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Oral history interview with José Maria Mijares

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with José Maria Mijares
Identifier:	AAA.mijare98
Date:	1998 Jan. 17
Creator:	Mijares Fernández, José María, 1921- (Interviewee) Martínez, Juan A. (Interviewer)
Extent:	107 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	Interview is in Spanish.
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with José Maria Mijares, 1998 Jan. 17, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with José Maria Mijares, 1998 Jan. 17, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)

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.

Biographical / Historical

José Maria Mijares (1921-2004) was a painter from Miami, Fla. Born in Cuba.

Scope and Contents

An interview of José Maria Mijares conducted 1998 Jan. 17, by Juan A. Martínez, in Mijares' home/studio, Miami, Fla., for the Archives of American Art.

Scope and Contents

Mijares discusses his background; his early interest in drawing; attending Cuba's main art school, the San Alejandro Academy of Art, Havana; his professors, Leopoldo Romanach and Armando Menocal; artistic influences of Cuban modernist painters Fidelio Ponce and Amelia Peláez; being awarded the second prize in a national exhibition in Havana, 1944 for his work *Alameda*; the art movement in the 1950s "arte concreto,"

which involved geometric abstraction and art for art's sake; difficulties of being an artist in Cuba due to lack of galleries and collectors; teaching at San Alejandro in the late 1950s; going into exile in the mid-1960s to Miami; his work schedule of drawing and painting about 6 hours daily; favorite medium being oil on canvas, but also works with serigraphy and watercolor; briefly mentions his artistic style; and his nostalgia for Cuba which is a source of inspiration in his work.

General

Originally recorded on 1 sound cassette. Reformatted in 2010 as 2 digital wav files. Duration is 1 hr., 30 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Art, Modern -- 20th century -- Florida -- Miami
- Artists -- Cuba -- Interviews
- Artists -- Florida -- Miami -- Interviews
- Cuban American art
- Cuban American artists
- Expatriate artists -- Florida -- Miami -- Interviews
- Latino and Latin American artists

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Peláez, Amelia, 1897-1968