



# Smithsonian

## *Archives of American Art*

### Oral history interview with Alberto Mijangos

This interview is part of the series "Recuerdos Orales: Interviews of the Latino Art Community in Texas," supported by Federal funds for Latino programming, administered by the Smithsonian Center for Latino Initiatives.

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with Alberto Mijangos
<b>Date:</b>	2003 Dec. 5-12
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.mijang03
<b>Creator:</b>	Mijangos, Alberto, 1925- (Interviewee) Cordova, Cary (Interviewer) Recuerdos Orales: Interviews of the Latino Art Community in Texas
<b>Extent:</b>	65 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Digital Content: Oral history interview with Alberto Mijangos, 2003 Dec. 5-12, Transcript</a> <a href="#">Audio: Oral history interview with Alberto Mijangos, 2003 Dec. 5-12, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)</a>

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## 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.

### Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

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## Biographical / Historical

Alberto Mijangos (1925-2007) was a Mexican born artist from San Antonio, Tex. Cary Cordova (1970- ) is an art historian from Austin, Tex.

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## Scope and Contents

An interview of Alberto Mijangos conducted 2003 Dec. 5- 12, by Cary Cordova, for the Archives of American Art, in San Antonio, Tex.

## Scope and Contents

Mijangos speaks of his family background, early childhood memories and early art education at San Carlos Academy of Art; the Air Force in Mexico; Los Tres Grandes, Diego Rivera, Jose Clemente Orozco, and David Alfaro Siqueiros; coming to the United States; painting bull fighters; leaving Texas for Chicago; favorite paintings at the Art Institute of Chicago; moving to San Antonio; suspicion of being a communist; becoming a Mexican diplomat; working with Mel Casas who led Mijangos to abstraction; Con Safo; difficulty in achieving respect from Americans; moving to Oaxaca, working there and trying to fit in; returning to San Antonio, changing his lifestyle; changing inspiration, Mark Rothko and Mijangos new use for color; tee-shirt paintings; his relationship with galleries; the artistic community of San Antonio; his use of numbers and fabric in his paintings; interest and use of photography in his artwork. Mijangos also recalls Raul Gamboa, Rufino and Olga Tamayo, Gabriel Sanchez, Francisco Goitia and others.

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## General

Originally recorded on 5 sound discs. Reformatted in 2010 as 8 digital wav files. Duration is 4 hrs., 48 min.

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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:

- Latino and Latin American artists
- Mexican American art
- Mexican American artists
- Painters -- Texas -- San Antonio -- Interviews
- Painting -- Technique

### Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

### Names:

- Casas, Mel, 1929-2014
- Gamboa, Raul
- Goitia, Francisco, 1882-1960
- Orozco, José Clemente, 1883-1949
- Recuerdos Orales: Interviews of the Latino Art Community in Texas
- Rivera, Diego, 1886-1957
- Rothko, Mark, 1903-1970
- Sanchez, Gabriel
- Siqueiros, David Alfaro, 1896-1974
- Tamayo, Olga
- Tamayo, Rufino, 1899-1991