator based in the San Francisco Bay Area and New York City. Kingman taught at Columbia University and Hunter College. He worked for the Works Progress Administration.

https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/interviews/oral-history-interview-dong-kingman-12912

Oral history interview with Eugene and Hiroko Sato Pijanowski


Eugene (1938- ) and Hiroko Sato (1942- ) Pijanowski are metalsmiths living in Honolulu, Hawaii. Arline M. Fisch is a jeweler and writer.

https://sova.si.edu/record/AAA.pijanoeh03
Oral history interview with Hiroko Sato Pijanowski, 2003


Hiroko Sato Pijasnowski (1942- ) is a Japanese American metalsmith from Honolulu, Hawaii. Arline M. Fisch is a jeweler.

https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/interviews/oral-history-interview-hiroko-sato-pijanowski-13104

Oral History interview of Fong Chow, 2002

An interview of Fong Chow conducted February 6, 2002, by Margaret Carney, for the Archives of American Art's Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America, at Chow's home, in New York, N.Y.

Fong Chow (1923- ) is a Chinese American ceramicist, curator, and photographer from New York, N.Y. Margaret Carney (1949- ) is the director of the Schein Joseph International Museum of Ceramic Art in Alfred, N.Y.

https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/interviews/oral-history-interview-fong-chow-12375

Oral History interview of Frank S. Okada, 1990

An interview of Frank Okada conducted 1990 Aug. 16-17, in Seattle, Wash., by Barbara Johns, for the Archives of American Art Northwest Asian American Project.


https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/interviews/oral-history-interview-frank-s-okada-11693
### Oral History interview of Gala Porras-Kim, 2020

An interview with Gala Porras-Kim conducted 2020 August 20, by Josh Franco, for the Archives of American Art's Pandemic Oral History Project Porras-Kim's car in Los Angeles, California.

Gala Porras-Kim (1984- ) is a Colombian and Korean American multi media artist based in Los Angeles, California. Porras-Kim interrogates museological norms through drawings, sculptures, and large installations.

https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/interviews/oral-history-interview-gala-porraskim-22015

### Oral history interview with George Tsutakawa

George Tsutakawa (1910-1997) was a Japanese American painter and sculptor based in Seattle, Washington. Born in Seattle in 1910, he moved with his mother to Fukuyama, Japan, at the age of seven. While there, he took an interest in art, and was influenced by traditional Japanese practices. Returning to Seattle at age 16, he continued his education in art at the University of Washington. His interest in sculpture led to numerous commissions for fountains worldwide, a form that combined his experiences in both the Pacific Northwest and Japan. During his career, Tsutakawa designed, built, and installed over 70 fountains.


https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/interviews/oral-history-interview-george-tsutakawa-11913

Video recording: An interview of George Tsutakawa conducted 1987 June 26-27, by his daughter Mayumi Tsutakawa, for the Archives of American Art at Tsutakawa’s home and studio in Seattle, Washington and at three of his fountain sculpture sites.

https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/interviews/oral-history-interview-george-tsutakawa-videorecording-11658
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<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Interviewer</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</table>
Oral History interview of Johsel Namkung, 1989


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

https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/interviews/oral-history-interview-johsel-namkung-12201

Oral History interview of Jun Kaneko, 2005

An interview of Jun Kaneko conducted 2005 May 23-24, by Mary Drach McInnes, for the Archives of American Art's Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America, at the artist's studio, in Omaha, Nebraska.

Jun Kaneko (1942- ) is a ceramicist and sculptor from Omaha, Nebraska. Mary Drach McInnes is an art history professor from Alfred Station, N.Y.

https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/interviews/oral-history-interview-jun-kaneko-12628

Oral History interview of Kay Sekimachi, 2001

An interview of Kay Sekimachi [Stocksdale] conducted 2001 July 26-August 6, by Suzanne Baizerman, for the Archives of American Art's Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America, at Sekimachi's home in Berkeley, California.

