



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Jesse Amado Papers, circa
1970-2016, in the Archives of American Art

Sarah Mundy

The processing of this collection received Federal support from the
Latino Initiatives Pool, administered by the Smithsonian Latino Center.

2018/07/31

Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Jesse Amado papers
Identifier:	AAA.amadjess
Date:	circa 1970-2016
Extent:	1.3 Linear feet
Creator:	Amado, Jesse, 1951-
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of artist Jesse Amado measure 1.3 linear feet and date from circa 1970 to 2016. The collection is comprised of biographical material, writings and notes, professional files, printed material, photographic material, and artwork.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The papers were donated by Jesse Amado in 2017.

Related Materials

Also at the Archives of American Art is an interview of Jesse Amado conducted May 31 and June 7, 2004 by Cary Cordova at the artist's studio, in San Antonio, Texas.

Processing Information

The collection was processed and a finding aid prepared by Sarah Mundy in 2018.

Preferred Citation

Jesse Amado papers, circa 1970-2016. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C., Research Center.

Biographical / Historical

Jesse Amado (1951-) is an artist active in San Antonio, Texas.

In his youth Amado had aspirations to become an architect but lost interest later in high school. Amado joined the Navy at 17 becoming an east coast communications operator. He left the Navy after five years and moved to New York City. There, he visited art museums and became interested in art though he did not consider a career as an artist at this time. Instead, he studied English in college and graduated in 1977 from the University of Texas in Austin. He returned to San Antonio and became an English teacher in the public school system, but left this position a short time later. Following the suggestion of a friend, Amado joined the San Antonio fire department where he worked until retiring in 2002. Upon gaining a steady income, Amado began taking art classes at San Antonio College studying under Chicano artist Mel Casas. Amado continued to study fine art at the University of Texas in San Antonio in the 1980s. He earned another bachelor's degree as well as a master's degree in fine art in 1990. During this time he began exhibiting his artwork. He has since held numerous solo and group exhibitions of his work.

Amado completed residencies at San Antonio's Artspace, South Korea's City Gallery of Kwangju, the Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts in Omaha, N.E., and for the National Endowment for the Arts' Visual Arts Organization Grant at the Fabric Workshop and Museum of Philadelphia. His major projects include memorials for the San Antonio fire department and *Days*, an art installation in honor of Linda Pace at the San Antonio Central Library.

Scope and Contents

The papers of artist Jesse Amado measure 1.3 linear feet and date from circa 1970 to 2016. The collection is comprised of biographical material, writings and notes, professional files, printed material, photographic material, and artwork.

Awards, greeting cards, license, and a resume are found in biographical materials. The papers also include early writings, notes, and fifteen notebooks. Professional files consist of agreements, exhibition and project files, a teaching file, and source material.

Printed materials consist of clippings, ephemera, exhibition catalogs and announcements, and an exhibition wall description. Photographs and negatives are of Amado, works of art, and personal subjects. Artwork includes a few drawings, a sketchbook, and portraits of Amado drawn by his students.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as six series.

- Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1983-2011 (Box 1; 4 folders)
- Series 2: Writings and Notes, circa 1970-2016 (Box 1; 0.3 linear feet)
- Series 3: Professional Files, 1990-2016 (Boxes 1-2; 0.4 linear feet)
- Series 4: Printed Material, circa 1983-2016, undated (Boxes 1-2; 0.2 linear feet)
- Series 5: Photographic Material, circa 1970-circa 2000 (Box 1; 0.2 linear feet)
- Series 6: Artwork, circa 2010-2015 (Boxes 1-2; 3 folders)

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Computer artists--Texas--San Antonio
Hispanic American artists

Types of Materials:

Drawings
Photographs
Sketchbooks

Occupations:

Video artists -- Texas -- San Antonio

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1983-2011

4 Folders (Box 1)

Awards, greeting cards from others thanking and congratulating Amado, a driver's license, and resume are in biographical materials.

Box 1, Folder 1	Awards, circa 1983 Includes Texas College Art Show Juror's Award, University of Texas San Antonio Creative Achievement Award, and Mountain View College material.
Box 1, Folder 2	Greeting Cards, 1990-2011
Box 1, Folder 3	License, circa 1995
Box 1, Folder 4	Resume, 2002

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Series 2: Writings and Notes, circa 1970-2016

0.3 Linear feet (Box 1)

Amado's writings include his early writings, notes, and fifteen notebooks. Early writings include Amado's student paper titled "Problems in Contemporary Art Student Research," poetry, writings about art and an ex-girlfriend, and two legal pads with writings about rock and roll, religion, and literature. Notebooks contain notes on suppliers, readings, articles, news, art, lettering, films, and research for projects. Lists of materials and grants, and some sketches are also in the notebooks.

