



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Nora Chapa Mendoza Papers, circa 1963-2013, in the Archives of American Art

Ryan Evans

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Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Nora Chapa Mendoza papers
Identifier:	AAA.mendnora
Date:	circa 1963-2013
Creator:	Mendoza, Nora Chapa
Extent:	4.1 Linear feet 1.78 Gigabytes
Language:	Most of the collection is in English; some records are in Spanish.
Summary:	The papers of painter and educator Nora Chapa Mendoza measure 4.1 linear feet and 1.78 gigabytes, and date from circa 1963-2013. Biographical material includes résumés and awards, as well as other miscellaneous biographical material. Correspondence is mostly professional in nature and reflects her relationships with artists galleries and other professional organizations throughout her career, incl. Personal business records document select exhibitions and relationships with galleries such as the Partners Gallery, and include artwork inventories, consignments, and pricelists. Project files document specific projects including commissions and educational initiatives, as well as key conferences related to international labor relations and indigenous civil rights. Writings include artist statements, lectures and notes and sketches. Printed material documents the career of Nora Chapa Mendoza as well as and the art and Hispanic cultural scenes in Detroit in the form of announcements, clippings, catalogs, magazines and books. Photographic material documents various exhibitions, workshops, conferences, and trips.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated in 2018 by Nora Chapa Mendoza.

Related Materials

Nora Chapa Mendoza papers are also located at the University of Notre Dame, Institute for Latino Studies, Notre Dame, Indiana.

Processing Information

The collection was processed and a finding aid prepared by Ryan Evans in 2019.

Preferred Citation

Nora Chapa Mendoza Papers, circa 1963-2013. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

This collection is open for research. Access to original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center. Researchers interested in accessing born-digital records in this collection must use access copies. Contact References Services for more information.

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Biographical / Historical

Nora Chapa Mendoza (1932-) is a painter and educator in Detroit, Michigan.

Mendoza was born to Mexican parents in Weslaco, Texas. Raised in the American Southwest, Nora was encouraged at an early age to pursue her interest in painting, and in 1953 she relocated from Galveston, Texas to Michigan to pursue a career as an artist. Mendoza studied art at the Detroit Center for Creative Studies and Madonna University in Livonia, Michigan. Her art education included instruction from Michigan painters Richard Koslow and Ljubo Biro. In 1978, Mendoza, along with a group of other artists formed Nuestras Artes de Michigan, with chapters established in Ann Arbor, Detroit, and Lansing. She was also a founding member of the Michigan Hispanic Cultural/Art Association. In 1981, she opened her own art gallery in Detroit, Galeria Mendoza.

While Mendoza's painting styles have ranged from abstraction to realism, messages of civil rights and Chicano identity have been a constant throughout her career as an artist. As an artist and activist, there is a strong connection between the subject matter of her art and the causes she has been active in including migrant workers and fair labor practices, as well as issues of indigenous identity and civil rights. Nora Mendoza is also a certified elder in Kanto de la Tierra, an intertribal council dedicated to praying for earth's healing.

Later in her career Nora Chapa Mendoza expanded her practice from painting to include restoration and mural projects. Notably she was one of eight artists that participated in the renovation of Detroit's Music Hall in 1996. In 1999 she was named Michigan's artist of the year and received the Governor's award for her continued service to Michigan and Southwest Detroit in particular. Nora Chapa Mendoza has exhibited throughout the United States and internationally, and her work is included in many prominent private, corporate, and university collections. Mendoza continues to live and work in West Bloomfield, Michigan, just outside of Detroit, where she continues to teach art workshops and other outreach activities.

Scope and Contents

The papers of painter and educator Nora Chapa Mendoza measure 4.1 linear feet and 1.78 gigabytes, and date from circa 1963-2013. Biographical material includes résumés and awards, as well as other miscellaneous biographical material. Correspondence is mostly professional in nature and reflects her relationships with artists galleries and other professional organizations throughout her career, incl. Personal business records document select exhibitions and relationships with galleries such as the Partners Gallery, and include artwork inventories, consignments, and pricelists. Project files document specific projects including commissions and educational initiatives, as well as key conferences related to international labor relations and indigenous civil rights. Writings include artist statements, lectures and notes and sketches.

