



## Guide to the Robert Beckmann Professional Papers

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Persistent URL for this finding aid: <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1j02t>

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**University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.**

Box 457010

4505 S. Maryland Parkway

Las Vegas, Nevada 89154-7010

[special.collections@unlv.edu](mailto:special.collections@unlv.edu)

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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>	12.68 Cubic Feet (14 boxes, 3 oversized boxes, and 1 flat file)
<b>Physical Description:</b>	14.89 Linear Feet
<b>Physical Description:</b>	905 Digital Files (2.710 GB)
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Robert Beckmann Professional Papers (approximately 1964-2020) include photographs, sketches, plans, digital art references, 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, digital art references, 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.

### Publication Rights

This material is made available to facilitate private study, scholarship, or research. Material in this collection may be protected by copyright, trademark, privacy, publicity rights, or other interests not owned by UNLV. Users are responsible for determining whether permissions are necessary from rights owners for any intended use and for obtaining all required permissions. Please contact UNLV Special Collections and Archives ([special.collections@unlv.edu](mailto:special.collections@unlv.edu)) for additional information.

### Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 1977, 2014, 2018, 2021, 2023, and 2025 by Robert Beckmann; accession numbers T79, 2014-013, 2014-052, 2018-022, 2021-118, 2023-059, and 2025-097.

### Appraisal Note

Acquired by Michelle Light, former Director of Special Collections and Archives, and Aaron Mayes, Visual Materials Curator, as part of UNLV Special Collections and Archives holdings on the visual history of Las Vegas, Nevada. All material that formed the original gifts has been retained. 12 optical discs were securely disposed after files were fully transferred, processed, and preserved following UNLV Special Collections and Archives Digital Preservation guidelines.

### 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, Landon 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. In 2025, Olivia Rodriguez created access copies of

digital files following UNLV Special Collections and Archives Digital Preservation guidelines and updated the descriptions in the finding aid. In 2025, Landon Paljusaj minimally processed and rehoused the 2025 addition and updated the finding aid in ArchivesSpace. Landon Paljusaj also accessioned and processed six optical discs; files were successfully transferred off of four discs and two discs were empty.

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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. <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1zh9c>

Robert Beckmann Photographs, 1964-2005. PH-00381. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada. <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1xk8c>

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## Names and Subjects

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- Mural painting and decoration, American
- photographs
- Art -- Nevada -- Las Vegas
- Artists
- Painting
- Las Vegas (Nev.)
- born digital

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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 box SH-079	flat file 02
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 box SH-079	flat file 02
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  Restricted: Materials are restricted to protect personally identifiable information and will be open for research use on January 1, 2079.	box SH-042	
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, Wallalternative 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
20th Century Nevada Test Site Atomic Bomb and Nuclear Weapons Test Documents book-on-a-disc: digital files, approximately 2001 (MS_00606_001) Physical Description: 175 Digital Files (0.345 GB) GIF, JPG, PDF	digital file 00
Beckmann's art reference images: digital photographs, 2008 (MS_00606_002) Physical Description: 178 Digital Files (0.576 GB) JPG	digital file 00
KNPR's "Guess Who's Playing the Classics?" radio show featuring Robert Beckmann: digital files, 2002 March 03 (MS_00606_003) Physical Description: 4 Digital Files (0.143 GB) MP3	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	box 17

Physical Description: 5 Items	
"Red Rock desert mural" miniDV tape, approximately 2000 to 2009	box 17
Physical Description: 1 Items	
"Beckmann Film USBG touch up, Washington D.C. 2/24-2/28" miniDV tape, approximately 2000 to 2009	box 17
Physical Description: 1 Items	
"Beckmann New Jersey and D.C." miniDV tape, approximately 2000 to 2009	box 17
Physical Description: 1 Items	
"Shakespeare installation" miniDV tape, approximately 2000 to 2009	box 17
Physical Description: 1 Items	
"Beckmann interviews, studio footage, self-shot" miniDV tapes, approximately 2000 to 2005	box 17
Physical Description: 7 Items	
"Turkey Stremmel 4/05; BSA Headquarters and cut pack 4/05" miniDV tape, 2005 April	box 17
Physical Description: 1 Items	
"Smithsonian Lunch Group" miniDV tape, approximately 2000 to 2009	box 17
Physical Description: 1 Items	
2025 Addition, 1977 to 2016	
Assorted drawings, notes, and installation sketches, approximately 1977 to 1987	box 18
Assorted correspondence and photographs, approximately 1978 to 1997	box 18
Construction of the Luxor Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada: photographic prints, 1992 to 1993	box 18
Correspondence between Robert Beckmann and Stephen and Mary Frailey, 1993 to 1994	box 18
"Monumental Propaganda" art exhibition correspondence and tear sheets, 1993 to 1994	box 18
"Secular Light" art installation photographs: color positives, 1994	box 18
Thumbnail images of classic artworks, monsoon patterns, landscapes: digital images, 2009 to 2016 (MS_00606_005)	digital file 00
Physical Description: 41 Digital Files (0.018 GB) JPG, PNG	
"Monads" series paintings, drawings, and drafts; lattice and other pattern references: digital photographs, 2010 to 2012 (MS_00606_004, MS_00606_006)	digital file 00
Physical Description: 233 Digital Files (0.872 GB) JPG, PSD	
"Richter 858, Bill Frisell" audio recordings, undated (MS_00606_007)	digital file 00

Physical Description: 8 Digital Files (0.041 GB) MP3