



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Santa Barraza

This interview is part of the series "Recuerdos Orales: Interviews of the Latino Art Community in Texas," supported by Federal funds for Latino programming, administered by the Smithsonian Center for Latino Initiatives.

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Santa Barraza
Date:	2003 November 21-22
Identifier:	AAA.barraz03
Creator:	Barraza, Santa (Interviewee) Cordova, Cary (Interviewer) Recuerdos Orales: Interviews of the Latino Art Community in Texas
Extent:	76 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Santa Barraza, 2003 November 21-22, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Santa Barraza, 2003 November 21-22, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

This interview is part of the Archives of American Art Oral History Program, started in 1958 to document the history of the visual arts in the United States, primarily through interviews with artists, historians, dealers, critics and administrators.

Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

Biographical / Historical

Santa Barraza (1951-) is an artist from Kingsville, Texas. Cary Cordova (1970-) is an art historian from Austin, Texas.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Santa Barraza conducted 2003 November 21-22, by Cary Cordova, for the Archives of American Art, in Kingsville, Texas.

Scope and Contents

Barraza speaks of her childhood, family and early education; picking cotton in the summer; the University of Texas, Kingsville; meeting Carmen Lomas Garza and learning graphic design; her daughter Andrea;

involvement with Mayo, a Mexican-American Youth Organization; Austin, Tex. and the differences between UT Kingsville and UT Austin; and Acuña Rodolfo's book, "Occupied America: the Chicano's Struggle Toward Liberation," 1972. Barraza also discusses Jacinto Quirarte and the first formal art history class on Mexican-American art; the formation of MAS, Mujeres Artistas del Suroeste; the Conferencia del Plástica Chicana, held September 13-16, 1979 in Austin, Texas; Con Safo; use of the image of the Virgin of Guadalupe in her artwork; stories of witchcraft; La Llorona; MACLA, the Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana, founded in 1989 in San Jose, California; teaching at Pennsylvania State University; her studio space in Kingsville, Texas; the distinction between Chicana and Latina; the visual artists Faith Ringgold and Leslie King Hammond whom Barraza admires; her travels to Oaxaca and other places; her book, "Santa Barraza, Artist of the Borderlands," 2001. Barraza also recalls Ben Bailey, Maurice Schmidt, José Rivera, Amado Peña, Israel Reyna, Sylvia Orozco, Barbina Modesta Treviño, Nora González Dodson, Rita Starpattern, Raquel Tibol, Jorge Bustamante, Liliana Wilson, Isabel Juárez, Viola Delgado, Kathy Vargas, and others.

General

Originally recorded on 4 sound discs. Reformatted in 2010 as 7 digital wav files. Duration is 4 hr., 13 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Chicano art movement
- Chicano artists
- Latino and Latin American artists
- Mexican American art
- Mexican American artists
- Women artists
- Women painters

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Bailey, Ben
- Bustamante, Jorge
- De Rivera, José Ruiz, 1904-1985
- Delgado, Viola
- Dodson, Nora Gonzales
- Garza, Carmen Lomas
- Juarez, Isabel
- King-Hammond, Leslie, 1944-
- Orozco, Sylvia, 1954-
- Peña, Amado Maurilio, 1943-
- Quirarte, Jacinto, 1931-2012
- Recuerdos Orales: Interviews of the Latino Art Community in Texas
- Reyna, Israel
- Ringgold, Faith
- Schmidt, Maurice

Starpattern, Rita
Tibol, Raquel
Trevino, Barbina Modesta
Vargas, Kathy
Wilson, Liliana, 1953-

Occupations:

Painters -- Texas