Printed material documents the career of Nora Chapa Mendoza as well as and the art and Hispanic cultural scenes in Detroit in the form of announcements, clippings, catalogs, magazines and books. Photographic material documents various exhibitions, workshops, conferences, and trips.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in 7 series:

- Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1963-2010 (0.2 Linear Feet; Box 1)
 - Series 2: Correspondence, circa 1972-2012 (0.8 Linear Feet; Box 1)
 - Series 3: Personal Business Records, circa 1970s-2011 (0.2 Linear Feet; Box 2)
 - Series 4: Project Files, circa 1980-2007 (0.3 Linear Feet; Box 2, 1.78 Gigabytes; ER01)
 - Series 5: Writings, circa 1970s-2010 (0.2 Linear Feet; Box 2)
 - Series 6: Printed Material, circa 1970s-2013 (2.1 Linear Feet; Boxes 2-4, Oversize 5)
 - Series 7: Photographic Material, circa 1975-2010 (0.3 Linear Feet; Box 4)
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Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Mexican American artists
Mexican American women -- Chicana

Cultures:

Mexican American women -- Chicana

Types of Materials:

Video recordings

Occupations:

Educators -- Michigan
Painters -- Michigan -- Detroit

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1963-2010

0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Biographical material includes résumés and awards, as well as other miscellaneous biographical documentation about Mendoza.

Box 1, Folder 1	Biographies and CV, circa 1975-2010
Box 1, Folder 2	Detroit Civilian Citation, 1963
Box 1, Folder 3	Membership Cards, circa 1990s
Box 1, Folder 4	Addresses, Business Cards, circa 1980s-2000
Box 1, Folder 5	Interview Questions for 'De Mujer a Mujer', 2001
Box 1, Folder 6	Awards and Certificates, circa 1981-2009
Box 1, Folder 7	Cesar Chavez - Jane Gonzalez Award, U. Michigan, 1998

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Series 2: Correspondence, circa 1972-2012

0.8 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Correspondence is mostly professional in nature and reflects Mendoza's relationships with artists galleries and other professional organizations throughout her career.

Box 1, Folder 8	Correspondence, 1972
Box 1, Folder 9	Correspondence, 1975
Box 1, Folder 10	Correspondence, 1978
Box 1, Folder 11	Correspondence, 1979
Box 1, Folder 12	Correspondence, 1980
Box 1, Folder 13	Correspondence, circa 1981
Box 1, Folder 14	Correspondence, circa 1982
Box 1, Folder 15	Correspondence, 1983
Box 1, Folder 16	Correspondence, circa 1984
Box 1, Folder 17	Correspondence, 1985
Box 1, Folder 18	Correspondence, circa 1986
Box 1, Folder 19	Correspondence, 1987
Box 1, Folder 20	Correspondence, circa 1988
Box 1, Folder 21	Correspondence, circa 1990
Box 1, Folder 22	Correspondence, 1991
Box 1, Folder 23	Correspondence, 1992
Box 1, Folder 24	Correspondence, circa 1993
Box 1, Folder 25	Correspondence, 1994
Box 1, Folder 26	Correspondence, circa 1995
Box 1, Folder 27	Correspondence, 1996
Box 1, Folder 28	Correspondence, 1997

Box 1, Folder 29	Correspondence, circa 1998
Box 1, Folder 30	Correspondence, circa 1999
Box 1, Folder 31	Correspondence, circa 2000
Box 1, Folder 32	Correspondence, circa 2001
Box 1, Folder 33	Correspondence, circa 2002
Box 1, Folder 34	Correspondence, 2003
Box 1, Folder 35	Correspondence, circa 2004
Box 1, Folder 36	Correspondence, circa 2005
Box 1, Folder 37	Correspondence, circa 2006
Box 1, Folder 38	Correspondence, circa 2007
Box 1, Folder 39	Correspondence, 2008
Box 1, Folder 40	Correspondence, circa 2009
Box 1, Folder 41	Correspondence, circa 2010
Box 1, Folder 42	Correspondence, 2011
Box 1, Folder 43	Correspondence, 2012
Box 1, Folder 44	Undated Correspondence, circa 1990s-2010

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Series 3: Personal Business Records, circa 1970s-2011

0.2 Linear feet (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: Personal business records document select exhibitions and Mendoza's relationships with galleries including the Partners Gallery. Documentation includes artwork inventories, consignments, and price lists.

