



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Nancy Kelker Research Material Regarding Mel Casas, 1890-circa 2011, bulk 1968-2005, in the Archives of American Art

Sarah Mundy

The processing of this collection received Federal support from the
Latino Initiatives Pool, administered by the Smithsonian Latino Center.

2018/10/22

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Nancy Kelker research material regarding Mel Casas
Date:	1890-circa 2011 (bulk 1968-2005)
Identifier:	AAA.kelknanc
Creator:	Kelker, Nancy L.
Extent:	1.3 Linear feet 0.001 Gigabytes
Language:	English .
Summary:	The Nancy Kelker research material regarding Mel Casas measures 1.3 linear feet and 0.001 GB dates from 1890 to circa 2011 with the bulk of the collection dating from 1968 to 2005. The material includes sound and video recordings of interviews with Casas by Kelker and Vincent Valdez, and a talk by Casas at Georgia Southwestern University; research files that include Casas' business and legal records, correspondence, exhibition records, photographs, and student papers about Casas; and printed materials consisting of clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs, journals, newsletters, and posters relating to Casas' activities during his career. One interview transcript is in digital format. The material was compiled by Kelker for the book <i>Mel Casas: Artist as Cultural Adjuster</i> .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The Nancy Kelker research material regarding Mel Casas was donated in 2016 by Nancy Kelker.

Processing Information

The collection was processed and a finding aid prepared by Sarah Mundy in 2018. Born-digital materials were processed by Kirsi Ritosalmi-Kisner in 2019 with funding provided by Smithsonian Collection Care and Preservation Fund.

Preferred Citation

Nancy Kelker research material regarding Mel Casas, 1890-circa 2011, bulk 1968-2005. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C., Research Center. Use of archival audiovisual recordings and born-digital records with no duplicate copies requires advance notice.

Biographical / Historical

Nancy Kelker (1951-) is an art historian in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. and the author of *Mel Casas: Artist as Cultural Adjuster*.

Mel Casas (1929-2014) was a painter and educator in San Antonio, Texas. Casas was a member of Con Safo, an organization that promoted Chicano concepts and the Chicano art movement. *Humanscapes*, Casas' series of 150 paintings, was produced between 1965 and 1989 and has been exhibited throughout the U.S. and Mexico. Casas died in San Antonio, Texas. in 2014.

Scope and Contents

The Nancy Kelker research material regarding Mel Casas measures 1.3 linear feet and 0.001 GB and dates from 1890 to circa 2011 with the bulk of the collection dating from 1968 to 2005. The material includes sound and video recordings of interviews with Casas by Kelker and Vincent Valdez, and a talk by Casas at Georgia Southwestern University; research files that include Casas' business and legal records, correspondence, exhibition records, photographs, and student papers about Casas; and printed materials consisting of clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs, journals, newsletters, and posters relating to Casas' activities during his career. One interview transcript is in digital format. The material was compiled by Kelker for the book *Mel Casas: Artist as Cultural Adjuster*.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as three series.

- Series 1: Interviews and Talks, 1999-2005 (Box 1; 4 folders, ER01; 0.001 GB)
- Series 2: Research and Project Files, 1978-2001 (Box 1; 0.4 linear feet)
- Series 3: Printed Materials, 1890-circa 2000 (Box 1, OVs 2-4; 0.5 linear feet)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Chicano movement
Latino and Latin American artists
Mexican American art

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Lectures
Sound recordings
Video recordings

Names:

Casas, Mel, 1929-2014
Valdez, Vincent

Container Listing

Series 1: Interviews and Talks, 1999-2005

4 Folders (Box 1)

0.001 Gigabytes (ER01)

Scope and Contents: The series includes sound and video recordings of interviews of Casas by Kelker and Vincent Valdez, as well as a talk by Casas at Georgia Southwestern University.

Box 1, Folder 1 "Is it Art?," Talk by Casas at Georgia Southwestern University, April 19, 1999
Notes: Includes one video recording and transcript of Casas' talk that includes Casas speaking about his childhood and how it impacted his art.

Box 1, Folder 2 Casas Interviewed by Vincent Valdez, circa 2000
1 Sound cassettes (microcassette)

Box 1, Folder 3 Casas Interviewed by Kelker, May 2000
Notes: Includes born-digital records, see ER01

Folder ER01 Transcript of Casas Interviewed by Kelker (May 2000), Digital Document, 2000
0.001 Gigabytes (One computer file)

Box 1, Folder 4 Casas Interviewed by Kelker by Phone, 2005
2 Sound cassettes (microcassette)

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Series 2: Research and Project Files, 1978-2001

0.4 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Kelker's research files consist of Casas' business and legal records containing contracts, price lists, loan agreements, printed material, correspondence, and records concerning legal disputes; correspondence; and an exhibition file for *Chicano Art: Resistance and Affirmation*, or CARA. Other files are Kelker's correspondence, appendix material, photographs of Casas and artwork, and student papers about Casas.

Box 1, Folder 5 Appendix Material, circa 2011
Notes: Includes labeled photographs of artwork, material on Con Safo, and descriptions for Casas' *Humanscapes* series.

Box 1, Folder 6-10 Business Records, 1988-1999
Notes: Includes files for general business records, Carrington Gallagher Gallery, Jansen-Perez Art Agents and Consultants, Joe Cosniac of Zuni Grill, and T.C. Spitts Contemporary Gallery.

Box 1, Folder 11-12 Correspondence, Casas, 1983-1999

Box 1, Folder 13 Correspondence, Kelker, 2000-2001

Box 1, Folder 14 Exhibition Records, 1985-1999
Notes: Records relate to the exhibition *Chicano Art: Resistance and Affirmation* (1990-1993).

Box 1, Folder 15 Legal Records, 1990-1991

Box 1, Folder 16 Photographs, circa 1988
Notes: Includes a portrait and snapshots of Casas with others and at exhibitions. Also includes a few photographs of artwork.

Box 1, Folder 17 Student Papers About Casas, 1978, 1999

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Series 3: Printed Materials, 1890-circa 2000

0.5 Linear feet (Box 1, OVs 2-4)

Scope and Contents: The series contains booklets and brochures, clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs, magazines and journals, newsletters and posters relating to Casas' career and activities.

Box 1, Folder 18	Booklets and Brochures, 1983-1989
Box 1, Folder 19-21	Clippings, 1890-circa 2000
Oversize 2	Clippings, 1890-circa 2000
Oversize 3	Clippings, 1890-circa 2000
Box 1, Folder 22-23	Exhibition Announcements, circa 1988-1995
Box 1, Folder 24-25	Exhibition Catalogs, 1968-1996
Box 1, Folder 26	Magazines and Journals, 1970-1990
Box 1, Folder 27	Newsletters, 1983-1999
Oversize 4	Posters, 1973, 1989

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