



Smithsonian  
*Archives of American Art*

A Finding Aid to the Emilio Sanchez Papers,  
1922-2012, in the Archives of American Art

Stephanie Ashley

April 2002

Archives of American Art  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Emilio Sanchez papers
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.sancemil
<b>Date:</b>	1922-2012
<b>Extent:</b>	18.1 Linear feet
<b>Creator:</b>	Sanchez, Emilio, 1921-1999
<b>Language:</b>	The records are in English and Spanish.
<b>Summary:</b>	The collection measures 18.1 linear feet, dates from 1922 to 2012, and documents the career of Cuban born painter and printmaker, Emilio Sanchez. The collection includes letters to Sanchez, business records, photographs of the artist and sources for his artwork, many original sketches, printed material, and calendars.

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## Administrative Information

### Provenance

The collection was donated to the Archives of American Art by Emilio Sanchez in a series of gifts between 1975 and 1980, and in 2012 by Emilio Sanchez via Erik J. Stapper, Emilio Sanchez Foundation.

### Related Material

Papers of Emilio Sanchez can also be found at the Dade County Public Library in Florida.

### Processing Information

The collection was processed by Stephanie Ashley in 2002. An addition of 10.1 linear feet was received in 2012 and remains unprocessed.

### Preferred Citation

Emilio Sanchez papers, 1922-2012. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions on Access

The collection is open for research. Use requires an appointment.

### Terms of Use

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## Biographical Note

Emilio Sanchez was born in 1921 in Camaguey, Cuba. He left his native country in 1952 to settle in New York where he became a naturalized citizen of the United States. A prolific painter and printmaker, Sanchez received his formal education at the Art Students' League and Columbia University during the late 1930s, and had his first of many one-man shows in New York in 1949. Sanchez traveled throughout the world sketching his impressions of houses and other buildings and capturing the details of doorways, windows, light, and shadow in his paintings and prints. His paintings of residential architecture in Cuba and throughout the Caribbean are some of his best known works, but in the 1980s he turned much of his attention to the skyline of his adopted home, and was often drawn also to American cities and landscapes over the course of his career.

Sanchez's work is represented in major museums and private collections the world over, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art, the Hirshhorn Museum, the National Museum in Havana, and the Cintas Collection. He completed numerous commissions in both the United States and Mexico, has illustrated several books, including *Arte del Peru Colonial* by Felipe Cossío del Pomar (published in 1958 by the Fondo de Cultura Económica in Mexico), and has exhibited extensively in solo and group exhibitions in locations such as Mexico City, Paris, Havana, Madrid, Puerto Rico, Chile, Colombia, and throughout the United States.

Sanchez died in July, 1999 at the age of 78.

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## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Cuban born painter and print maker Emilio Sanchez comprise 18.1 linear feet of material dating from 1922 to 2012. The papers contain biographical information about Sanchez; letters from galleries and museums recording business transactions; letters from friends; photographs of his artwork and places he visited for inspiration; personal photographs; sketches; exhibition catalogs, announcements, and reviews; clippings; and calendars.

A major portion of the collection consists of sketchbooks and sketches that provide rich documentation of Sanchez's artistic development and his working methods, particularly from the 1950s to the 1970s. Many of the sketches have detailed notations about aspects of an image that Sanchez wanted to recall and capture in his work. Photographs also provide insight into the architecture and landscapes that provided sources of inspiration for Sanchez.

A 10.1 linear foot addition contains biographical materials, correspondence, writings, photographs, works of art, subject files, printed materials, and scrapbooks. Biographical materials include address books, birth certificates, naturalization documents, and family-related documents. Correspondence is personal and professional and is with family, friends and museums. Writings are personal and include a log book and a typed transcription (possibly incomplete). Photographs are of Sanchez, his family, works of art, and source subjects for works of art, as well as CD-Roms of works of art. Some photographs assembled by Hugh Harrison, long-time friend of the Sanchez. Works of art include 10 sketchbooks and loose sketches. Also included are a drawing and 4 prints by Estrella Fonts, Sanchez's mother. Subject files include a print register, appraisals, mailing lists, and consignments. Printed material includes exhibition announcements

and clippings. Also included are 3 scrapbooks, 2000-2012, that chronicle the history of the Emilio Sanchez Foundation's activities, including press releases, photographs, and exhibition-related material and hard drives of the foundation's databases in Filemaker format.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged as seven series. Records are generally arranged by subject category, and then chronologically.

- Series 1: Biographical Material, 1969-1977, undated (box 1; 4 folders)
- Series 2: Letters and Business Records, 1956-1979 (box 1; 25 folders)
- Series 3: Photographs, 1922-1979, undated (boxes 1-3; 51 folders)
- Series 4: Printed Material, 1950-1980, undated (boxes 3-4; 17 folders)
- Series 5: Calendars, 1967-1976 (boxes 4-5; 7 folders)
- Series 6: Sketches, circa 1940-1979, undated (boxes 5-6, sols 7-11, OV's 12-22, RD 23-24; 2.9 linear ft.)
- Series 7: Unprocessed Addition to the Emilio Sanchez Papers, 1949-2012 (boxes 25-34, OV 35; 10.1 linear ft.)

