



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Tomás Oliva Papers, circa 1969-1996, in the Archives of American Art

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Tomás Oliva papers
Date:	circa 1969-1996
Identifier:	AAA.olivtoma
Creator:	Oliva, Tomás, 1930-1996
Extent:	0.2 Linear feet
Language:	English; Spanish
Summary:	This small collection of papers of Cuban born sculptor and painter Tomás Oliva measure 0.2 linear feet and date from circa 1969-1996. Found among the papers are a chronology; life documents; exhibition catalogs, including one from the 1993 exhibition of three of the original <i>Los Once</i> Cuban artist's group forty years after their first exhibition in Havana; one letter from Cyndee Levy-Angulo; notes and poetry; a photograph of Oliva with José Antonio Díaz Peláez; photographs of sculpture, two sketchbooks; and loose sketches and doodles.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The Tomás Oliva papers were donated to the Archives of American Art by Xiomara Almaguer-Levy in 1998.

Processing Information

The collection was processed and a finding aid prepared by Elissa L. Jerome in 2016.

Preferred Citation

Tomás Oliva papers, circa 1969-1996. 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. Contact Reference Services for more information.

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Biographical / Historical

Tomás Oliva (1930-1996) was a Cuban born sculptor, painter, and printmaker who worked in Havana up to the mid or late 1970s before relocating to Miami, Florida.

Born in 1930 in Havana, Cuba, Oliva graduated from the San Alejandro Academy in Havana in 1952 with a dual degree in painting and sculpture. He also attended the Royal School of Ceramic La Moncloa in Spain and Ecole du Mosaic de Ravene et Ceramique de Faienze in Paris France. He also studied art and film animation with Ivan Zeiler and stage design with Ladislav Vihodil while living in Havana.

Oliva was one of the founding members of the Cuban artists' group *Los Once* (The Eleven), active in Havana between 1953 and 1955. *Los Once* consisted of 11 painters and sculptors-Pancho Antigua, René Avila, José Ignacio Bermudez, Agustin Cárdenas, Hugo Consuegra, Viredo Espinosa, Guido Llinás, Fayad Jamís, Tomás Oliva, José Antonio Díaz Peláez, and Antonio Vidal.

In the mid to late 1970s, Oliva relocated to Miami, Florida and regularly exhibited there and across the United States, Canada, Brazil, Mexico, Spain, Europe, and Japan.

Scope and Contents

This small collection of papers of Cuban born sculptor and painter Tomás Oliva measure 0.2 linear feet and date from circa 1969-1996. Found among the papers are a chronology; life documents; exhibition catalogs, including one from the 1993 exhibition of three of the original *Los Once* Cuban artist's group forty years after their first exhibition in Havana; one letter from Cyndee Levy-Angulo; notes and poetry; a photograph of Oliva with José Antonio Díaz Peláez; photographs of sculpture, two sketchbooks; and loose sketches and doodles.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 1 series.

- Series 1: Tomás Oliva Papers, circa 1969-1996 (Box 1; 0.2 linear feet)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Artists -- Cuba
Cuban American art
Cuban American artists
Expatriate artists -- Florida -- Miami
Latino and Latin American artists
Sculptors -- Cuba -- Havana
Sculptors -- Florida -- Miami

Types of Materials:

Photographs
Sketchbooks

Sketches

Names:

Díaz Peláez, José Antonio
Levy-Angulo, Cyndee

Occupations:

Painters -- Cuba -- Havana
Painters -- Florida -- Miami

Container Listing

Series 1: Tomás Oliva Papers, circa 1969-1996

0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Tomás Oliva's papers include an artist's chronology compiled by Juan Espinosa Almodóvar, certificates of marriage and naturalization, and a letter from Cyndee Levy-Angulo thanking Oliva for donating a pastel to raise funding for a neonatal intensive care unit at the University of Miami. Also found among the papers are photocopies of articles and reviews about Oliva, his artwork, and the Cuban artists' collective *Los Once*, including a copy of the 1993 exhibition *Hugo Consuegra, Guido Llinás, and Tomás Oliva: A Reunion*.

There are ink, pen, and pencil sketches of sculpture and doodles and 2 sketchbooks; notes and poetry written in Spanish by Oliva; photographs of sculpture by Oliva and a snapshot of Oliva with the artist José Antonio Díaz Peláez.

Box 1, Folder 1	Artist's Chronology, 1993
Box 1, Folder 2	Certificates, 1986, 1969
Box 1, Folder 3	Exhibition Catalogs, 1993-1994
Box 1, Folder 4	Letter from Cyndee Levy-Angulo, circa 1994-1996
Box 1, Folder 5	Notes and Poetry, circa 1969-1996
Box 1, Folder 6	Photocopies of Articles and Reviews, circa 1993-1996
Box 1, Folder 7	Photograph of Tomás Oliva with José Antonio Díaz Peláez, circa 1993
Box 1, Folder 8	Photographs of Sculpture, circa 1993
Box 1, Folder 9	Sketchbooks 1-2, circa 1969-1996
Box 1, Folder 10	Sketches, circa 1969-1996

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