



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Moses Ros Papers, 1975-2023, in the Archives of American Art

Sarah Mundy; Ricky Gomez

The processing of this collection received Federal support from the Latino Initiatives Pool, administered by the Smithsonian Latino Center.

2018/12/06; 2023/11/14

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Moses Ros papers
Date:	1975-2023
Identifier:	AAA.rosrose
Creator:	Ros, Moses, 1958-
Extent:	3.9 Linear feet
Language:	Material is in English and Spanish.
Summary:	The papers of Dominican American installation artist Moses Ros measure 3.9 linear feet and date from 1975 to 2023. The collection is comprised of files for several New York City Housing Authority commissions, as well as architecture, sculpture, and mural projects; professional files for Dominican York Proyecto GRAFICA, MUD/BONE Print Studio, and a New York American Institute of Architects residency; printed materials; and artwork that includes doodles, sketches, mock ups, and a paper and feather mask. 2023 addition includes additional commission files, exhibition materials, printed material, sketches, and video recordings of Ros' "Moses Ros: Visual Artists" public television program.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The papers were donated in 2016 and 2023 by Moses Ros.

Related Materials

Also found in the Archives of American Art is an oral history interview with Moses Ros conducted by Fernanda Espinosa, August 28, 2020 for the Archives of American Art's Pandemic Oral History Project.

Processing Information

The collection was processed and a finding aid prepared by Sarah Mundy in 2018. The 2023 addition was processed by Ricky Gomez, and the finding aid was updated in 2023.

Preferred Citation

Moses Ros papers, 1975-2023. 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 or audiovisual recordings in this collection must use access copies. Contact Reference Services for more information.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Moses Ros (1958-), also known as Moses Ros-Suárez, is a Dominican American installation artist in Bronx, New York. He was born in New York City to Dominican born parents. Ros received a bachelor's degree in architecture from Pratt Institute and is a licensed architect in the state of New York. He incorporates his knowledge of architecture into his numerous sculptural designs for community centers, daycare facilities, and other public spaces. He has completed sculpture, design, and mural commissions for the New York City Housing Authority, Bronx Council on the Arts, the Department of Cultural Affairs, and the Metropolitan Transit Authority. Ros has also been active with collaborative artist groups such as Dominican York Proyecto GRAFICA and MUD/Bone Print Studio.

Scope and Contents

The papers of Dominican American installation artist Moses Ros measure 3.9 linear feet and date from 1975 to 2023. The collection is comprised of files for several New York City Housing Authority commissions, as well as architecture, sculpture, and mural projects; professional files for Dominican York Proyecto GRAFICA, MUD/BONE Print Studio, and a New York American Institute of Architects residency; printed materials; and artwork that includes doodles, sketches, mock ups, and a paper and feather mask.

2023 addition includes commission files for sculptures for the Fulton Center, logo for the Urban Arts Cooperative, additional material for "Mi Casita" and "Cheery People" sculptures, and proposals for other projects. Additional professional material includes photographs of murals, resumes, and material on various exhibitions Ros participated in, such as "Tyranny's Tears." Also included are additional printed material in the form of clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs, and press releases. The 2023 addition also includes some sketches and art prints. A number of video recordings related to "Moses Ros: Visual Artist," a public access television show centered around Ros are also part of the 2023 addition.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as five series.

- Series 1: Commission and Project Files, 1988-2019 (Boxes 1, 4, OV 5, Box 7; 1.0 linear feet)
 - Series 2: Professional Files, 1983-2020 (Box 1, 7; 0.4 linear feet)
 - Series 3: Printed Materials, 1975-2023 (Boxes 1, 4, OV 6, Box 7; 0.7 linear feet)
 - Series 4: Artwork, circa 2000 (Boxes 1-4, OV 6, Box 7; 1.1 linear feet)
 - Series 5: Video Recordings, 1995-2005 (0.7 linear feet; Boxes 7-9)
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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:

Artists -- New York (State) -- New York
Dominican American artists
Installations (Art)
Latino and Latin American artists
Video recording

Container Listing

Series 1: Commission and Project Files, 1988-2019

1 Linear foot (Boxes 1, 4, OV 5; Box 7)

Scope and Contents: The series contains correspondence, sketches, progress reports, photographs, agreements, invoices and receipts, and other documents relating to commissions for the New York City Housing Authority and Metropolitan Transit Authority. Also included are project files for paintings, sculptures, artist books, murals, and an exhibition for the Longwood Arts Project.