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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  
Painters -- New York (State) -- New York  
Painting, Modern -- 20th century -- New York (State) -- New York

Types of Materials:

Interviews  
Photographs  
Sketchbooks  
Sketches

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Biographical Material, 1969-1977, undated

*(box 1; 4 folders)*

This series contains immunization records for travel, a passport, the transcript of an interview with Sanchez in which he discusses his work in detail, as well as several résumés and biographical information about the artist, such as lists of his work in public institutions and lists of his exhibitions.

The series is arranged alphabetically by subject and then chronologically.

Box 1, Folder 1	Immunization Records, 1969-1977
Box 1, Folder 2	Interview Transcript, undated
Box 1, Folder 3	Passport, 1973
Box 1, Folder 4	Résumés and Biographical Notes, 1967-1974, undated

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## Series 2: Letters and Business Records, 1956-1979

*(box 1; 23 folders)*

The material in this series primarily documents business transactions in the form of letters to Sanchez from various art institutions and individuals regarding consignment, loan for exhibition, and purchase of his work. Receipts for some of these transactions and lists of works exhibited in various shows can also be found here, in addition to scattered personal letters written to Sanchez. There are no letters written by Sanchez himself. Letters to Sanchez from 1965-1969 contains plats for the school house property in Wanamaker, Pennsylvania, that Sanchez purchased for studio space but ultimately sold because the area became too industrialized.

The series is arranged alphabetically by subject and then chronologically. Letters with attachments are filed by the date of the most recent letter in the group, with attached material in reverse chronological order behind it.

Box 1, Folder 5	Exhibition Lists, 1967-1974, undated
Box 1, Folder 6-23	Letters to Sanchez, 1956-1964, 1970-1979
Box 1, Folder 24-26	Receipts for Purchase and Consignment, 1959, 1970-1977, undated
Box 1, Folder 27	Receipts, Miscellaneous, 1957, 1976-1978, undated

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## Series 3:: Photographs, 1922-1979, undated

(boxes 1-3; 51 folders)

This series contains primarily color snapshots, in addition to some black and white photographs, several negatives and slides, and a series of contact sheets. There are family and personal photographs; photographs taken on travels intended to be used as sources for artwork; and photographs of works of art by Sanchez. Family and personal photographs include two photographs of Sanchez with his family, including his father; photographs of Sanchez at the Fortuny Exposition in Madrid in 1964 and at a 1966 exhibition in New York City; snapshots of him on his travels; and photographs of his "father, Pepino, and girlfriend" standing by Paris posters of Sanchez's 1953 exhibition at Bernheim-Jeune in Paris.

Photographs are arranged by general subject category and then chronologically. Negatives can be found at the end of the series.

Box 1, Folder 28-29	Family and Personal Photographs, 1922-1960
Box 2, Folder 1-4	Family and Personal Photographs, 1964-1978
Box 2, Folder 5	Portraits of Sanchez, 1965, 1967 ( <i>contact sheets</i> )
Box 2	Sources for Artwork
Box 2, Folder 6	Brazil, circa 1950s-1960s
Box 2, Folder 7	Caribbean, circa 1950s-1970s
Box 2, Folder 8	Cuba, circa 1950s
Box 2, Folder 9-10	Mexico, circa 1960s
Box 2, Folder 11	Miscellaneous and Unknown Locations, circa 1950s-1970s
Box 2, Folder 12	Morocco, circa 1950s-1960s
Box 2, Folder 13	New England, circa 1960s
Box 2, Folder 14-15	New York, City, State, circa 1940s-1950s
Box 2, Folder 16	New York, Long Island, E.F. Hutton House, circa 1960s
Box 2, Folder 17	Pennsylvania, circa 1960s
Box 2, Folder 18	Postcards, undated



Box 2, Folder 19-24	Puerto Rico, circa 1850s-1960s
Box 2, Folder 25	Rhode Island, circa 1960s
Box 2, Folder 26	Texas, Galveston, circa 1960s
Box 2, Folder 27	Texas, Houston, Blaffer Hudson House, 1975
Box 2, Folder 28-29	U.S. Virgin Islands, St. Croix, circa 1950s-1960s
Box 2, Folder 30-33	U.S. Virgin Islands, St. Thomas, circa 1950s-1960s
Box 2, Folder 34-37	Photographs of Artwork, 1946-1956, undated
Box 3, Folder 1-6	Photographs of Artwork, 1958-1979
Box 3	Negatives
Box 3, Folder 7	Family, Personal, and Sources for Artwork, circa 1950s-1970s
Box 3, Folder 8-10	Morocco, 1972
Box 3, Folder 11	Photographs of Artwork, [1944], 1955
Box 3, Folder 12	Sanchez Working, undated

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## Series 4: Printed Material, 1950-1980, undated

*(boxes 3-4; 17 folders)*

This series contains exhibition announcements, press releases, catalogs, publications, and news clippings containing information about Sanchez, and relating to one-man exhibitions of his artwork and group exhibitions in which he participated.

