

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Glenn Tunstull

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers® 1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Tunstull, Glenn
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Glenn Tunstull,
Dates:	September 13, 2007
Bulk Dates:	2007
Physical Description:	7 Betacame SP videocassettes (3:17:18).
Abstract:	Fashion illustrator and painter Glenn Tunstull (1950 -) was an illustrator for Vogue, Women's Wear Daily, Marie Claire and Votre Meute, and exhibited his landscape paintings worldwide. Tunstull was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on September 13, 2007, in New York, New York. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2007_261
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Glenn Tunstull was born one of four children on July 29, 1950 in Flushing, New York. Tunstull developed a passion for art at an early age, after witnessing his Uncle Leroy sketching a portrait of his parents. Tunstull's family moved across the country when he was young, from New York to Louisville, Kentucky finally settling in Detroit, Michigan, where Tunstull attended Cass Technical High School and graduated in 1968 with a concentration in commercial art.

Tunstull won a scholarship to Parsons, the New School of Design. He attended the school for two years before working for various pattern companies. By 1970, Tunstull was illustrating for *Vogue* magazine and was hired as the first African American illustrator at *Women's Wear Daily*. Having built a name in the industry, Tunstull augmented his day work with freelance projects for major designers and department stores.

In 1975, at the age of twenty-five, Tunstull moved to Morocco and shortly thereafter, to Europe, where he worked in Paris and Milan. While working abroad Tunstull created fashion illustrations for the Hermes and Kenzo design houses and for fashion publications that included *Marie Claire* and *Votre Beauté*. Tunstull himself was featured in *Italian Vogue* for his work with WWD and Silvano Malto; he returned to the United States in 1977.

In 1979, Tunstull returned to New York City and began working for a variety of publications, including *GQ* magazine and *The New York Times*. In the 1990s, Tunstull began teaching fashion art at the Fashion Institute of Technology, and model drawing classes at his alma mater, the Parson's School of Design. In 1994, Tunstull served as the keynote speaker at the Society of Illustrators Museum for the Best of Fashion and Beauty Illustration Exhibition.

In 1996, Tunstull shifted his career focus to watercolor landscapes depicting scenes inspired by his travels, particularly trips to Brazil, Jamaica, Australia, and Martha's Vineyard, where he hosted an annual showing of his artwork. In 1997, Tunstull illustrated *Kai: A Big Decision*, a children's book by Sharon Shavers Gayle. In 2000,

Tunstull again made a shift in his artistic approach, continuing to work in landscapes but using oil paints, expanding his ability to portray different moods.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Glenn Tunstull was conducted by Adrienne Jones on September 13, 2007, in New York, New York, and was recorded on 7 Betacame SP videocassettes. Fashion illustrator and painter Glenn Tunstull (1950 -) was an illustrator for Vogue, Women's Wear Daily, Marie Claire and Votre Meaute, and exhibited his landscape paintings worldwide.

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:

Tunstull, Glenn

Jones, Adrienne (Interviewer)

Burghelea, Neculai (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Tunstull, Glenn--Interviews

African American fashion designers--Interviews

African American painters--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Fashion Illustrator

HistoryMakers® Category:

StyleMakers

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 Glenn Tunstall, September 13, 2007. 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 Glenn Tunstull, Section A2007_261_001_001, TRT: 0:29:20 ?

Glenn Tunstull was born on July 29, 1950 in Queens, New York to Mary Shockency Tunstull and Edward Tunstull. His maternal grandparents, Bessie Shockency and William Shockency, were farmers in Loretto, Kentucky, where his mother was born. She was raised as Catholic, and had ten siblings. His father, who came from a family of ministers in Tennessee, served in the U.S. Navy in Louisville, Kentucky. He met Tunstull's mother there; and, according to the family lore, absconded without leave in order to be with her. Tunstull's parents relocated to New York City, and then joined his father's relatives in Detroit, Michigan. There, his father worked as a machinist for the Ford Motor Company, and ran a gambling operation with Tunstull's mother and paternal uncle. Tunstull describes his parents' taste in clothing, including his mother's fur stoles and his father's stylish jewelry. He also remembers the influence of the Motown musical scene and Detroit's automotive industry during the 1960s.

African American fashion designers--Interviews.

African American painters--Interviews.

Video Oral History Interview with Glenn Tunstull, Section A2007_261_001_002, TRT: 0:30:33 ?

Glenn Tunstull moved with his family from New York City to Detroit, Michigan when he was a child. In Detroit, his parents ran a gambling operation, and taught him to play card games like poker, blackjack and whist. He briefly attended a school in Louisville, Kentucky, and then continued his education at Winterhalter Elementary School and Boynton Elementary-Middle School in Detroit. Tunstull was interested in drawing from an early age, and often sketched women and architecture. At the majority white Cass Technical High School in Detroit, he aspired to a career as a fashion illustrator, and learned techniques for drawing materials like alligator skin from his design teacher, Ms. Olbo. Although Tunstull's guidance counselor discouraged him from applying to prestigious art schools, he was awarded a scholarship to the Parsons School of Design in New York City. Tunstull also remembers the wariness of his parents' generation in response to the Civil Rights Movement.

