

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Joanne V. Gabbin

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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>	Gabbin, Joanne V.
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Joanne V. Gabbin,
<b>Dates:</b>	June 14, 2017
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2017
<b>Physical Description:</b>	11 uncompressed MOV digital video files (5:07:35).
<b>Abstract:</b>	English professor Joanne V. Gabbin (1946 - ) was an English professor at James Madison University and founded the Furious Flower Poetry Center. Gabbin was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on June 14, 2017, in Harrisonburg, Virginia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2017_110
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

English professor Joanne V. Gabbin was born on February 2, 1946. She earned her B.A. degree in English from Morgan State College in Baltimore, Maryland in 1967. Gabbin then received her M.A. degree in English in 1970 and her Ph.D. degree in English and literature from the University of Chicago in Chicago, Illinois in 1980.

Gabbin began her career as an instructor of English at Roosevelt University in Chicago, Illinois in 1971. She was then hired as an assistant professor of English at Chicago State University in Chicago, Illinois in 1972, where she remained until 1974. Gabbin served as program director and instructor of Catalyst for Youth, Inc. in Chicago, Illinois from 1973 to 1975. In 1977, Gabbin became an assistant professor of English at Lincoln University. She was promoted to the position of associate professor of English in 1982. Gabbin remained in that position until 1985, when she was hired as an associate professor of English at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia. In 1987, she helped form the Wintergreen Women Writers' Collective. Gabbin also became the director of the honors program at James Madison University in 1986 and was promoted to the position of professor of English in 1989. Gabbin organized the first academic conference on African American poetry, entitled "Furious Flower: A Revolution in African American Poetry," in 1994. She established the Furious Flower Poetry Center at James Madison University in 2005.

In addition to her work as an English professor, Gabbin also published a variety of works that included *Sterling A. Brown: Building the Black Aesthetic Tradition*, *The Furious Flowering of African American Poetry*, and *Furious Flower: African American Poetry from the Black Arts Movement to the Present*. She also published a children's book, titled *I Bet She Called Me Sugar Plum*, in 2004.

Gabbin was awarded the Creative Scholarship Award by the College Language Association in 1986 and, in 1988, received the Award for Scholarship from the James Madison University Faculty Women's Caucus and Women's Resource Network. She was the recipient of the Virginia State Council of Higher Education's Outstanding Faculty Award in 1993, as well as James Madison University's Provost Award for Excellence in 2004. Gabbin was given

the Distinguished Faculty Award in 2005, and the Woman of Distinction Award in 2007, each from James Madison University.

In addition to her career as a professor, Gabbin served as a board member of several organizations that included the WVPT Community Board, Shenandoah Shakespeare, the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, and Cave Canem (A Home for Black Poetry). An avid art collector, she is also the owner of the 150 Franklin Street Gallery in Harrisonburg.

Joanne V. Gabbin was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on May 15, 2017.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Joanne V. Gabbin was conducted by Harriette Cole on June 14, 2017, in Harrisonburg, Virginia, and was recorded on 11 uncompressed MOV digital video files. English professor Joanne V. Gabbin (1946 - ) was an English professor at James Madison University and founded the Furious Flower Poetry Center.

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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:

Gabbin, Joanne V.

Cole, Harriette (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews  
Gabbin, Joanne V.--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:**

Poet

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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 Joanne V. Gabbin, June 14, 2017. 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 Joanne V. Gabbin, Section A2017\_110\_001\_001, TRT: 1:26:10  
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Video Oral History Interview with Joanne V. Gabbin, Section A2017\_110\_001\_002, TRT: 2:29:05  
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Video Oral History Interview with Joanne V. Gabbin, Section A2017\_110\_001\_003, TRT: 3:27:41  
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Video Oral History Interview with Joanne V. Gabbin, Section A2017\_110\_001\_004, TRT: 4:31:07  
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Video Oral History Interview with Joanne V. Gabbin, Section A2017\_110\_001\_005, TRT: 5:30:53  
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Video Oral History Interview with Joanne V. Gabbin, Section A2017\_110\_001\_006, TRT: 6:23:54  
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Video Oral History Interview with Joanne V. Gabbin, Section A2017\_110\_001\_007, TRT: 7:29:17  
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Video Oral History Interview with Joanne V. Gabbin, Section A2017\_110\_001\_008, TRT: 8:28:42  
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Video Oral History Interview with Joanne V. Gabbin, Section A2017\_110\_001\_009, TRT: 9:29:23  
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Video Oral History Interview with Joanne V. Gabbin, Section A2017\_110\_001\_010, TRT:  
10:27:04 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Joanne V. Gabbin, Section A2017\_110\_001\_011, TRT:  
11:24:19 ?