



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## Oral history interview with Rupert Garcia

This interview received Federal support from the Latino Initiatives Pool, administered by the Smithsonian Latino Center. Funding for the digital preservation of this interview received Federal support from the Latino Initiatives Pool, administered by the Smithsonian Latino Center.

Archives of American Art  
750 9th Street, NW  
Victor Building, Suite 2200  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

# Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	1
Administrative Information .....	1
Scope and Contents.....	1
Scope and Contents.....	1
Scope and Contents.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Names and Subjects .....	2
Container Listing .....	

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with Rupert Garcia
<b>Date:</b>	1995 Sept. 7-1996 June 24
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.garcia95
<b>Creator:</b>	Garcia, Rupert, 1941- (Interviewee) Karlstrom, Paul J. (Interviewer)
<b>Extent:</b>	9 Sound cassettes (Sound recording (8 1/2 hrs.); analog) 166 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Digital Content: Oral history interview with Rupert Garcia, 1995 Sept. 7-1996 June 24, Transcript</a> <a href="#">Audio: Oral history interview with Rupert Garcia, 1995 Sept. 7-1996 June 24, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)</a>

---

## 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, administrators.

### Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

---

## Biographical / Historical

Rupert Garcia (1941-) is a painter and teacher from the San Francisco Bay area, Calif.

---

## Scope and Contents

An interview of Rupert Garcia conducted 1995 Sept. 7-1996 June 24, by Paul J. Karlstrom, for the Archives of American Art, at Rupert Garcia's home and studio, in Oakland, Calif.

---

## Scope and Contents

SEPT. 7, 1995 SESSION: Session opens with a discussion of Garcia's exhibition, *Aspects of Persistence* (1993); the deaths in 1968 of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Marcel Duchamp; Garcia's self-conception and his two roles as political activist and artist; the influence on him of Sartre's "Being and Nothingness";

racism, power, control; his background and being a Mexican-American; need to establish ethnic identity; his realization in high school of wanting to become an artist; his lost opportunity for a scholarship at the San Francisco Art Institute; moving to San Francisco; enlisting in the Air Force and serving in Vietnam; ambivalence about war; experiences at San Francisco State University and his switch from painting to silkscreen; Artes Seis and Galerie de la Raza; artists in the Mission District.

---

## Scope and Contents

NOV. 10, 1995 SESSION: Painting vs. graphic art; posters; Lucy Lippard; Chicano art; Los Four, Asco, and other artists groups and conferences; conflicts between San Francisco and Oakland groups; emergence of identity groups; Malaquias Montoya, Carlos Almaraz; making art from experience.

---

## Scope and Contents

JUNE 24, 1996: Politics of culture; social progress; being optimistic but realistic; the Latino movement in the 1990s; Mexican attitudes toward Chicanos; the CARA exhibition at UCLA; Garcia's students at San José State; current work, interests and projects; interest in art history and other intellectual pursuits; and the art market, dealers, and galleries.

---

## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Subjects:

- Chicano artists
- Latino and Latin American artists
- Painters -- California -- San Francisco -- Interviews

### Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

### Names:

- Almaraz, Carlos
- Asco (Group of artists)
- Galería de la Raza (San Francisco, Calif.)
- Lippard, Lucy R.
- Los Four (Art group)
- Montoya, Malaquias, 1938-
- San Francisco State University -- Students