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Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Carmen Lomas Garza

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Collection Overview

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| Repository: | Archives of American Art |
| Title: | Oral history interview with Carmen Lomas Garza |
| Date: | 1997 Apr. 10-May 27 |
| Identifier: | AAA.garza97 |
| Creator: | Garza, Carmen Lomas (Interviewee) Karlstrom, Paul J. (Interviewer) |
| Extent: | 5 Sound cassettes (Sound recording (4 hrs.); analog) 122 Pages (Transcript) |
| Language: | English . |
| Digital Content: | Digital Content: Oral history interview with Carmen Lomas Garza, 1997 Apr. 10-May 27, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Carmen Lomas Garza, 1997 Apr. 10-May 27, 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. Funding for the interview received from a donation to AAA from the Los Angeles women's art organization Double X.

Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

Biographical / Historical

Carmen Lomas Garza (1948-) is a painter from California.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Carmen Lomas Garza conducted 1997 Apr. 10-May 27, by Paul Karlstrom, for the Archives of American Art.

Scope and Contents

Lomas Garza discusses her working environment at Hunter Point Shipyard, a former naval facility on San Francisco Bay, near Candlestick Park, occupied by artists and small businesses; growing up in Kingsville,

Tex., near Corpus Christi; her education at Texas A and I University (now Texas A and M) and graduating from the University of Texas at Austin with a B.S. in art education (1969); her activism in the Chicano movement during her college years; joining the farm workers march in Kingsville in 1965; installing an art show for MAYO (Mexican Workers Youth Organization) conference in 1969; the impact upon her of MAYO's walkout at Robstown High School, Tex., while she was a student teacher there, in protest of the lack of Mexican American teachers and curriculum; joining Galeria de La Raza in San Francisco, 1976, while a graduate student at Washington State University and the effect it had on the development of her career as an artist; the inspiration of her mother, who painted "lotteria tablas" (figures on boards; game cards); her interest in children's art; using family experiences for her "monitos" or "little figures" (cards painted with sets of fifteen numbers); and preserving her Mexican-American traditions as a basis for her identity.

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

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Galería de la Raza (San Francisco, Calif.)

Occupations:

- Painters -- California