Video Oral History Interview with Glenn Tunstull, Section A2007_261_001_003, TRT: 0:30:18 ?

Glenn Tunstull developed his fashion sense while a student at Cass Technical High School in Detroit, Michigan. Upon graduating, he was offered a scholarship to the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City, but was unable to attend after a car accident. He was later admitted to New York City's Parsons School of Design with full funding. Tunstull matriculated in 1969, and studied fashion illustration under the tutelage of professors like Albert Elia and Murray Tinkelman. At the time, wealthy white women dominated the student body; and, after completing two year of study, Tunstull left school to enter the pattern business. He initially worked at the Simplicity Pattern Company, Inc., where he was pressured to conform to the style of other illustrators. He then obtained a position as a colorist at Vogue Patterns, where he was influenced by illustrator Elaine Poprosky. Tunstull also remembers the fashion industry professionals of the 1960s and 1970s, including model Naomi Sims.

Video Oral History Interview with Glenn Tunstull, Section A2007_261_001_004, TRT: 0:29:43 ?

Glenn Tunstull worked for two years as a colorist at Vogue Patterns, which marketed to both consumers and industry professionals. When a fashion illustrator position opened at Women's Wear Daily, Tunstull submitted a portfolio with help from illustrator Stephen Cervantes. Tunstull joined the trade publication's ten-person staff, and became one of the youngest members to illustrate its covers. During this period, he also created advertisements for retailers like Henri Bendel, Saks Fifth Avenue and Gimbel Brothers, as well as

Vogue magazine. Tunstull had an active social life in New York City, where he frequented disco clubs like Le Jardin and the Tamburlaine. He eventually moved to Europe with his partner, collagist Toyce Anderson. In Italy, he was recommended by illustrator Antonio Lopez to take over Lopez's assignments at Vogue Italia and Linea Italiana. Tunstull also talks about the relationship between fashion illustration and fashion photography, which was a new art form during this time.

Video Oral History Interview with Glenn Tunstull, Section A2007_261_001_005, TRT: 0:29:12 ?

Glenn Tunstull collaborated with his partner, collagist Toyce Anderson, in Europe during the 1970s. After a trip to Liberia in 1976, they moved from Italy to Paris, France. There, they were unable to obtain work visas, and encountered more financial difficulties than in Italy, where they were often paid in cash. Even so, Tunstull's friend, Carol LaBrie, introduced them to fashion designers like Loulou de la Falaise, Karl Lagerfeld, Jackie Rogers and Kenzo Takada, whose label was co-developed by LaBrie. They also met author James Baldwin at a dinner hosted by Judy Fayard, the director of the Women's Wear Daily bureau in Paris. In 1977, Tunstull and Anderson became nostalgic for African American culture, and returned to New York City. From that time, they ended their working partnership, and Tunstull returned to fashion illustration, while Anderson pursued the fine arts. Later, Tunstull began teaching fashion illustration to merchandising students at New York City's Fashion Institute of Technology.

Video Oral History Interview with Glenn Tunstull, Section A2007_261_001_006, TRT: 0:30:43 ?

Glenn Tunstull began his teaching career at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City. He was then offered a faculty position at the Parsons School of Design by fashion department head Frank Rizzo. Tunstull also taught at the Pratt Institute, where his students included Jack McCollough and Lazara Hernandez, whose joint senior thesis led to the development of their label, Proenza Schouler. As the fashion industry turned from illustration to photography, Tunstull transitioned to the fine arts. His partner, businessman Joe Steele, encouraged him to show his paintings at venues on the East Coast, and Tunstull went on to host numerous successful gallery shows in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. His artwork was collected by journalist Charlayne Hunter-Gault and business executive Lloyd G. Trotter. In 1994, Tunstull gave the keynote address at an event hosted by the Society of Illustrators in New York City; and, in 2004, he was honored by Fashion Outreach as an industry pioneer.

Video Oral History Interview with Glenn Tunstull, Section A2007_261_001_007, TRT: 0:17:29 ?

Glenn Tunstull met historian Robert C. Hayden on the island of Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts, where Tunstull frequently exhibited his artwork. His paintings were commissioned by notable community members like Hayden, journalist Charlayne Hunter-Gault and attorney Amy Robertson Goldson. In the late 1990s, Tunstull illustrated 'Kai: A Big Decision Africa, 1440,' which was written by children's author Sharon Shavers Gayle for the Girlhood Journeys series. Tunstull also explains how he developed his painting style. His technique, called dashilism in contrast to pointillism, used dashes to produce fields of color, and was influenced by the paintings of Vincent van Gogh. Tunstull concludes the interview by reflecting upon his legacy, and the changes in the field of fashion illustration.