



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Xavier Gonzalez Papers,
1908-1997, in the Archives of American Art

Sarah Mundy

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Smithsonian Institution Collections Care and Preservation Fund

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Xavier Gonzalez papers
Identifier:	AAA.gonzxavi
Date:	1908-1997
Extent:	14.1 Linear feet
Creator:	Gonzalez, Xavier, 1898-1993
Language:	The collection is in English and Spanish.
Summary:	The papers of Xavier Gonzalez, a New York and Massachusetts painter, sculptor, educator, and owner of the Wellfleet Art Gallery, measure 14.1 linear feet and date from 1908 to 1997. The collection consists of biographical materials, correspondence, writings, project files, business records, printed materials, scrapbooks, photographs, and artwork.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Xavier Gonzalez first loaned the Archives of American Art material for microfilming in 1968, most of which was included in the later 1999 gift. Gonzalez also donated a small amount of papers in 1971. Additional materials were donated by the George Arents Research Library at Syracuse University in 1984 and 1992, and by the estate of Ethel Edwards Gonzalez in 1999.

Separated Materials

The Archives of American Art also holds microfilm of material lent for microfilming on reels N68-113, N69-42, N69-43, and N70-53. Most of this material was included in subsequent gifts, but a comparison of the film and papers was not completed. Loaned materials not donated at a later date remain with the lender and are not described in the container listing of this finding aid.

Related Materials

Also found at the Archives of American Art are the papers of Xavier Gonzalez's wife, Ethel Edwards.

Available Formats

Portions of this collection are available on 35 mm microfilm reels N70-16 and 858 and 3814 at the Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan. Researchers should note that the arrangement of the 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 Sarah Mundy in 2016 with funding from the Smithsonian Institution's Collections Care Pool Fund, using accelerated processing strategies implemented by the Archives to increase information about and access to more of our collections. For this collection, accelerated processing included arrangement to the series, subseries and folder levels, adhering to the creator's original arrangement as much as possible. Generally, folder contents were simply verified with the original folder titles, but items within folders were not arranged further. All materials were rehoused in archival folders and boxes for long-term stability, but staples and other fasteners have not all been removed.

Preferred Citation

Xavier Gonzalez Papers, 1908-1997. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Washington, D.C. Research Center.

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Biographical / Historical

Xavier Gonzalez (1898-1993) was a painter, sculptor, and educator who was active in New York, NY and Wellfleet, Massachusetts.

Gonzalez was born in Almeria, Spain and came to the United States at the age of 19. While working odd jobs in Chicago, he attended the Chicago Art Institute. Throughout his career, Gonzalez completed numerous commissions including murals in Texas and New York, a monument for the 1976 bicentennial celebration in New York, paintings for the Department of the Interior, and paintings of Egypt's Old Kingdom for *Life* magazine. During World War II, he designed posters and maps for the Navy. After the war, Gonzalez opened the Wellfleet Art Gallery with his wife, artist Ethel Edwards, in Wellfleet, Massachusetts. The gallery served as an exhibition space, studio, and art school where Gonzalez taught summer classes.

Gonzalez died in New York in 1993.

Scope and Contents

The papers of Xavier Gonzalez, a New York and Massachusetts painter, sculptor, educator, and owner of the Wellfleet Art Gallery, measure 14.1 linear feet and date from 1908 to 1997. The collection consists

of biographical materials, correspondence, writings, commission project files, business records, printed materials, scrapbooks, photographs, and artwork.

Biographical materials include an address book and calendars, awards, passports, resumes, student rosters, and legal documents. Correspondence is with family, friends, and colleagues regarding Gonzalez's work and art school in Wellfleet, his uncle and artist Jose Arpa, and other personal and professional activities. Manuscripts for *Notes About Painting*, unpublished books, and various essays by Gonzalez, along with manuscripts by other authors are in writings.

Commission project files are found for a U.S. Bicentennial monument, murals in New York and Texas, paintings commissioned by the Department of the Interior and *Life* magazine, and educational aids for the U.S. Navy.