Kay Sekimachi (1926- ) is a Japanese American fiber artist based in Berkeley, California. Suzanne Baizerman is a curator at the Oakland Museum in Oakland, California. Sekimachi is also known as Kay Sekimachi Stocksdale. She is married to wood-turner Bob Stocksdale.

https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/interviews/oral-history-interview-kay-sekimachi-stocksdale-11768
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<tr>
<th>Oral History interview of Kenzo Okada, 1968</th>
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<tr>
<td>Interview of Kenzo Okada conducted 1968 November 22, by Forrest Selvig, for the Archives of American Art.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kenzo Okada (1902-1982) was a Japanese American painter based in New York City, New York.</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/interviews/oral-history-interview-kenzo-okada-12022">https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/interviews/oral-history-interview-kenzo-okada-12022</a></td>
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<th>Oral History interview of Lenore Chinn, 2020</th>
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<tr>
<td>An interview with Lenore Chinn conducted 2020 July 30, by Benjamin Gillespie, for the Archives of American Art's Art Pandemic Oral History Project at Chinn's home in San Francisco, California.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lenore Chinn (1949- ) is a Chinese American painter, photographer, and queer rights activist based in San Francisco, California. Chinn co-founded the Lesbians in the Visual Arts and Queer Cultural Center and has been an active member of the Asian American Women Artists Association.</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/interviews/oral-history-interview-lenore-chinn-21948">https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/interviews/oral-history-interview-lenore-chinn-21948</a></td>
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<th>Oral History interview of Nancy Hom, 2020</th>
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<tr>
<td>An interview with Nancy Hom conducted 2020 August 30, by Melissa Ho, for the Archives of American Art's Pandemic Oral History Project at Hom's home in San Francisco, California.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nancy Hom (1949 - ) is a Chinese American artist, curator, illustrator and non-profit arts consultant in San Francisco, California. Hom was executive director of the Kearny Street Workshop, San Francisco, California.</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/interviews/oral-history-interview-nancy-hom-21990">https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/interviews/oral-history-interview-nancy-hom-21990</a></td>
</tr>
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Oral History interview of Margaret Honda, 2020

An interview with Margaret Honda conducted 2020 August 17, by Jacob Proctor, for the Archives of American Art's Pandemic Oral History Project, at Honda's home in Los Angeles, California

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.

https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/interviews/oral-history-interview-margaret-honda-22000

Oral History interview of Maya Ying Lin, 1983

An interview of Maya Ying Lin conducted 1983 Mar. 6, by Robert Brown, for the Archives of American Art. Lin speaks of a funerary architecture seminar she took at Yale University; entering her design in the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's competition; attempts to add a figured sculpture and a flagpole to her design, and her resistance to this effort.

Maya Ying Lin (1959- ) is a Chinese American architect based in New York, N.Y.

https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/interviews/oral-history-interview-maya-ying-lin-12123

Oral History interview of Mira Nakashima, 2010


Mira Nakashima (1942- ) is a Japanese American woodworker based in New Hope, Pennsylvania. Nakashima is the daughter of fellow woodworker, George Nakashima.

https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/interviews/oral-history-interview-mira-nakashima-15799
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<tr>
<th>Oral History interview of Miyoko Ito, 1978</th>
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<tr>
<td>An interview of Miyoko Ito conducted 1978 July 20, by Dennis Barrie, for the Archives of American Art.</td>
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Miyoko Ito (1918-1983) was a Japanese American painter based in Chicago, Illinois.

https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/interviews/oral-history-interview-miyoko-ito-11656

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<tr>
<th>Oral History interview of Patti Warashina, 2005</th>
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Patti Warashina is a Japanese American ceramicist and sculptor. She was born in 1940 as Masae Patricia Warashina in Spokane, Washington to third generation Japanese emigrants. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Washington, Seattle, where she studied with sculptors Robert Sperry, Harold Myers, Rudy Autio, Shoji Hamada, Shinsaku Hamada, and Ruth Penington. She received her first solo exhibition in 1962 at the Phoenix Art Gallery in Seattle the same year she graduated with an M.F.A. from the University of Washington. Warashina later married fellow student Fred Bauer and from 1964 to 1970 exhibited as Patti Bauer.

https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/interviews/oral-history-interview-patti-warashina-12864

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<tr>
<th>Oral History interview of Robert Hanamura, 1977</th>
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<tr>
<td>An interview of Robert Hanamura conducted circa 1977, by Marsha Miro, for the Archives of American Art.</td>
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Robert Hanamura (1923-2020) was a Japanese American architect based in Detroit, Michigan.

https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/interviews/oral-history-interview-robert-hanamura-12493
Oral History interview of Ruth Asawa, 2002

An interview of Ruth Asawa and her husband, Albert Lanier, 2002 June 21-July 5, conducted by Mark Johnson on June 21 and Paul Karlstrom on July 5, for the Archives of American Art, in the subjects' home/studio in San Francisco, California.

