

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Robert Freeman

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Freeman, Robert, 1946-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Robert Freeman,
Dates:	November 13, 2018
Bulk Dates:	2018
Physical Description:	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:12:33).
Abstract:	Visual artist Robert Freeman (1946-) was a painting and drawing lecturer at Harvard University from 1986 to 1992, and his works are included in the collections of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, the National Center for African American Artists, Boston Public Library, Brown University, and DeCordova Museum. Freeman was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on November 13, 2018, in Boston, Massachusetts. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2018_220
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Visual artist Robert Freeman was born on May 8, 1946 in New York City to Mary and Robert Freeman, Jr. He graduated from Calvin Coolidge High School in 1965 and enrolled at Howard University, where he studied art with Lois Mailou Jones. Freeman transferred to Boston University in 1967 where he earned his B.F.A. degree in 1971 and his M.F.A. degree in 1981.

Freeman began his career in 1971 as an art teacher at Brook School in Weston, Massachusetts. From 1973 to 1981, Freeman worked as the art director of Weston Public Schools. In 1981, he became the artist-in-residence and painting instructor at Noble and Greenough School in Dedham, Massachusetts. Freeman subsequently worked as a painting and drawing lecturer at Harvard University from 1986 to 1992. In 2007, he retired from Noble and Greenough School. Known for his trademarks, the use of color, gesture and nearly abstract figures, Freeman's paintings depicted African American figures, and was heavily inspired by his childhood experiences in Ghana and Washington, D.C. In 2008, Freeman exhibited his *Golden Light* Paintings series at the Zenith Gallery in Washington, D.C. That same year, Freeman's paintings were included in the *Five American Voices* exhibit among the works of Romare Bearden, Benny Andrews, Alma Woodsey Thomas, and Richard Yarde at the Meridian International Center in Washington, D.C. His series *New Works*, was showcased at Adelson Galleries in Boston, Massachusetts in 2016. In 2018, Freeman collaborated with photographer Max Stern to paint the Mardi Gras Indians series, which celebrated the 300th anniversary of the New Orleans Mardi Gras parades.

His artwork has been exhibited at Clark Gallery in Lincoln, Massachusetts, June Kelly Gallery in New York City, Lowe Art Museum at the University of Miami, and the Norman Parish Gallery in Washington, D.C. Freeman's paintings are also included in the public collections of Brown University, Boston College, Boston Public Library, the National Center of African American Artists, DeCordova Museum, and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, and are in the permanent collection of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, Massachusetts.

Freeman and his wife, Bettye, have three children.

Robert Freeman was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on November 13, 2018.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Robert Freeman was conducted by Harriette Cole on November 13, 2018, in Boston, Massachusetts, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Visual artist Robert Freeman (1946-) was a painting and drawing lecturer at Harvard University from 1986 to 1992, and his works are included in the collections of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, the National Center for African American Artists, Boston Public Library, Brown University, and DeCordova Museum.

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:

Freeman, Robert, 1946-

Cole, Harriette (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Freeman, Robert, 1946- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Visual Artist

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 Robert Freeman, November 13, 2018. 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 Robert Freeman, Section A2018_220_001_001, TRT: 1:29:13 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Robert Freeman, Section A2018_220_001_002, TRT: 2:29:37 ?

- Video Oral History Interview with Robert Freeman, Section A2018_220_001_003, TRT: 3:30:43 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Robert Freeman, Section A2018_220_001_004, TRT: 4:30:30 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Robert Freeman, Section A2018_220_001_005, TRT: 5:28:47 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Robert Freeman, Section A2018_220_001_006, TRT: 6:28:27 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Robert Freeman, Section A2018_220_001_007, TRT: 7:15:16 ?