2023 addition includes additional sculpture commissions for the Fulton Center and "The Interface" sculpture, proposed projects, and additional material related to the "Mi Casita" and "Cheery People" sculptures.

Box 1, Folder 1-4	General, circa 2000
Box 4, Folder 1	General, circa 2000
Box 4, Folder 2	General, circa 2000
Oversize 5	General, circa 2000
Box 1, Folder 5	Artist Books, circa 2000
Box 1, Folder 6	Bubbles of Dreams, Washington Heights Daycare Center - Relief Sculptures, circa 1996
Box 1, Folder 7	Casita Paintings, 2001-2003
Box 1, Folder 8	Cheery People, Atlantic Terminal Houses, circa 2005
Box 4, Folder 2	Cheery People, Atlantic Terminal Houses, circa 2005
Box 7, Folder 1	Cheery People, Atlantic Terminal Houses, 2005
Box 1, Folder 9	"Chocolate Kisses", circa 2000
Box 1, Folder 10	Davidson Houses - Benches, 1995 Notes: Plans for the benches include a version incorporating Ros's Myles Davis sculpture.
Box 1, Folder 11	Freedom, DeHostos Community Center - Mural, circa 2000
Oversize 5	Freedom, DeHostos Community Center - Mural, circa 2000
Box 1, Folder 12	Fulton Street Transit Center Design, Application, 2003

Box 7, Folder 2	Fulton Center Sculptures, 2003
Box 7, Folder 3	"The Interface" Sculpture, 1998
Box 1, Folder 13	Mi Casita, Williamsburg Daycare Center, circa 2005
Box 7, Folder 4	Mi Casita, Williamsburg Daycare Center, 2003-2005
Box 1, Folder 14	Mitchel Houses Community Center, circa 2000
Box 7, Folder 5	Modular Designs for Schools, 1988
Box 1, Folder 15	Moject Calendar, 2003
Box 1, Folder 16	Mural Project 1, Unidentified, circa 2000
Box 4, Folder 2	Mural Project 1, Unidentified, circa 2000
Box 1, Folder 17	Mural Project 2, Unidentified, circa 2000
Box 4, Folder 2	Mural Project 2, Unidentified, circa 2000
Box 1, Folder 18	Murals, Urban Tape and Storefront, circa 2000
Box 1, Folder 19	Patriasana/Wholesomeland, Fordham Road Station - Glass, circa 2002
Box 1, Folder 20	Photographs of Projects, circa 2000 Notes: Includes photographs of <i>Freedom</i> , <i>Mi Casita</i> , and unidentified projects.
Box 1, Folder 21	"Physical Place, Virtual Space," Exhibition for Longwood Arts Project, 1998-2002
Box 7, Folder 6	Roosevelt Youth Center, undated
Box 1, Folder 22-25	Sculptures, circa 2000 Notes: Includes giant print, head, poet, and various other sculpture projects.
Box 4, Folder 2	Sculptures, circa 2000
Box 1, Folder 26	St. Nicholas Houses Community Center, Mural, 1999
Box 7, Folder 7	Starlight Park Project, Bronx River Art Center, 2018-2019
Box 1, Folder 27	Street Tree Time Capsules, 1998
Box 1, Folder 28	Táinovivo, Hostos Center for the Arts and Culture - Mobile, 1998

Box 4, Folder 2	Táinovivo, Hostos Center for the Arts and Culture - Mobile, 1998
Box 1, Folder 29-32	Throgg's Neck Houses Community Center, Process Photographs, 2003
Box 7, Folder 8	"United We Stand/Unidos Estamos de Pie" ARTELATAM Group Sculpture, 2019
Box 7, Folder 9	Logo, Urban Arts Cooperative, 2017
Box 1, Folder 33	York College Childcare Center, 2002-2003
Oversize 5	York College Childcare Center, 2002-2003
Box 7, Folder 10	Proposal, Bronx Museum Atrium Project, undated
Box 7, Folder 11	Proposal, "Conocimiento" Sculpture, Hispanic Society, undated
Box 7, Folder 12	Proposal, Daycare Center in W. Heights, 1996
Box 7, Folder 13	Miscellaneous Proposals, 1992, 2008

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Series 2: Professional Files, 1983-2020

0.4 Linear feet (Box 1, 7)

Scope and Contents: Professional files document Ros's activities outside of his commission and project work. Meeting notes and agendas, correspondence, contracts, guidelines, and printed materials are included in files for the artist groups Dominican York Proyecto GRAFICA and MUD/BONE Print Studio. Additionally, a notebook and other material for a business course, information regarding a residency with the New York American Institute of Architects, receipts, and research material are also in the series.