Business records include sales and inventory records for Gonzalez's Wellfleet Art Gallery, The Spanish Institute, and other galleries. Printed materials consist of printed representations of artwork, clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs, invitations, press releases, and books including *He Who Saw Everything*, *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, illustrated by Gonzalez.

The collection also includes 72 numbered scrapbooks that contain sketches, printed materials, project plans, photographs, writings, correspondence, and business records. One of the scrapbooks contains a notebook labeled "Notes of Paris, Visits with Picasso, 1936-1938". Photographs are of Gonzalez, his artwork and studio, his family and friends, Ethel Edwards, student artwork, composer Aaron Copeland, museum director Philip R. Adams, and Art Students League director Stewart Klonis. Artwork includes illustrated notes to Ethel Edwards, folded and cutout paper projects, and pencil and painted sketches.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 9 series.

- Series 1: Biographical Materials, 1932-1992 (0.5 linear feet; Box 1)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1930s-1995 (1.0 linear feet; Boxes 1-2)
- Series 3: Writings, 1948-1993 (0.5 linear feet; Boxes 2, 14)
- Series 4: Project Files, 1942-1987 (0.5 linear feet; Boxes 2-3, OV 22)
- Series 5: Business Records, 1949-1997 (0.5 linear feet; Boxes 3, OV 22)
- Series 6: Printed Materials, 1928-1990s (1.5 linear feet; Boxes 4-5, OV 22)
- Series 7: Scrapbooks, circa 1911-1980s (5.4 linear feet; Boxes 5-9, 14-20, OV 21)
- Series 8: Photographs, 1908-1990s (3.5 linear feet; Boxes 9-12, 14)
- Series 9: Artwork, circa 1950s-1980s (0.7 linear feet; Boxes 12-14)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Painters -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews
Painting, Modern -- 20th century -- United States
Sculpture, Modern -- 20th century -- United States

Types of Materials:

Photographs

Prints
Scrapbooks
Sketchbooks
Sketches
Travel sketches

Names:

Adams, Philip Rhys, 1908-1993
Arpa Perea, José, 1858-1952
Edwards, Ethel, 1914-1999
Osver, Arthur, 1912-2006
Spanish Institute (New York, N.Y.)

Occupations:

Painters -- Massachusetts

Functions:

Artists' studios -- Massachusetts

Geographic Names:

Egypt -- description and travel

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Materials , 1932-1992

0.5 Linear feet (Box 1)

Biographical materials include an address book; awards for the National Academy of Design, the Brevoort-Eikemeyer Prize, the National Institute of Arts and Letters, and others; annotated calendars; identification cards and citizenship certificate; records for the Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Board of Trustees; passports and resumes; student rosters from Gonzalez's classes at the Truro Art Center; and legal documents including power of attorneys, last will and testament, and an estate bequest to Gonzalez and Ethel Edwards.

Box 1, Folder 1	Address Book, circa 1970s
Box 1, Folder 2	Award and Certificates , 1948-1987
Box 1, Folder 3	Calendars , 1966-1976
Box 1, Folder 4	Citizenship Certificate , 1931
Box 1, Folder 5	Genealogy , circa 1960s
Box 1, Folder 6	Identification Cards , 1935-1954
Box 1, Folder 7	Legal, Estate Bequest to Xavier and Ethel Gonzalez , 1963
Box 1, Folder 8	Legal, Last Will and Testament , 1990
Box 1, Folder 9	Legal, Power of Attorney , 1979
Box 1, Folder 10	Memberships, General , 1951-1992
Box 1, Folder 11	Memberships, Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation, Board of Trustees , 1990-1992
Box 1, Folder 12	Passports , 1932-1985
Box 1, Folder 13	Resumes , circa 1969
Box 1, Folder 14	Teaching, Truro Art Center, Student Rosters , 1977-1981

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Series 2: Correspondence , 1930s-1995

1 Linear foot (Boxes 1-2)

Correspondence is with the National Arts Club regarding an award, with students from the Art Students League and Truro Art Center, with Ethel Edwards concerning Gonzalez's artwork after his death, and with the San Antonio Art League discussing the artwork of Gonzalez's uncle, Jose Arpa. Other correspondence is about professional events and activities, inquiries about purchasing artwork, and with family members.

