Vietnamese American Oral History Project, UC Irvine

Narrator: YSA LE
Interviewer: Andy Le
Date: November 10, 2012
Location: Santa Ana, California
Sub-collection: Vietnamese American Experience Course, Fall 2012
Length of Interview: 01:02:09

FIELD NOTES

This interview was conducted at the Vietnamese American Arts Letters Association (VAALA). I arrived at VAALA at 12:00pm, and we did not start the interview until 12:24pm. Present during the interview were the Narrator, Ysa Le and the interviewer Andy Le. All the consent and release forms were signed prior to the beginning of the interview. I took photos of the narrator after the interview ended.

On this same day, VAALA was hosting Bao Phi book singing event for *Song I Sing*. Before I interview her I had a few minutes to go around and look at the different art pieces displayed in the room. While I was browsing around, Ysa was prepping for the book signing event that night. Ysa Le showed up to the interview dressed casual in a black sweater and dark blue jeans. She seemed nervous at first, but eventually she relaxed as the interview progressed.

During the interview there were times where she had to pause to think about the answers to my questions. She was energetic and we laughed on many occasions throughout the interview. I was surprised that some of my questions generated long, rich stories from her. She shared stories of her memories of Saigon Vietnam, France, and her arrival to the United States. Majority of her stories, she mentioned her father as her main influence.

After the interview, I took photos of her and one photo was an art piece of an American Flag created with recycled materials. It was an interesting selection out of all the art pieces there; I think she wanted viewers to capture visually of being Vietnamese-American. She told me after the interview, that she would like a copy of the transcript. I thanked her for the wonderful interview and left VAALA.