



## Guide to the Robert Beckmann Professional Papers

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
<b>Creator:</b>	Beckmann, Robert, 1942-
<b>Title:</b>	Robert Beckmann Professional Papers
<b>ID:</b>	MS-00606
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	approximately 1964 to 2020
<b>Physical Description:</b>	12.03 Cubic Feet (13 boxes, 3 oversized boxes, and 1 flat file)
<b>Physical Description:</b>	14.35 Linear Feet
<b>Physical Description:</b>	353 Digital Files (0.9260 GB) GIF, JPG, PDF
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Robert Beckmann Professional Papers (approximately 1964-2020) include photographs, sketches, plans, and proposals for murals and art installations that Beckmann designed or painted in the Las Vegas, Nevada area. The collection also includes correspondence, awards, and promotional materials for art exhibitions featuring Beckmann and other artists.

### Preferred Citation

Robert Beckmann Professional Papers, approximately 1964-2020. MS-00606. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada. <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1j02t>

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## Biographical Note

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American artist Robert Beckmann was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1942, and grew up in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania. He earned a bachelor's degree from the College of Wooster in Wooster, Ohio in 1964. He went on to earn a Master of Arts and a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Iowa. He taught at Northern Illinois University for four years, leaving in 1971 to pursue a career as a professional artist.

Robert Beckmann arrived in Las Vegas, Nevada in 1977 and was selected as the project artist and director of the Las Vegas Community Murals Project, the first public art project of its kind in Las Vegas. The project involved Beckmann working with local high school students to paint murals on public buildings across Las Vegas.

Beckmann remained in Las Vegas while continuing his career. His work has been exhibited in museums around the world, and over 200 of his murals exist in both public and commercial spaces across the United States. He is best known for an exhibition of large-scale paintings entitled *The Body of a House*, which is permanently housed in the Nevada Museum of Art in Reno, Nevada. Beckmann was awarded the Governor's Arts Award for Excellence in the Arts from the State of Nevada in 1996. As of 2020, Robert Beckmann resides in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Sources:

Cling, Carol. "Artist Robert Beckmann Incorporates Las Vegas Into His Works." *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, February 14, 2017. <https://www.reviewjournal.com/entertainment/arts-culture/artist-robert-beckmann-incorporates-las-vegas-into-his-works/>

Robert Beckmann. "Robert Beckmann Biography." Accessed February 14, 2020. [https://robertbeckmann.com/bio\\_full.html](https://robertbeckmann.com/bio_full.html)

Smallworks Press. "Robert Beckmann Biography." Accessed February 14, 2020. <http://www.smallworksgallery.com/beckmannbio.html>

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## Scope and Contents Note

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The Robert Beckmann Professional Papers (approximately 1964-2020) include photographs, sketches, plans, and proposals for murals and art installations that Beckmann designed or painted in the Las Vegas, Nevada area. The collection includes photographic surveys of mural locations both before and after painting, and handwritten sketches and plans for the murals. The collection also includes correspondence with friends, art galleries, and museums throughout the United States and worldwide; promotional materials for art exhibitions; and invoices and contracts for artwork and other services.

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## Arrangement Note

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Materials remain as they were received.

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## Administrative Information

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### Access Note

Collection is open for research, with the exception of materials that are restricted to protect personally identifiable information. Restrictions are noted at the box level of this inventory and will be open for research use January 1, 2079. Arrangements must be made in advance to access digital files; please contact UNLV Special Collections and Archives for additional information.

### Publication Rights

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### Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 1977, 2014, 2018, 2021, and 2023 by Robert Beckmann; accession numbers T79, 2014-013, 2014-052, 2018-022, 2021-118, and 2023-059.

### Processing Note

Materials were minimally processed at the time of accessioning by Tom Sommer in 2014. In 2015, as part of a legacy finding aid conversion project, Lindsay Oden wrote the collection description in compliance with current professional standards. Subsequently Lindsay Oden entered the data into ArchivesSpace. In 2018, Maggie Bukowski accessioned the 2018 addition and subsequently entered it into ArchivesSpace. In 2020, Lauren Paljusaj added restricted materials to the inventory and revised the finding aid in ArchivesSpace. In 2021, Tammi Kim minimally processed the 2021 addition during accessioning and updated the finding aid. Tammi Kim also accessioned six optical discs. Files were successfully transferred off of two discs and four discs failed. In 2023, Sarah Jones rehoused the 2023 addition, created the inventory, and updated the finding aid.

