



# 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.

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# Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	1
Administrative Information .....	1
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Scope and Contents.....	2
Arrangement.....	2
Names and Subjects .....	2
Container Listing .....	4
Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1983-2011.....	4
Series 2: Writings and Notes, circa 1970-2016.....	5
Series 3: Professional Files, 1990-2016.....	6
Series 4: Printed Material, circa 1983-2016, undated.....	7
Series 5: Photographic Material, circa 1970-circa 2000.....	8
Series 6: Artwork, circa 2010-2015.....	9

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Jesse Amado papers
<b>Date:</b>	circa 1970-2016
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.amadjess
<b>Creator:</b>	Amado, Jesse, 1951-
<b>Extent:</b>	1.3 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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)

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## 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

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1983-2011

#### 4 Folders (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: 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 Notes: Includes Texas College Art Show Juror's Award, University of Texas San Antonio Creative Achievement Award, and Mountain View College material.
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Box 1, Folder 2	Greeting Cards, 1990-2011
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Box 1, Folder 3	License, circa 1995
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Box 1, Folder 4	Resume, 2002
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*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*

## Series 2: Writings and Notes, circa 1970-2016

### 0.3 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: 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 Notes: Includes notes about films, descriptions of artwork, and anti-depressants.
Box 1, Folder 9-13	Notebooks, 2003-2014

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Series 3: Professional Files, 1990-2016

### 0.4 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

Scope and Contents: 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 Notes: 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, Days Installation - Notebook, 2009-2010
Box 1, Folder 19	Project, Linda Pace Foundation, Days Installation - Plans and Press Packet, 2010
Box 2, Folder 1	Project, Linda Pace Foundation, Days 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 Notes: 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 Notes: Includes drawings, mockups, and one small box that contains miniature silver firefighter hats and blocks.
Box 1, Folder 23	Project, Source Material, 1990-2007 Notes: 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 Notes: Includes syllabus, class rosters, and handouts about 3-D design.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)



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

## 0.2 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

Scope and Contents: 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 Notes: 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

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Series 5: Photographic Material, circa 1970-circa 2000

### 0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

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

Box 1, Folder 31	Amado, circa 1970-2007 Notes: 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 Notes: 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

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*

## Series 6: Artwork, circa 2010-2015

### *3 Folders (Boxes 1-2)*

Scope and Contents: 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

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*