General correspondence is arranged chronologically. Other correspondence is arranged alphabetically.

Box 1, Folder 15-17	General , 1930s-1960s
Box 1, Folder 18-19	General , 1970s
Box 1, Folder 20-23	General , 1980s
Box 1, Folder 24-25	General , 1990s
Box 2, Folder 1	A-C, 1970s-1980s
Box 2, Folder 2	Arpa, Jose, Regarding , 1977-1985
Box 2, Folder 3	Art Students League, From Students , circa 1988
Box 2, Folder 4	Bright, George , 1984-1985
Box 2, Folder 5	D-F, 1968-1990
Box 2, Folder 6	Edwards, Ethel , 1992-1995
Box 2, Folder 7	G-H, 1955-1989
Box 2, Folder 8	J-K, 1972-1988
Box 2, Folder 9	Jones, Gerard , 1978-1986
Box 2, Folder 10	Knauth, Basil , 1961-1966
Box 2, Folder 11	M-P, 1975-1990
Box 2, Folder 12	National Arts Club, 1977-1978
Box 2, Folder 13	Palmer, Darwin , 1985-1988

Box 2, Folder 14	R-T, 1976-1988
Box 2, Folder 15	Truro Art Center , 1989
Box 2, Folder 16	W-Z, 1937-1993

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Series 3: Writings , 1948-1993

0.5 Linear feet (Boxes 2, 14)

Found in this series are two unpublished, illustrated manuscripts titled "Book for Travellers" and "The Story of Arthur the Mouse" by Gonzalez. Also by Gonzalez are drafts and mockups for the book *Notes About Painting* (1955), unidentified drafts, and Wellfleet summer class lecture notes. Writings by others include memorials about Gonzalez, statements on art, poetry, and artist biographies by mostly unidentified authors.

Box 2, Folder 17	Book, <i>Notes About Painting</i> by Gonzalez , 1953-1955
Box 2, Folder 18	Manuscripts, "Book for Travellers" by Gonzalez , 1968
Box 2, Folder 19-20	Manuscripts, "The Story of Authur the Mouse" by Xavier and Ethel Gonzalez , circa 1970s
Box 2, Folder 21-23	Writings and Class Lecture Notes by Gonzalez , 1948-1960s Oversized Class Lecture Notes housed in Box 14.
Box 2, Folder 24	Writings by Others About Gonzalez , circa 1950s-1970s
Box 2, Folder 25	Writings by Others About Gonzalez, Memorials , 1993
Box 2, Folder 26	Writings by Others, General , circa 1960s-1970s
Box 14	Oversized Class Lecture Notes from Box 2, Folders 21-23, 1948

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Series 4: Project Files , 1942-1987

0.5 Linear feet (Boxes 2-3, OV 22)

Project files consist of preparatory sketches, research notes, correspondence, and plans for a 1976 U.S. Bicentennial monument, murals for City College and the Port Authority Bus Terminal in New York, a mural in Lajitas, Texas, a series of paintings for the Department of the Interior, paintings and research on the Old Kingdom in Egypt commissioned by *Life* magazine, a portrait of Judge M. Joseph Blumenfeld, and maps and posters illustrated by Gonzalez during World War II for the U.S. Navy.

