



Smithsonian  
*Archives of American Art*

Oral history interview with Carmen Lomas Garza

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.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Names and Subjects .....	2

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with Carmen Lomas Garza
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.garza97
<b>Date:</b>	1997 Apr. 10-May 27
<b>Extent:</b>	5 Sound cassettes (Sound recording (4 hrs.); analog) 122 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Creator:</b>	Lomas Garza, Carmen Karlstrom, Paul J.
<b>Language:</b>	English

---

## 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.

### Conditions Governing Use

Carmen Lomas Garza has allowed the interview transcript to be placed online but is currently in the process of correcting errors in translation and identifying correct names. Researchers should contact Carmen Lomas Garza at: PO Box 881683, San Francisco Calif. 94188-1683; E-mail: [lasecretaria@carmenlomasgarza](mailto:lasecretaria@carmenlomasgarza)

---

## 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:

Hispanic American women artists  
Painters -- California -- Interviews  
Women painters -- California -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

Interviews  
Sound recordings

Names:

Galería de la Raza (San Francisco, Calif.)