

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Zita Cousens

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Cousens, Zita, 1953-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Zita Cousens,
Dates:	August 23, 2017
Bulk Dates:	2017
Physical Description:	6 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:24:06).
Abstract:	Art gallery owner Zita Cousens (1953 -) was a guidance counselor at the Boston Latin School for over thirty years and co-founded the Cousen Rose Gallery in Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts. Cousens was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on August 23, 2017, in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2017_153
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Art gallery owner Zita Cousens was born on July 30, 1953 in Lowell, Massachusetts to Major M. Cousens and Inez Lopez Cousens. She received her B.S. and M.S. degrees in psychology from Simmons College in Boston, Massachusetts in 1975 and 1978, respectively.

Cousens began her career as a resource teacher for the Boston Latin School in Boston, Massachusetts. She eventually became a guidance counselor and served in that role for more than thirty years. In 1980, Cousens co-founded the Cousen Rose Gallery in Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts with painter Stephen Rose. The gallery houses a diverse collection of art as well as a retail space and has showcased works by artists such as Delilah W. Pierce, Lois Mailou Jones, John Breckenridge, M.C. Lamarre, Mark Zeender, and *Boston Globe* photographer Derrick Jackson. Cousens also hosted a book signings for Oak Bluffs author Dorothy West, Jacqueline Kennedy, Lani Guinier, Jill Nelson, Stephen L. Carter, Congresswoman Barbara Lee, Charles Ogletree, and the late Bebe Moore Campbell and Gwen Ifill.

Cousens hosts an annual reception at the art gallery for the Martha’s Vineyard Camp Ground’s cottage tour and fundraiser, which provides awards for children during the All Island Art Show, and raises funds for the local hospital. Cousens has also served on the Gala Host Committee for the Visiting Nurse Association of Boston and is a Friend of the Studio Museum of Harlem.

Cousens and her husband, Michael Brown, have two children.

Zita Cousens was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on August 17, 2017.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Zita Cousens was conducted by Harriette Cole on August 23, 2017, in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, and was recorded on 6 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Art gallery owner Zita Cousens (1953 -) was a guidance counselor at the Boston Latin School for over thirty years and co-founded the Cousen Rose Gallery in Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts.

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:

Cousens, Zita, 1953-

Cole, Harriette (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Cousens, Zita, 1953- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Art Gallery Owner

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 Zita Cousens, August 23, 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).

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 Zita Cousens, Section A2017_153_001_001, TRT: 1:28:30 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Zita Cousens, Section A2017_153_001_002, TRT: 2:28:32 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Zita Cousens, Section A2017_153_001_003, TRT: 3:29:54 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Zita Cousens, Section A2017_153_001_004, TRT: 4:27:38 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Zita Cousens, Section A2017_153_001_005, TRT: 5:21:00 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Zita Cousens, Section A2017_153_001_006, TRT: 6:08:32 ?