Box 1, Folder 5-7	Early Writings, circa 1970-circa 1986
Box 1, Folder 8	Notes, circa 2005-2016 Includes notes about films, descriptions of artwork, and anti-depressants.
Box 1, Folder 9-13	Notebooks, 2003-2014

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Series 3: Professional Files, 1990-2016

0.4 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

Professional files consist of a copyright and teaching agreement; an exhibition file for *Dreamers and Realists* (2016); files for projects with fringe, the Linda Pace Foundation, and the San Antonio fire department; and a teaching file. Source material for various projects is also in this series.

Box 1, Folder 14	Agreement, Southwest School of Art, Teaching Agreement, 2015 Also includes exhibition loan forms.
Box 1, Folder 15	Agreement, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Copyright License, 2013
Box 1, Folder 16	Exhibition, <i>Dreamers and Realists</i> (2016), 2016
Box 1, Folder 17	Project, Fringe Drawings, Sketchbook, 2005-2006
Box 1, Folder 18	Project, Linda Pace Foundation, <i>Days</i> Installation - Notebook, 2009-2010
Box 1, Folder 19	Project, Linda Pace Foundation, <i>Days</i> Installation - Plans and Press Packet, 2010
Box 2, Folder 1	Project, Linda Pace Foundation, <i>Days</i> Installation - Plans, 2009-2010
Box 1, Folder 20	Project, San Antonio Fire Department Memorial, Proposal, 2011
Box 1, Folder 21-22	Project, San Antonio Fire Department Memorial, Notebooks, 2006-2012 Includes an agreement and four notebooks. The notebooks also contain notes on Citizens for Increased Rescue Effectiveness (C-Fire), a non-profit organization, from 2011 and 2012.
Box 2, Folder 2	Project, San Antonio Fire Department Memorial, Plans, circa 2010 Includes drawings, mockups, and one small box that contains miniature silver firefighter hats and blocks.
Box 1, Folder 23	Project, Source Material, 1990-2007 Includes clippings of artist Joseph Beuys, a felt cone formula with a photograph of an ex-girlfriend, charms, and soap boxes.
Box 1, Folder 24	Teaching, 1996 Includes syllabus, class rosters, and handouts about 3-D design.

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Series 4: Printed Material, circa 1983-2016, undated

0.2 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

Printed materials include clippings regarding Amado and his artwork, firefighting, and other topics; candy wrapper ephemera; catalogs and announcements for many of Amado's exhibitions; and a wall description for an installation piece.

Box 1, Folder 25	Clippings, Amado, circa 1990-2016
Box 1, Folder 26	Clippings, Firefighting, circa 1985
Box 1, Folder 27	Clippings, General, 2001-2016
Box 2, Folder 3	Clippings, General, 2013-2016
Box 1, Folder 28	Ephemera, undated
Box 1, Folder 29	Exhibition Catalogs and Announcements, 1983-2015 Includes material for the exhibitions <i>30 Day Rx</i> (2015), the Texas College art show (1983), <i>Confections and Fictions</i> (2015), and several other exhibitions.
Box 1, Folder 30	Exhibition Artwork Wall Description, 2015

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Series 5: Photographic Material, circa 1970-circa 2000

0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

Photographs and negatives are of Amado, works of art, and personal subjects.

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Box 1, Folder 31 | Amado, circa 1970-2007
Includes Amado with his school football team, his firefighting crew, at a dinner party, and a few portraits of Amado labeled "McNay Museum, Beauty Spot 2003." |
| Box 1, Folder 32 | Amado, Exhibition in Kwangju, South Korea, 1997 |
| Box 1, Folder 33 | Personal, circa 1990s
Includes snapshots of Amado in Spain, with friends and graduate school classmates, and a set of snapshots a showing a tree, the wooden frame of a house, and a dog. |
| Box 1, Folder 34 | Works of Art, General, circa 1990s |
| Box 1, Folder 35 | Works of Art, Group Exhibition in Houston, T.X., circa 1990 |

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Series 6: Artwork, circa 2010-2015

3 Folders (Boxes 1-2)

Artwork includes a few drawings, a sketchbook, and portraits of Amado drawn by his students.

Box 1, Folder 36	Drawing, "White Floating" with Numbered Shapes, circa 2010
Box 1, Folder 37	Drawing, Invitation, 2014
Box 2, Folder 4	Drawings, Portraits of Amado by Students, 2015
Box 2, Folder 5	Sketchbook, circa 2000s

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