



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Tony Ortega Papers,
1984-2010, 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.

2018/11/15

Archives of American Art
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<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

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Collection Overview

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| Repository: | Archives of American Art |
| Title: | Tony Ortega papers |
| Identifier: | AAA.ortetony |
| Date: | 1984-2010 |
| Extent: | 0.9 Linear feet |
| Creator: | Ortega, Tony |
| Language: | English |
| Summary: | The papers of muralist, illustrator, and Chicano activist Tony Ortega measure 0.9 linear feet and date from 1984 to 2010. The papers are comprised of project and exhibition files for murals, public art projects, and children's book illustration exhibitions. Also found are printed materials consisting of articles about Ortega, exhibition announcements and catalogs, and a calendar and note cards featuring artwork by Ortega. |

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The papers were donated by Tony Ortega in 2015.

Processing Information

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

Preferred Citation

Tony Ortega papers, 1984-2010. 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. Use of archival born-digital records with no duplicate copies requires advance notice.

Biographical / Historical

Tony Ortega (1958-) is a muralist, illustrator, and Chicano activist in Denver, Colorado.

Ortega received a bachelor's degree in Spanish and Latin American studies from the University of Colorado in Boulder where he also received a master's in fine arts. Ortega has been a professor in the fine and performing arts department at Regis University in Denver since 2004.

Community activism has been an ongoing theme in Ortega's career. He is a member of Artnauts, an artist collective founded by George Rivera that connects artists globally. He also uses art as a way to connect communities through numerous commissions and volunteer projects that engage children and adults in the creation of public artworks and murals.

Ortega is also the illustrator of *Day of the Dead: Aztec Adventure of Cholo, Vato and Pano* and *Who am I? Family Adventures of Cholo, Vato, and Pano*, children's books written by George Rivera about Mexican and Chicano cultures.

Scope and Contents

The papers of muralist, illustrator, and Chicano activist Tony Ortega measure 0.9 linear feet and date from 1984 to 2010. The papers are comprised of project and exhibition files for murals, public art projects, and children's book illustration exhibitions. Also found are printed materials consisting of articles about Ortega, exhibition announcements and catalogs, and a calendar and note cards featuring artwork by Ortega.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as two series.

- Series 1: Project and Exhibition Files, 1989-2006 (Box 1, OVs 3, 5; 0.5 linear feet)
- Series 2: Printed Materials, 1984-2010 (Boxes 1-2, OV 4; 0.4 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
Illustrators -- Colorado -- Denver
Muralists -- Colorado -- Denver
Political activists

Types of Materials:

Photographs
Sketches

Names:

Artnauts (Art collective)
Rivera, George F.

Container Listing

Series 1: Project and Exhibition Files, 1989-2006

0.5 Linear feet (Box 1, OVs 3, 5)

The series contains correspondence, budget notes, project site plans, photographs, proofs, project proposals, letters from publishers, payment forms, two floppy disks, one electronic disc of photographs, and other documents for mural and public art projects. Ortega provided the illustrations for children's books including *Days of the Dead: Aztec Adventures of Cholo, Vato, and Pano* written by George Rivera. His illustrations were the subject of several exhibitions and public programs that are documented in the files.

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Box 1, Folder 1 | Art in Public Places, City of Longmont, 2001-2003 |
| Oversize 3 | Art in Public Places, City of Longmont, 2001-2003 |
| Box 1, Folder 2-3 | Children's Books and Exhibitions, 1993-1999 Includes mock ups and published copies of rare children's books illustrated by Ortega and a letter of recommendation for an artist-in-residence program. |
| Box 1, Folder 4 | Correspondence, 1989-2003 |
| Box 1, Folder 5 | Ebert Elementary Mural, 2003 |
| Oversize 3 | Ebert Elementary Mural, 2003 |
| Box 1, Folder 6 | <i>El Papel del Papel</i> (1999) Exhibition, 1999 |
| Box 1, Folder 7 | La Mariposa Family Health Center Mural, 2004-2006 |
| Oversize 3 | La Mariposa Family Health Center Mural, 2004-2006 |
| Box 1, Folder 8-9 | Northside Park Public Art Project, 2000-2002 <i>Includes 2 floppy disks and 1 electronic disc (CD) of photographs.</i> |
| Oversize 5 | Northside Park Public Art Project, 2000-2002 |
| Box 1, Folder 10 | University of New Mexico Student Union Public Art Project, 2002-2003 |

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Series 2: Printed Materials, 1984-2010

0.4 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2, OV 4)

A calendar and note cards featuring Ortega's artwork; articles about Ortega along with exhibition reviews are in clippings; and exhibition announcements, catalogs, and invitations to events are in printed materials.

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|-------------------|---|
| Box 1, Folder 11 | Calendar, 1995 |
| Box 2, Folder 1-2 | Clippings, 1984-2005 |
| Oversize 4 | Clippings, 1984-2005 |
| Box 2, Folder 3 | Exhibition Announcements and Invitations, circa 1994-circa 2000 |
| Box 2, Folder 4 | Exhibition Catalogs, 1986-2010 |
| Box 2, Folder 5 | Note Cards, circa 2000 |

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