



PACIFIC STANDARD TIME AT THE GETTY CENTER

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Explore the Era

Delve into the postwar Los Angeles art world in this online archive, which provides additional material related to the exhibitions on view at the Getty Center. Learn about hipsters and happenings, and the venues across the city where all the action took place through images from the archives and first-hand accounts with the artists.

Browse the Archive

People

Videos

Historic Map

Betye Saar

Artist

Betye Saar was born in Los Angeles in 1926, grew up in Pasadena, California, and spent summers with her grandmother in the Watts neighborhood of southeast L.A. where she watched Simon Rodia construct the Watts Towers. She later studied art at UCLA and the University of California, Long Beach. Saar's sculptures combine social commentary with spirituality, mysticism and craft, resulting in powerful works that speak to her point of view as an African American woman. Joseph Cornell's carefully assembled boxes also proved influential for Saar, inspiring her to experiment with assemblage techniques, such as using found objects and framing devices like doors and window panes.



Betye Saar at her home and studio, 1972. Photo by Lezley Saar. Image courtesy of Betye Saar

Styles & Materials

- Assemblage & Collage
- Political Art

Time Periods & Venues

- 1960s
- 1970s
- Artists' Studios
- Installations & Events

Works of Art



The Phrenologist's Window, 1966, Betye Saar. Assemblage of two-panel wood frame with print and collage. 18 1/2 x 29 3/8 x 1

[Full Caption](#)

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Video: Betye Saar speaks about her work, March 2011. Footage of the



Simon Rodia's *Towers* (Watts Towers) in Los Angeles, 1967. The



Betye Saar viewing her etchings at a group exhibition in at the Palos



Announcement for Betye Saar exhibition *Black Girl's Window* at

Historic Map Locations

→ Explore the historic Los Angeles art scene related to this type of work.