Box 2, Folder 1	Exhibition, Moore Library, Texas City, TX, 1994
Box 2, Folder 2	Exhibition, Plymouth Community Arts Council (Sep.-Oct. 2002), circa 2001-2002
Box 2, Folder 3	Exhibition and Performance Agreement, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, 1985
Box 2, Folder 4	Exhibition Guest Book, Livonia Art Center (1996), 1996
Box 2, Folder 5	Exhibition Loans and Consignments, Miscellaneous, circa 1981-2011
Box 2, Folder 6	The Partners Gallery, circa 1986-1992
Box 2, Folder 7	Payment Statements, Paystubs, circa 1978-1998
Box 2, Folder 8	Price Lists and Inventories, circa 1970s-1990s
Box 2, Folder 9	Receipts and Statements, circa 1975-2007

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Series 4: Project Files, circa 1980-2007

0.3 Linear feet (Box 2)

1.78 Gigabytes (ER01)

Scope and Contents: Project files document specific projects including commissions and educational initiatives, as well as key conferences related to international labor relations and indigenous civil rights. Also included is a digital video recording by Elena Herrada related to the Detroit community agency Fronteras Norteñas.

Box 2, Folder 10	Anahuac Women of Peace Conference, Cuernavaca, Morelos, Mexico (Oct. 1998), circa 1998-2000
Box 2, Folder 11	Artist Cultural Specialist to Honduras (1998), circa 1998
Box 2, Folder 12	Commission, Hallowood Management Company, circa 1994
Box 2, Folder 13	Cuba, Venezuela, North American Labor Conference, Tijuana, Mexico (Dec. 2005), 2005
Box 2, Folder 14	ESL Curriculum Proposal, Michigan Public Schools, 2007
Box 2, Folder 15	Flyer Mechanicals, circa 1980s
Box 2, Folder 16	Fronteras Nortenas, Los Repatriados, circa 2004 Includes born-digital records; see ER01
Folder ER01	Los Repatriados: Exiles from the Promised Land, Digital Video Recording, 2006 1.78 Gigabytes (One computer file)
Box 2, Folder 17	Indigenous Women's Network, 1985 Gathering, circa 1985
Box 2, Folder 18	Illustration Work, Various, circa 1980s-1990s
Box 2, Folder 19	Instruction and Outreach Documents, Various, circa 2000-2005
Box 2, Folder 20	Leadership Detroit Application (1995-1996), circa 1995
Box 2, Folder 21	LEAP After School Art Instruction, University of Michigan, circa 2001
Box 2, Folder 22	MALCS 2007 Summer Institute (Mujeres Activas en Letras y Cambio Social), University of Minnesota, 2007
Box 2, Folder 23	Michigan Arts and Patrons Award 1986, circa 1986
Box 2, Folder 24	Michigan Latino Arts and Culture Initiative, circa 2000
Box 2, Folder 25	Mural Project Grant Proposal , circa 1985-1995

Box 2, Folder 26

US Cuba 2000 Conference (Logo Design by N.C.M.), circa 1985-1995

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Series 5: Writings, circa 1970s-2010

0.2 Linear feet (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: Writings include artist statements, lectures, and notes and sketches written by Nora Chapa Mendoza.

