

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Ralph Arnold

PERSON

**Arnold, Ralph, 1928-**

**Alternative Names:** Ralph Arnold;

**Life Dates:** December 5, 1928-May 10, 2006

**Place of Birth:** Chicago, Illinois, USA

**Residence:** Chicago, Illinois

**Occupations:** Mixed Media Artist; Art Professor

## **Biographical Note**

Artist Ralph Arnold was born in Chicago, Illinois on December 5, 1928. After graduating from Blue Island High School in 1946, Arnold attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign briefly in 1947. He later returned there before transferring and graduating from Roosevelt University in 1955. In 1976, Arnold earned his M.F.A. degree from the Art Institute of Chicago.

After leaving the U of I the first time, Arnold enlisted

in the U.S. Army, serving in Korea from 1950 until 1952. After entering Roosevelt University, Arnold became involved with the Skyloft Players, a theater group, where he worked with Abena Joan Brown and Okoro Harold Johnson. After graduating, Arnold focused on his art, and in 1969, he was hired by Rockford College as an assistant professor of painting. From there, he taught briefly at Barrat College before being named chairman of the art department at Loyola University of Chicago. Arnold also served as an adjunct lecturer at the Art Institute of Chicago.

Arnold's work crossed several genres, and could be seen in numerous galleries and collections. He created a series of collages entitled "Napoleon in Hawaii," some of which were displayed in the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art in Chicago, and he had another piece on display in the James R. Thompson Center in Chicago. Arnold also had an interest in bookbinding. He was a member of the Illinois Arts Council for more than thirty years.

Arnold died on May 10, 2006 at the age of 77.

## **Related Entries**

**University Seventh-Day Adventist School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Green Magnet Math & Science Academy** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Austin-East Magnet High School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Dd Eisenhower High Sch (Campus)** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**High School Diploma**

**University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Roosevelt University** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**School of the Art Institute of Chicago** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**M.F.A.**

**Barrat College** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1994 to 1994]

**Professor**

**Loyola University of Chicago** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 198406 to 1988]

**Chairman of the Art Department**

**Art Institute of Chicago** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Adjunct Lecturer**

**Rockford College** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1969 to ?]

**Assistant Professor of Painting**

**US Army** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 19491031 to 19520704]

**Private First Class, Corporal**

**Napoleonic Historical Society** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