Ruth Asawa (1926-2013) was a Japanese American sculptor based in San Francisco, California. Albert Lanier is an architect from San Francisco, California. Interviewer Mark Johnson is head of the California Asian American Artists Biographical Survey and resides in San Francisco, California.

https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/interviews/oral-history-interview-ruth-asawa-and-albert-lanier-12222

Oral History interview of Shiro Ikegawa, 2003

An interview of Shiro Ikegawa conducted 2003 Jan. 8, by Jamisen Jenkins, for the Archives of American Art, in Keiro Nursing Home, Los Angeles, Calif.

Shiro Ikegawa (1933-2009) was a Japanese American painter, graphic artist, performance artist, and art instructor based in Altadena, California.

https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/interviews/oral-history-interview-shiro-ikegawa-12380

Oral History interview of Seong Moy, 1971

An interview of Seong Moy conducted 1971 Jan. 18-28, by Paul Cummings, for the Archives of American Art.

Seong Moy (1921-2013) was a Chinese American painter and printmaker based in New York City, New York and Provincetown, Massachusetts. Moy was born in Canton, China. He studied at the St. Paul School of Art, Hans Hofmann School of Art and the Art Students League. He was also the director of the Seong Moy School of Painting and Graphics, Provincetown, Massachusetts in the summer.

https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/interviews/oral-history-interview-seong-moy-12341
Oral History interview of Tam Van Tran, 2020

An interview with Tam Van Tran conducted 2020 August 8, by Benjamin Gillespie, for the Archives of American Art's Pandemic Oral History Project, at Van Tran's home in Los Angeles, California.

Tam Van Tran (1966 -) is a Vietnamese American mixed media artist in Los Angeles, California. Born in Vietnam, Van Tran's work explores refugee displacement and artistic heritage through the synthesis of biological and geometric forms.

https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/interviews/oral-history-interview-tam-van-tran-22021

Oral History interview of Toshiko Takaezu, 2003

An interview of Toshiko Takaezu conducted 2003 June 16, by Gerry Williams, for the Archives of American Art's Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America, in Quakertown, N.J.

Toshiko Takaezu (1922-2011) was a Japanese American ceramist of Quakertown, New Jersey. Gerry Williams (1926- ) is the co-founder and former editor of Studio Potter in Dunbarton, New Hampshire. Takaezu's birth date is also cited as 1929.

https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/interviews/oral-history-interview-toshiko-takaezu-12097

Oral History interview of Tyrus Wong, 1965

An interview of Tyrus Wong conducted 1965 January 30, by Betty Hoag, for the Archives of American Art.

Tyrus Wong (1910-2016) was a Chinese American painter, designer, illustrator, and printmaker based in California.

https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/interviews/oral-history-interview-tyrus-wong-13010
Oral History interview of Val Laigo, 1989


https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/interviews/oral-history-interview-val-laigo-12747

Oral History interview of Xiaoze Xie, 2010

An interview of Xiaoze Xie conducted 2010 May 10 and 11, by Mija Riedel, for the Archives of American Art's U.S. General Services Administration, Design for Excellence and the Arts oral history project at Xie's studio in Stanford, California.

Interviewee Xiaoze Xie (1966- ) is a Chinese American visual artist and professor based in Palo Alto, California. Interviewer Mija Riedel (1958- ) is a writer and independent scholar in San Francisco, California.

https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/interviews/oral-history-interview-xiaoze-xie-15806

National Museum of African American History & Culture

David Mercer Ackerman and Satoko Ito Ackerman oral history interview conducted by Joseph Mosnier in Washington, D.C., 2011 September 20

NMMAHC/Library of Congress interview features David and Satoko Ackerman detailing how they traveled to Selma and participated in the Selma to Montgomery march at the urging of their classmate, Jesse Jackson

https://www.loc.gov/item/2015669152/