Box 2, Folder 27	Educational Aids for United States Navy, 1942 Oversized material housed in OV 22.
Box 2, Folder 28	Monument for United States Bicentennial , 1976
Box 2, Folder 29	Mural at City College, New York , 1962
Box 3, Folder 1	Mural in Lajitas, Texas , 1980-1982
Box 3, Folder 2	Mural in Port Authority Bus Terminal of New York and New Jersey , 1979
Box 3, Folder 3	Paintings for Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation , 1960s-1987
Box 3, Folder 4	Paintings for Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Correspondence with John DeWitt , 1970-1971
Box 3, Folder 5	Paintings for Life Magazine, Old Kingdom in Egypt , 1955-1956
Box 3, Folder 6	Portrait of Judge M. Joseph Blumenfeld , 1975
Box OV 22	Oversized U.S. Navy material from Box 2, Folder 27, 1942

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Series 5: Business Records , 1949-1997

0.5 Linear feet (Box 3, OV 22)

This series includes sales, inventory, and consignment records for Gonzalez and Ethel Edward's artwork at the Kornbluth Gallery, Left Bank Gallery, Neal Auction Company, Shore Studios Gallery, and The Spanish Institute. Files for the Wellfleet Art Gallery, a gallery and art school established and operated by Gonzalez, include floor plans, mortgage papers, and inventory and sales records for Gonzalez, Edwards, and other artists represented by the gallery.

Box 3, Folder 7	Wellfleet Art Gallery, Inventory , 1970
Box 3, Folder 8	Wellfleet Art Gallery, Kornbluth Gallery Inventory , 1968-1970
Box 3, Folder 9	Wellfleet Art Gallery, Mortgage and Floor Plans, 1949-1957 Oversized Floor Plans from Box 3, Folder 23
Box 3, Folder 10-17	Wellfleet Art Gallery, Sales , 1966-1975
Box 3, Folder 18	Wellfleet Art Gallery, Sales , 1976-1979
Box 3, Folder 19	Left Bank Gallery, Consignment , 1997
Box 3, Folder 20	Left Bank Gallery, Inventory , 1987-1993
Box 3, Folder 21	Neal Auction Company, Consignment , 1997
Box 3, Folder 22	Provincetown Art Association and Museum, Loan Agreement , 1993
Box 3, Folder 23	Shore Studios Gallery, Sales , 1951-1961
Box 3, Folder 24	The Spanish Institute, Inc., Exhibition Inventory , 1979
Box 3, Folder 25-28	Various Galleries, Sales , 1962-1991
Box OV 22	Oversized Wellfleet Floor Plans from Box 3, Folder 9, 1957

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Series 6: Printed Materials, 1928-1990s

1.5 Linear feet (Boxes 4-5, OV 22)

In this series are artwork reproductions, clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs, invitations, magazines, and press releases. The books include *He Who Saw Everything, The Epic of Gilgamesh*, illustrated by Gonzalez; *A History of Texas Artists and Sculptors*, inscribed by Frances Battaile Fisk; and *The Modern Renaissance in American Art, Provincetown Painters 1890s-1970s* and *Ralph M. Pearson Courses by Mail* which reference Gonzalez's artwork.

Box 4, Folder 1	Artwork Reproductions and Posters , 1960-1990 Oversized Poster housed in OV 22.
Box 4, Folder 2	Book, <i>He Who Saw Everything, The Epic of Gilgamesh</i> , Illustrations by Gonzalez, Retold by Anita Feagles , 1966
Box 4, Folder 3	Book, <i>A History of Texas Artists and Sculptors</i> by Frances Battaile Fisk , 1928
Box 4, Folder 4	Booklets , 1950s-1980s
Box 4, Folder 5	Business Cards , 1970s-1980s
Box 4, Folder 6-10	Clippings , 1950s-1990s
Box 4, Folder 11	Event Programs , 1960s-1990s
Box 4, Folder 12-18	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs , 1950s-1990s
Box 5, Folder 1-6	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs , 1950s-1990s
Box 5, Folder 7	Invitations , 1974-1993
Box 5, Folder 8-10	Magazines , 1933-1969
Box 5, Folder 11	Newsletters , 1970s-1980s
Box 5, Folder 12	Postcards , circa 1980s
Box 5, Folder 13	Press Releases , 1964-1990
Box OV 22	Oversized Poster from Box 4, Folder 1, 1974

