A Finding Aid to the Belisario Contreras Papers, 1943-1984, in the Archives of American Art

Ricky Gomez

2022 August 1
Table of Contents

Collection Overview ........................................................................................................ 1
Administrative Information .............................................................................................. 1
Biographical / Historical................................................................................................. 2
Scope and Contents......................................................................................................... 2
Names and Subjects ......................................................................................................... 2
Container Listing ............................................................................................................ 4
    Series 1: Belisario Contreras Papers, 1943-1984....................................................... 5
Collection Overview

Repository: Archives of American Art
Title: Belisario Contreras papers
Date: 1943-1984
Identifier: AAA.contbeli
Creator: Contreras, Belisario R., 1916-
Extent: 0.5 Linear feet
Language: English.
Summary: The papers of art historian Belisario Contreras measure 0.5 linear feet and date from 1943 to 1984. The papers document his research on New Deal Art Projects, including correspondence and copies of correspondence with William C. Agee, George Biddle (including 16 photographs of murals in Mexico City and Washington, D.C. and a clipping), Mrs. Edward Bruce, Olin Dows, Maria Ealand, Arlene Jacobowitz, Masha Zakheim Jewett (including an exhibition catalog and clippings on Bernard Baruch Zakheim), Horace Kallen, Rockwell Kent, Chet LaMore, Merwin C. Phelps, David W. Scott, Harold Weston, and others. Also found are National Endowment for the Humanities grant proposals "NDA Projects in Pennsylvania," 1975, and "Images of the Heartland," 1980, and notes from Contreras' interviews with Maria Ealand, John Gernand, Jacob Kainen, Dorothy Miller, and Selma Rein.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information
Donated 1985 by Belisario Contreras.

Related Materials
Papers of Belisario R. Contreras, 1860-1976, are also located at The University of New Mexico's Center for Southwest Research.

Available Formats
Portions of the collection are available on 35mm microfilm reel 3591 and 41 at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan. Researchers should note that the arrangement of material described in the container inventory does not reflect the arrangement of the collection on microfilm.

Processing Information
The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Ricky Gomez in 2022.

Preferred Citation
Restrictions

This collection is open for research. Access to original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Belisario Contreras was an Argentinian born art historian who lived and worked in Albuquerque, New Mexico. In 1983 he published the book "Tradition and Innovation in New Deal Art."

Scope and Contents

The papers of art historian Belisario Contreras measure 0.5 linear feet and date from 1943 to 1984. The papers contain his research on New Deal Art Projects, including correspondence and copies of correspondence with William C. Agee, George Biddle (including 16 photographs of murals in Mexico City and Washington, D.C. and a clipping), Mrs. Edward Bruce, Olin Dows, Maria Ealand, Arlene Jacobowitz, Masha Zakheim Jewett (including an exhibition catalog and clippings on Bernard Baruch Zakheim), Horace Kallen, Rockwell Kent, Chet LaMore, Merwin C. Phelps, David W. Scott, Harold Weston, and others; National Endowment for the Humanities grant proposals "NDA Projects in Pennsylvania," 1975, and "Images of the Heartland," 1980, and notes from Contreras' interviews with Maria Ealand, John Gernand, Jacob Kainen, Dorothy Miller, and Selma Rein.

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

Types of Materials:

Interviews

Names:

Agee, William C.
Biddle, George, 1885-1973
Bruce, Margaret T.
Dows, Olin, 1904-1981
Ealand, Maria
Federal Art Project
Gernand, John, 1913-1990
Jacobowitz, Arlene
Jewett, Masha Zakheim, 1931-
Kainen, Jacob
Kallen, Horace Meyer, 1882-1974
Kent, Rockwell, 1882-1971
La More, Chet Harmon, 1908-1980
Miller, Dorothy Canning, 1904-2003
Phelps, Merwin C.
Rein, Selma
Scott, David W., 1916-
Weston, Harold, 1894-1972
Zakheim, Bernard Baruch, 1898-1985

Occupations:

    Art historians -- New Mexico -- Albuquerque
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container Listing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AAA.contbeli holdings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reel 0041.contreras</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reel 3591.contreras</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Series 1: Belisario Contreras Papers, 1943-1984

0.5 Linear feet (Box 1, OV 2)

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<p>| Box 1, Folder 1 | William Agee, 1965-1966 |
| Box 1, Folder 2 | George Biddle, circa 1958-1973 |
| Oversize 2 | George Biddle, 1943 March 14 |
| Box 1, Folder 3 | Mrs. Edward Bruce, 1965-1967 |
| Box 1, Folder 4 | Olin Dows, 1965 |
| Box 1, Folder 5 | Maria Ealand, 1965 |
| Box 1, Folder 6 | Arlene Jacobowitz, 1967 |
| Box 1, Folder 7 | Masha Zakheim Jewett, circa 1974-1979 |
| Box 1, Folder 8 | President Lyndon Johnson, 1965 |
| Box 1, Folder 9 | Horace M. Kallen, 1965-1967 |
| Box 1, Folder 10 | Rockwell Kent, 1964-1967 |
| Box 1, Folder 11 | Jane Mathews, 1977 |
| Box 1, Folder 12 | Richard McKinzie, circa 1967-1968 |
| Box 1, Folder 13 | Dorothy Miller, 1964-1965 |
| Box 1, Folder 14 | Gerald M. Monroe, 1975 |
| Box 1, Folder 15 | Merwin C. Phelps, 1967 |
| Box 1, Folder 16 | David W. Scott, 1965-1967 |
| Box 1, Folder 17 | Archives of American Art, 1965-1966 |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 18</th>
<th>Columbia University, 1968</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 19</td>
<td>National Endowment for the Humanities Grant Proposals, 1975-1980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 20</td>
<td>Interviews with M. Ealand, J. Gernand, J. Kaimen, D. Miller, and S. Rein, 1964-1965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 21</td>
<td>Miscellaneous, 1964-1984</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Return to Table of Contents*