2023 addition includes resumes, an art portfolio, photographs of murals, some correspondence, and files on exhibitions Ros participated in.

Box 7, Folder 14	Art Portfolio, 2019
Box 7, Folder 15	ArteLatAm Ecuador Exhibition, 2018
Box 7, Folder 16	"Awhere: Stories of Tradition and Change", 2012 1 DVD Notes: DVD is titled, "Awhere Stories of tradition & Change Print Portfolios by Dominican York Proyecto GRAFICA"
Box 7, Folder 17	"Bronx Recognizes Its Own", 2017
Box 7, Folder 18	Correspondence, 1983-2016
Box 7, Folder 19	Dominican Republic Environmental Film Festival, 2012
Box 1, Folder 34	Dominican York Proyecto GRAFICA, 2011-2012
Box 7, Folder 20	Doris c. Freedman Award Presentation, 2003
Box 7, Folder 21	"Generations" Proposed Exhibition, undated
Box 7, Folder 22	Leon Jimenez Exhibition Proposal, undated
Box 1, Folder 35	"Make Your Art Your Business," Course Material, 1997
Box 7, Folder 23	"Moses Ros-Suarez: The Printed Mobile" Exhibition, 2011
Box 1, Folder 36	MUD/BONE Print Studio, 2006-2007
Box 7, Folder 24	"New Prints 2012/Winter" Exhibition, International Print Center New York, 2012
Box 1, Folder 37	New York American Institute of Architects, Residency, 2001
Box 7, Folder 25	Photographs, Murals, undated

Box 1, Folder 38	Receipts, 2002
Box 1, Folder 39	Research Material, circa 2002 Notes: Includes an artist's services list, article on Alexander Calder, a paper on Leonardo Da Vinci, and information on mural and outdoor sculpture materials and techniques.
Box 7, Folder 26	Resumes, 1992-2002
Box 7, Folder 27	Ros Art Gallery, 1985-1986
Box 7, Folder 28	Ros Progress Reports, 1998-2001
Box 7, Folder 29	"Tyranny's Tears" Exhibition, 2014-2017
Box 7, Folder 30	Uptown Print Project, 2014-2015
Box 7, Folder 31	Use Permit, City of New York, 2010
Box 7, Folder 32-33	Miscellaneous, 1994-2020

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Series 3: Printed Materials, 1975-2023

0.7 Linear feet (Boxes 1, 4, OV 6, Box 7)

Scope and Contents: Printed materials consist of art reproductions, booklets, clippings, exhibition catalogs and announcements, newsletters, and posters regarding Ros and his artwork, public artwork in New York City, and arts organizations.

2023 addition includes clippings, exhibition announcements, catalogs, and press releases.

Box 1, Folder 40	Art Reproductions, 1978-circa 1985
Box 1, Folder 41	Booklets, circa 1994
Box 1, Folder 42	Brochures, 1988-2006
Box 7, Folder 34	Clippings, 1975-2020
Box 1, Folder 43	Clippings, circa 2000
Oversize 6	Clippings, Newspaper, 2002-2012
Box 1, Folder 44-45	Exhibition Catalogs and Announcements, 1994-2012 Notes: Includes a mock up of the <i>Empowerment</i> exhibition catalog.
Box 7, Folder 35-38	Exhibition Announcements, 1988-2022
Box 7, Folder 39-41	Exhibition Catalogs, 1993-2022
Box 1, Folder 46	Newsletters, 2000-2006
Box 4, Folder 2	Posters, circa 2000
Box 7, Folder 42	Press Releases, 1988-2005
Box 7, Folder 43-44	Miscellaneous, 1994-2023

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Series 4: Artwork, circa 2000

1.1 Linear feet (Boxes 1-4, OV 6, Box 7)

Scope and Contents: Doodles interspersed with notes, sketches for various projects, a paper and feather mask, and mock ups that include panels covered with paint or colored paper are in artwork.

2023 addition includes some additional mockups, sketches, and prints.