Box 2, Folder 27	Artist Statements, circa 1990s
Box 2, Folder 28	Lectures, circa 1970s-2010
Box 2, Folder 29	Notebooks, circa 1980s-1990s
Box 2, Folder 30-31	Notes and Sketches, circa 1970s-2010

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Series 6: Printed Material, circa 1970s-2013

2.1 Linear feet (Boxes 2-4, Oversize 5)

Scope and Contents: Printed material documents the career of Nora Chapa Mendoza as well as and the art and Hispanic cultural scenes in Detroit in the form of announcements, clippings, catalogs, magazines and books.

Box 2, Folder 32-33	Announcements, circa 1970s-2010
Box 2, Folder 34-35	Catalogs, circa 1980s-2010
Box 2, Folder 36	Clippings, circa 1980s-2010
Box 3, Folder 1-4	Clippings , circa 1970s-2010
Box 3, Folder 5	Miscellaneous Printed Material, circa 1975-1979
Box 3, Folder 6	Miscellaneous Printed Material, circa 1980-1984
Box 3, Folder 7-8	Miscellaneous Printed Material, circa 1985-1989
Box 3, Folder 9-11	Miscellaneous Printed Material, circa 1990-1994
Box 3, Folder 12-14	Miscellaneous Printed Material, circa 1995-1999
Box 3, Folder 15-16	Miscellaneous Printed Material, circa 2000-2004
Box 4, Folder 1	Miscellaneous Printed Material, circa 2000-2004
Oversize 5	Miscellaneous Printed Material, circa 2000-2005
Box 4, Folder 2-4	Miscellaneous Printed Material, circa 2005-2009
Box 4, Folder 5	Miscellaneous Printed Material, circa 2010-2013
Box 4, Folder 6	Miscellaneous Printed Material, Undated, circa 1980s-2010
Box 4, Folder 7	Newsletters, circa 1981-2008
Box 4, Folder 8	Press Releases, 1994, 2003
Box 4, Folder 9	Farm Worker Greeting Cards, circa 1986
Box 4, Folder 10	El Barrio Magazine, 1987, 1992
Box 4, Folder 11	La Emigracion de San Luis Potosi a Estados Unidos Pasado y Presente, Fernando Saul Alanis Encisco, 2001, 2002

Box 4, Folder 12	Latino Magazine, circa 1993-2012
Box 4, Folder 13	El Primer Programa Bracero y el Gobierno de Mexico 1917-1918, Fernando Saul Alanis Encisco, 1999, 2002
Box 4, Folder 14	El Pueblo Mexicano en Detroit y Michigan: A Social History, Dennis Nodin Valdes, 1982

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Series 7: Photographic Material, circa 1975-2010

0.3 Linear feet (Box 4)

Scope and Contents: Photographic material documents various exhibitions, workshops, conferences, and trips, and includes photographs of Nora Chapa Mendoza.

Box 4, Folder 15	Photographs of Nora Chapa Mendoza, circa 1990s-2010
Box 4, Folder 16-17	Artwork Images, circa 1990s-2010
Box 4, Folder 18	Studio and Exhibition, circa 1975-2000
Box 4, Folder 19	Various Workshops, circa 1990s-2010
Box 4, Folder 20	Photographs of Others, circa 1990s-2010
Box 4, Folder 21	Album, Book Illustrations, 2004
Box 4, Folder 22	Album, Che's Ofrenda, 2000
Box 4, Folder 23	Album, Detroit Parade, circa 2000-2003
Box 4, Folder 24-25	Album, Elementary School Workshops, circa 2000-2004
Box 4, Folder 26	Album, Exhibition at Moore Library in Texas City, TX (Apr. 1994), 1994
Box 4, Folder 27	Album, Migrant Children Workshop, Etc., circa 1993
Box 4, Folder 28	Album, Martha Ramirez Oropeza Mural, Dallas, circa 2004
Box 4, Folder 29	Album, San Luis Potosi, 2004
Box 4, Folder 30	Album, US Cuba 2000 Conference , 1999
Box 4, Folder 31	Album, US Cuba 2000 Conference, Tibetan Mandala Ceremony, circa 1999-2000
Box 4, Folder 32	Album, Youth Workshop, Artist in Residence , circa 2004
Box 4, Folder 33	Untitled Album, circa 1997-2003

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