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Series 7: Scrapbooks, circa 1911-1980s

5.4 Linear feet (Boxes 5-9, 14-20, OV 21)

Found within this series are 72 scrapbooks, many of which also include numerous sketches, in addition to printed materials, unidentified project plans, photographs, writings about art, correspondence, and inventory and sales records. One of the scrapbooks also contains a notebook labeled "Notes of Paris, Visits with Picasso, 1936-1938". The notebook was originally inside a paper pocket constructed on a page of the scrapbook by Gonzalez. The notebook contains sketches and drafts for an article about Pablo Picasso.

The books are arranged in rough chronological order; however, some date spans overlap.

Box 5, Folder 14-18	Books 1-5, circa 1911-1940s Oversized material from Book 1 housed in Box 14.
Box 6, Folder 1-12	Books 6-18, 1940s-1960s
Box 7, Folder 1-20	Books 19-38, 1950s-1980s
Box 8, Folder 1-12	Books 39-50, circa 1970-circa 1982
Box 9, Folder 1-7	Books 51-56, 1982-1986
Box 15	Books 57-60, 1930s-1940s
Box 16	Books 61-62, 1930s-1950s
Box 17	Books 63-65, 1940s
Box 18	Books 66-68, 1940s-1960s
Box 19	Books 69-70, 1940s
Box 20	Book 71, 1920s-1960s <i>Includes notebook titled "Notes of Paris, Visits with Picasso"</i>
Box OV 21	Book 72, circa 1980s
Box 14	Oversized Sketch from Book 1 from Box 5, Folder 16, circa 1911-1940s

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Series 8: Photographs , 1908-1990s

3.5 Linear feet (Boxes 9-12, 14)

Personal photographs include family photographs, many portraits and snapshots of Gonzalez and Ethel Edwards with friends and colleagues at social events, exhibitions, and while traveling. Also found are photographs of Gonzalez with composer Aaron Copeland, ceramicist Kenneth E. Smith, Cincinnati Art Museum director Philip R. Adams, and a portrait of Art Students League executive director Stewart Klonis. Gonzalez's paintings, jewelry designs, and sculptures; student murals; and scattered photographs of Gonzalez's students are in photographs of works of art. The series may include photographs of works by other artists.

Box 9, Folder 8-16	Personal, 1908-1990s Oversized material housed in Box 14.
Box 9, Folder 17	Personal, Gonzalez with Aaron Copeland , circa 1985
Box 9, Folder 18	Personal, Gonzalez with Kenneth E. Smith and Philip R. Adams , circa 1932
Box 9, Folder 19	Personal, Portrait of Stewart Klonis , circa 1980
Box 9, Folder 20-23	Works of Art, circa 1950-1990s Oversized material housed in Box 14.
Box 10, Folder 1-19	Works of Art, circa 1950-1990s
Box 11, Folder 1-21	Works of Art, circa 1950-1990s
Box 12, Folder 1-2	Works of Art, Student Murals , circa 1981
Box 14	Oversized material from Box 9, Folders 8-16, 18-21, 1908-1990s

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Series 9: Artwork , circa 1950s-1980s

0.7 Linear feet (Boxes 12-14)

Miscellaneous artwork includes Illustrated notes to Ethel Edwards, folded and cutout paper projects, and sketches. A watercolor greeting card by an unknown artist is also found here.

Box 12, Folder 3-7	Illustrated Notes to Ethel Edwards , circa 1960-1980s
Box 13, Folder 1	Illustrated Notes to Ethel Edwards , circa 1960-1980s
Box 13, Folder 2	Paper Art , circa 1980s
Box 13, Folder 3	Sketches, Painted , circa 1980s Oversized material housed in Box 14.
Box 13, Folder 4	Sketches, Pencil and Ink , circa 1950s
Box 13, Folder 5	Watercolor, by Unknown Artist , Undated
Box 14	Oversized Sketch from Box 13, Folder 3, circa 1980s

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