Box 1, Folder 47-48	Doodles, circa 2000
Box 2, Folder 1-3	Doodles, circa 2000
Oversize 6	Doodles, circa 2000
Box 4, Folder 4	Mask, circa 2000 Notes: Mask is constructed from colored paper and feathers.
Box 2, Folder 4	Mock Ups, circa 2000 Notes: Includes a wooden rod, paper circle, mosaic sample, and a small animal sculpture.
Box 3, Folder 1-4	Mock Ups, circa 2000 Notes: Includes rectangular panels covered with drawings and colored paper.
Oversize 6	Mock Ups, circa 2000 Notes: Includes painted gold rectangular panels and a "Trabajos Armados" banner.
Box 7, Folder 45	Mock Ups & Sketches, undated
Box 7, Folder 46	Prints, undated
Box 3, Folder 5-7	Sketches, circa 1980-circa 2000 Notes: Some sketches are photocopies from a sketchbook.
Box 4, Folder 3	Sketches, circa 1980s
Box 7, Folder 47	Sketches, undated

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Series 5: Video Recordings, 1995-2005

0.7 Linear feet (Boxes 7-9)

Scope and Contents: Video recordings consist of 15 VHS and 2 U-Matic cassettes of episodes of "Moses Ros: Visual Artist" a Manhattan Neighborhood Network Television Show that Ros did for public television. The show centers on Ros showcasing local artists, musical groups, and special events in New York City.

Box 7, Folder 48	"Moses Ros: Visual Artist," El Museo Del Barrio Summer 2000 Events, 2000 3 Videocassettes (VHS) Notes: VHS 1 featured Yasmin Ramirez, Parafanelia, Scherezade, Miguel Trelles, and Susana Torruella Leval; aired September 6, 2000. VHS 2 featured Ricanstuction, Moses Ros, Jaime Arredondo, Elia Alba, Sandra Bermudez, Rossana Martinez, and Fernanda Brunet; aired October 4, 2000. VHS 3 featured Elisa Jimenez, Performance, "We All Are Blessed," Ernesto Quinones, and Book "Bodega Dreams"; aired December 1, 2000.
Box 8, Cassette 1	"Moses Ros: Visual Artist", 1995 May 28 1 Videocassettes (VHS) Notes: Insert states video features Miles Davis Sculpture, Espirit Libre-Paterson Museum, 84th St. Mural, Bronx Printmakers at Printmaking Workshop, La Pena Performance, Orozimbo-Performance Installation, and Museo Del Barrio Headdresser Workshop.
Box 8, Cassette 2	"Moses Ros: Visual Artist," Longwood Poets & Jorge Crespo Show & Daze, 1996 1 Videocassettes (VHS)
Box 8, Cassette 3	"Moses Ros: Visual Artist," Chamber 8 Group Show, 1996 1 Videocassettes (VHS)
Box 8, Cassette 4	"Moses Ros: Visual Artist," Madrid ARCO Art Expo With Garcia Cordero, Hector Ledesma & Art Critic Marianne Tolentino, 1997 1 Videocassettes (VHS)
Box 8, Cassette 5	"Moses Ros: Visual Artist," Luis Dias at Meow Mix & Many Vega at 104th St. Chalk Festival & Print Show at Barrett House, 1997 1 Videocassettes (VHS)
Box 8, Cassette 6	"Moses Ros: Visual Artist," Ezequil Jimenez at Casa de las Americas & Moses Ros at Audubon Center, 1997 1 Videocassettes (VHS)
Box 8, Cassette 7	"Moses Ros: Visual Artist," Rudy Mazur at Mary Anthony Galleries, 1997

1 Videocassettes (VHS)

Box 8, Cassette 8	"Moses Ros: Visual Artist," Pepon Osorio at Hostos & Voodoo Show at Taller Boriqua, 1998 1 Videocassettes (VHS)
Box 8, Cassette 9	"Moses Ros: Visual Artist," Chris Ofili at Gavin Brown, 1999 1 Videocassettes (VHS)
Box 8, Cassette 10	"Moses Ros: Visual Artist," Moses Ros at Hostos with Wallace Edgecomb, 1999 1 Videocassettes (VHS)
Box 8, Cassette 11	"Moses Ros: Visual Artist," Ros TV, 1999 1 Videocassettes (VHS)
Box 8, Cassette 12	"Moses Ros: Visual Artist," Center for Architecture Workshop, 2005 July 24 1 Videocassettes (VHS)
Box 9, Cassette 1	"New York Artist and Their Art", undated 1 Videocassettes (U-matic) Notes: Unclear whether recording is an episode of "Moses Ros: Visual Artist," or a completely different program.
Box 9, Cassette 2	"Moses Ros: Visual Artist," undated 1 Videocassettes (U-matic) Notes: There is no supporting material describing the subject of the video recording.

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