



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Emanuel Martinez Papers,
1964-2015, 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.

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

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Emanuel Martinez papers
Identifier:	AAA.marteman
Date:	1964-2015
Extent:	0.7 Linear feet
Creator:	Martinez, Emanuel, 1947-
Language:	English
Summary:	<p>The papers of painter, muralist, and educator Emanuel Martinez measure 0.7 linear feet and date from 1964 to 2015. The collection is comprised of correspondence with Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzalez of the activist group Crusade for Justice; writings that include journal entries, essays about Mexican American youth, education, the artist Rini Templeton, community murals, and a presentation transcript about the sculpture <i>Farm Workers' Altar</i>; printed materials that include a bumper sticker and flyer designed by Martinez, photocopies of a poem and sketch by Martinez, and a book of writings on Mexican and Spanish Americans signed by George Garcia; photographs of Martinez as a child, in portraits, painting, and at events; and a scrapbook documenting the history of murals and Chicano art in Colorado through clippings and one letter of congratulations from former Representative Patricia Schroeder.</p>

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The papers were donated by Emanuel Martinez in 2017.

Processing Information

The collection was processed and a finding aid prepared by Sarah Mundy in 2018.

Preferred Citation

Emanuel Martinez papers, 1964-2015. 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.

Biographical / Historical

Emanuel Martinez (1947-) is a painter, muralist, and educator in Denver, Colorado.

Martinez was born in Denver where he spent a troubled youth until the age of 13. He was introduced to art through his lifelong friend and mentor Bill Longley who recognized Martinez's talent and arranged for an art apprenticeship. Martinez also studied with David A. Siqueiros and Francisco Zuniga, and at Metropolitan State College of Denver. In 1968 he established his studio.

As an artist, Martinez is deeply affected by social and political issues. He has been a member of the Chicano activist group Crusade for Justice and was active in the civil rights movement. In 1968, Martinez completed *Farm Workers' Altar*, a painted wooden sculpture, for the Catholic mass that was held on the day César Chávez completed a 25-day fast in his continuous struggle for social justice. Martinez also completed *Tierra O Muerte* for activist Reyes Lopez Tijerina. Other works by Martinez include a mural at Alma Center in Lincoln Park and a commissioned portrait of former U.S. Secretary of Transportation Federico Peña.

Martinez worked as an educator at the Student League of Denver for 12 years. He is also involved with the Emanuel Project, an organization named after Martinez that focuses on improving the lives of at-risk youth. With the organization, Martinez has completed approximately 50 murals with students all over the U.S.

Martinez has won numerous awards including the Latin American Educational Foundation scholarship and Mayor's Award for Excellence in the Arts. He has works in the permanent collections of the Smithsonian American Art Museum and the Museo de las Americas in Denver among others. His work was shown in the seminal exhibition *Chicano Art Resistance and Affirmation*, as well as many other national and international exhibitions.

Scope and Contents

The papers of painter, muralist, and educator Emanuel Martinez measure 0.7 linear feet and date from 1964 to 2015. The collection is comprised of correspondence with Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzalez of the activist group Crusade for Justice; writings that include journal entries, essays about Mexican American youth, education, the artist Rini Templeton, community murals, and a presentation transcript about the sculpture *Farm Workers' Altar*; printed materials that include a bumper sticker and flyer designed by Martinez, photocopies of a poem and sketch by Martinez, and a book of writings on Mexican and Spanish Americans signed by George Garcia; photographs of Martinez as a child, in portraits, painting, and at events; and a scrapbook documenting the history of murals and Chicano art in Colorado through clippings and one letter of congratulations from former Representative Patricia Schroeder.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as one series.

- Series 1: Emanuel Martinez papers, 1964-2015 (Boxes 1-2; 0.7 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 -- Colorado
Mural painting and decoration -- 20th century -- Colorado
Muralists -- Colorado -- Denver

Types of Materials:

Photographs
Scrapbooks

Occupations:

Painters -- Colorado -- Denver

Container Listing

Series 1: Emanuel Martinez papers, 1964-2015

0.7 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

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Box 1, Folder 1	Crusade for Justice Correspondence, 1966-1969
Box 1, Folder 2-3	Writings, 1966-circa 2000
Box 1, Folder 4	Printed Materials, 1966-1969
Box 1, Folder 5	Photographs, 1968-circa 2000
Volume 2	Scrapbook, 1964-2015

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