



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

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

Ricky Gomez

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Archives of American Art
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<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

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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

Belisario Contreras papers, 1943-1984. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

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

Container Listing

AAA.contbeli holdings	
Reel 0041.contreras	AAA - microfilm ILL- no restrictions
Reel 3591.contreras	AAA - microfilm ILL- no restrictions

Series 1: Belisario Contreras Papers, 1943-1984

0.5 Linear feet (Box 1, OV 2)

Scope and Contents: The papers of art historian Belisario Contreras measure 0.5 linear feet and date from 1943 to 1984. The papers include 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.

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

Box 1, Folder 18	Columbia University, 1968
Box 1, Folder 19	National Endowment for the Humanities Grant Proposals, 1975-1980
Box 1, Folder 20	Interviews with M. Ealand, J. Gernand, J. Kaimen, D. Miller, and S. Rein, 1964-1965
Box 1, Folder 21	Miscellaneous, 1964-1984

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