



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Edward Arcenio
Chavez Papers, 1917-1982, bulk
1941-1973, 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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Archives of American Art
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<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Edward Arcenio Chavez papers
Identifier:	AAA.chavedwa
Date:	1917-1982 (bulk 1941-1973)
Extent:	0.9 Linear feet
Creator:	Chavez, Edward Arcenio, 1917-1995
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of painter and sculptor Edward Arcenio Chavez measure 0.9 linear feet and date from 1917 to 1982 with the bulk of the material dating from 1941 to 1973. The collection is comprised of biographical material, personal business records related to the Federal Works Agency and other projects, printed materials, and photographic materials.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The papers were donated by the George Arents Research Library at Syracuse University in 1984.

Related Materials

Also found at the Archives of American Art is an oral history interview of Edward Chavez conducted by Joseph Trovato November 5, 1964.

Processing Information

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

Preferred Citation

Edward Arcenio Chavez papers, 1917-1982, bulk 1941-1973. 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

Edward Arcenio Chavez (1917-1995) was a painter and sculptor in Woodstock, New York. He was born in Ocate, New Mexico, and moved to Colorado with his parents and nine siblings when he was five years old. After being encouraged by his high school art teacher to pursue art after graduation, Chavez became an apprentice to artist Frank Mechau and attended the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center. During this time he participated in the New York World's Art of America Exhibition in 1937 and began painting murals for the Works Progress Administration under the Federal Works Agency. After serving as a war art correspondent during World War II, Chavez settled in Woodstock, N.Y. where he established his studio.

Over the course of his career, Chavez was awarded the Louis Comfort Tiffany Grant, a Fulbright Grant, the Childe Hassam Institute of Arts and Letters Award among others. He taught at the Art Students League of New York, the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, Syracuse University, Dutchess Community College, and was artist-in-residence at Utah City Schools and the Huntington Museum of Art in West Virginia. Chavez's work has been exhibited throughout the United States and is in numerous museum collections such as the Library of Congress, Museum of Modern Art, and Hirshhorn Museum.

Scope and Contents

The papers of painter and sculptor Edward Arcenio Chavez measure 0.9 linear feet and date from 1917 to 1982 with the bulk of the material dating from 1941 to 1973. The collection is comprised of biographical material, personal business records related to the Federal Works Agency and other projects, printed materials, and photographic materials.

Biographical materials include awards, certificates, a biographical sketch, curriculum vitae, and an interview transcript. Personal business records contain a Federal Works Agency contract, correspondence, and a project file. Art reproductions, books, booklets, brochures, clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs, journals, magazines, and press releases are in printed materials. Photographic materials consists of photographs and slides of Chavez and works of art.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as four series.

- Series 1: Biographical Material, 1935-1970 (Box 1, OV 4; 3 folders)
- Series 2: Personal Business Records, 1941-1973 (Box 1; 4 folders)
- Series 3: Printed Material, 1917-1982 (Boxes 1-3, OV 4; 0.6 linear feet)
- Series 4: Photographic Material, 1950-1973 (Box 3; 2 folders)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Latino and Latin American artists
Painters -- New York (State) -- Woodstock

Sculptors--New York (State)--Woodstock

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Photographs
Transcripts

Names:

Federal Works Agency

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, 1935-1970

3 Folders (Box 1, OV 4)

Biographical materials include awards and certificates, a biographical sketch and curriculum vitae, and a transcript of an interview with Chavez conducted by Joseph Trovato.

Box 1, Folder 1	Awards and Certificates, 1935-1970 Includes awards and certificates for the National Scholastic Awards, Ministero della Pubblica Istruzione Direzione Generale Antichità e Belle Arti, and a photocopy of a National Academy of Design certificate.
Oversize 4	Awards and Certificates, 1950-1952 Includes The Second International Hallmark Art Award and the Printing for Commerce Exhibition Certificate of Excellence.
Box 1, Folder 2	Curriculum Vitae and Biographical Sketch, circa 1969
Box 1, Folder 3	Interview Transcript, Chavez Interviewed by Joseph Trovato, November 5, 1964 Transcript is of an oral history interview conducted for the Archives of American Art.

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Series 2: Personal Business Records, 1941-1973

4 Folders (Box 1)

Chavez's personal business records contain a contract with the Federal Works Agency; correspondence from Edward Rowan, Olin Dow, Fletcher Martin, and others; and project proposals and reports.

Box 1, Folder 4	Contract, Federal Works Agency, 1941
Box 1, Folder 5	Correspondence, undated
Box 1, Folder 6	Correspondence, 1934-1973
Box 1, Folder 7	Projects, 1950-1954 Includes reports for Chavez's Fulbright Grant to study in Italy, a proposal for the Guggenheim to study art in Mexico, and a few writings on Italian culture, the depiction of war in painting, and his career.

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Series 3: Printed Material, 1917-1982

0.6 Linear feet (Box 1-3, OV 4)

This series includes art reproductions, books, booklets and brochures, clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs, journals and magazines, and press releases relating to Chavez's artwork and exhibitions.

Box 1, Folder 8	Art Reproductions, undated
Box 1, Folder 9	Books, 1963-1966 Includes <i>Silk Screen</i> by Bernard Steffen and <i>Prize-Winning Sculpture Book 3</i> compiled by Margaret Harold.
Box 1, Folder 10	Booklets and Brochures, Annual Reports, 1965-1970
Box 1, Folder 11	Booklets and Brochures, Art Education, circa 1947-1969
Box 1, Folder 12-13	Clippings, 1938-1973
Box 1, Folder 14-16	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1945-1959, undated
Box 2, Folder 1-3	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1960-1982
Oversize 4	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1982
Box 3, Folder 1	Journals and Magazines, 1917-1970
Box 3, Folder 2	Press Releases, undated

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Series 4: Photographic Material, 1950-1973

2 Folders (Box 3)

Photographic materials consists of photographs of Chavez with his artworks in New York and New Mexico as well as photographs and slides of his artwork.

Box 3, Folder 3 Chavez, 1950-1971

Box 3, Folder 4 Works of Art, circa 1952-1973

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