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## Related Materials

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### Related Collections

The following resources may provide additional information related to the materials in this collection:

Robert Beckmann oral history interview, 2015 August 20. OH-02441. Oral History Research Center, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Robert Beckmann Photographs, 1964-2005. PH-00381. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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## Names and Subjects

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- Mural painting and decoration, American -- Nevada
- Painting -- Nevada
- Artists -- Nevada -- Las Vegas -- Biography
- photographs
- Art -- Nevada -- Las Vegas

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## Collection Inventory

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Title/Description	Containers
Postcards, programs, fliers, and magazines, 1993 to 2013	box 01
Nevada Institute for Contemporary Art auction program, 1998 September 18	oversized flat file box 02 SH-079
Publications, photographs, photographic slides, correspondence, fliers, and newspaper clippings about Beckmann's art projects and exhibitions, 1978 to 2007	box 03
Project sketches, photographs, cassette tape, and plans for the Las Vegas Community Murals Project, 1977 to 1979	box 04  oversized flat file box 02 SH-079
Application for a contractor's license from the State of Nevada, 1981	

Restricted: Materials are restricted to protect personally identifiable information and will be open for research use on January 1, 2079.	box SH-042
Agreement with Pearson Education for usage of Beckmann's images in a textbook, 2004	box SH-042
Restricted: Materials are restricted to protect personally identifiable information and will be open for research use on January 1, 2079.	
Correspondence and publications about Beckmann's art and exhibitions, 1987 to 2007	box 03
Lecture notes about art, correspondence and receipts about artwork, photographs and photographic slides of Beckmann's artwork and reference material, 1978 to 1993	box 04
Sales receipts for artwork sales and supplies, correspondence regarding painting sales, invoices, incoming and outgoing correspondence with art galleries regarding art shows, 1995 to 2008	box 05
Newspaper clippings about Beckmann's artwork, photographic slides featuring Beckmann's artwork, incoming and outgoing correspondence with galleries and museums, invoices and correspondence regarding artwork sales, 1994 to 2003	box 06
2018 Addition, 1994 to 2008	
Newspaper clippings about Beckmann's work, personal correspondence, business correspondence, and artwork sketches, 1998 to 2007	box 07
Mural planning research, photographic slides featuring Beckmann's artwork, and personal correspondence, 1994 to 2002	box 08
2021 Addition, approximately 1964 to 2020	
Beckmann's personal sketchbooks, personal and professional correspondence, reference photographs, Beckmann's personal portraits: photographic prints, approximately 1964 to 2020	box 09
Beckmann murals (organized alphabetically by project): photographic prints and negatives, approximately 1978 to 2001	box 10 box 11 box 12
Sketches, Wall alternative sketches, art commission files (blank contracts and information), Comstock Hotel-Reno project information and reference images: photographic prints, approximately 1978 to 1989	box 12
Beckmann's personal sketchbooks, reference images (Comstock, Oregon beach), <i>Ashland Daily Tidings</i> April 6, 2007 issue with cover story on Beckmann, approximately 1967 to 2019	oversized box 16
Mural reference sketches and renderings, approximately 1978 to 1989	

	oversized box 14
	oversized box 15
Beckmann's home movies, interviews, video footage of Vegas World, Nevada Test Site documentaries, approximately 1988 to 1997 Physical Description: 27 VHS Tapes	box 13
Department of Energy Nevada Test Site website (saved as PDF), art reference images, approximately 2008 Physical Description: 353 Digital Files (0.9260 GB) GIF, JPG, PDF	digital file 00
2023 Addition, 1970s-2000s	
"Beckman Project" VHS tapes, 2005 January 24 Physical Description: 5 VHS Tapes	box 17
"Beckmann 8mm film to tape, 1955" VHS tape, approximately 1990 to 2009 Physical Description: 1 VHS Tapes	box 17
"Robert Beckman Hi-def original, e.motion productions, inc." betacam tapes, 2004 to 2005 Physical Description: 2 Betacam	box 17
"Soho, N.Y.C., Interview - Robert Beckmann, Subject - art, Vegas, Sublime" betacam tape, 1992 September 11 Physical Description: 1 Betacam	box 17
"Las Vegas/Xmas 1976" 8mm color film, 1976 Physical Description: 1 Reels	box 17
"Becko #1-5" miniDV tapes, 2005 January 13 to 2005 January 15 Physical Description: 5 Items	box 17
"Red Rock desert mural" miniDV tape, approximately 2000 to 2009 Physical Description: 1 Items	box 17
"Beckmann Film USBG touch up, Washington D.C. 2/24-2/28" miniDV tape, approximately 2000 to 2009 Physical Description: 1 Items	box 17
"Beckmann New Jersey and D.C." miniDV tape, approximately 2000 to 2009 Physical Description: 1 Items	box 17
"Shakespeare installation" miniDV tape, approximately 2000 to 2009 Physical Description: 1 Items	box 17
"Beckmann interviews, studio footage, self-shot" miniDV tapes, approximately 2000 to 2005 Physical Description: 7 Items	box 17
"Turkey Stremmel 4/05; BSA Headquarters and cut pack 4/05" miniDV tape, 2005 April	box 17



Physical Description: 1 Items

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"Smithsonian Lunch Group" miniDV tape, approximately 2000 to 2009

box 17

Physical Description: 1 Items