Box 3, Folder 13-19      Announcements, Catalogs, and Reviews, 1950-1974, undated

Box 4, Folder 1-4      Announcements, Catalogs, and Reviews, 1975-1980

Box 4, Folder 5-10      Clippings, 1950s-1970s, undated

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## Series 5: Calendars, 1967-1976

*(boxes 4-5; 7 folders)*

This series contains eight day-book calendars with notations about appointments. There are no calendars for 1970 and 1971.

Box 4, Folder 11-12      Calendars, 1967-1968

Box 5, Folder 1-5        Calendars, 1969-1976

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## Series 6: Sketches, circa 1940-1979, undated

(boxes 5-6, sols 7-11, OV's 12-22, RD 23-24; 2.9 linear ft.)

This series contains hundreds of original sketches by Sanchez, both loose and in sketchbooks. The sketches are primarily in pencil, but some are in ink and some are colored and include layouts for posters, and several proofs for lithographs. In addition to basic sketches capturing Sanchez's impressions drawn in a variety of locations throughout the world, the development of Sanchez's work on certain subjects is documented more fully in large groups of sketches, such as those of Boston City Hall and of his illustrations for the book *Arte del Peru Colonial*.

The majority of the sketches are of buildings and of architectural and interior features of buildings, particularly windows and doorways. Additional subjects include landscapes, seascapes, cityscapes, flowers and plants, sunsets, and figure drawings. Many of the sketches have notations by Sanchez indicating the location in which they were made or the project they were associated with, and some are dated. Notations may also indicate the medium of artwork, or the name of the individual work, that a sketch was used for.

The series is organized into three subseries:

- 6.1: Sketchbooks, 1948-1976, undated
- 6.2: Loose Sketches, circa 1940-1979, undated
- 6.3: Oversized Loose Sketches, 1945-1979, undated

Wherever possible, sketches are arranged alphabetically according to locations or subjects identified by Sanchez, and then chronologically. Undated sketches have been placed at the beginning of the appropriate subject category; unidentified sketches are at the end of the appropriate subseries. Occasionally, subjects or locations may overlap, for example: sketches of doorways will be filed by location if one is noted on the sketch, but will otherwise be filed under "Unidentified Doorways."

### 6.1: Sketchbooks, 1948-1976, undated

Box 5, Folder 6	Becqui Island, Bus Terminal in New York, Sunsets in New York, 1975, undated (3 books)
Box 5, Folder 7	Brazil, 1958
Box 5, Folder 8	England, 1948 (2 books)
Box 5, Folder 9	Europe, 1948 (4 books)
Box 5, Folder 10	Morocco, 1972 (2 books)
Box 6, Folder 1	Morocco, 1972
Box 6, Folder 2	New York, Studio, 1953
Box 6, Folder 3	Puerto Rico, 1963-1964

(6 books)

- Box 6, Folder 4 Puerto Rico, Saba, St. Maarten, St. Thomas, 1965-1967  
(2 books)
- Box 6, Folder 5 Puerto Rico, San Juan, 1976, undated  
(2 books)
- Box 6, Folder 6 Sunsets in New York, 1975  
(2 books)
- Box 6, Folder 7 Sunsets in New York and Virgin Gorda, Ships, undated
- Box 6, Folder 8 Vermont, undated
- Box 6, Folder 9 Unidentified Sketchbooks, undated  
(4 books)

## 6.2: Loose Sketches, circa 1940-1979, undated

- Box 7, Folder 1 Barbados, 1955
- Box 7, Folder 2 Boats, Ships, 1974, undated
- Box 7, Folder 3 Bogota, 1969, 1971, undated
- Box 7, Folder 4 Capri, 1948
- Box 7, Folder 5 Cartagena, 1970-1971, undated
- Box 7, Folder 6 Connecticut, circa 1940
- Box 7, Folder 7 Cuba, 1946-1959, undated
- Box 7, Folder 8 Cuba, Near Havana, 1948-1959
- Box 7, Folder 9 Cuba, Teatro Marti, Havana, 1950
- Box 7, Folder 10 Delaware, 1946, undated
- Box 7, Folder 11 England, 1948
- Box 7, Folder 12 Flowers and Plants, 1956-1962, undated

Box 7, Folder 13	France, undated
Box 7, Folder 14	Grenada, 1953
Box 7, Folder 15	Haiti, undated
Box 8, Folder 1-2	Human Figure, 1949, undated
Box 8, Folder 3-8	Illustrations for <i>Arte del Peru Colonial</i> , circa 1951
Box 8, Folder 9	La Rochelle, undated
Box 8, Folder 10	Maine, undated
Box 8, Folder 11	Massachusetts, undated
Box 8, Folder 12	Morocco, 1972, 1978, undated
Box 8, Folder 13	New Hampshire, undated
Box 8, Folder 14	New Orleans, 1965, 1970, undated
Box 8, Folder 15	New York, Brooklyn, 1974-1975
Box 9, Folder 1-3	New York City, State, 1945-1950, 1978, undated
Box 9, Folder 4	[New York], Fisher's Island, 1963, 1979, undated
Box 9, Folder 5	New York, Glen Falls, John Ruge House, undated
Box 9, Folder 6	New York, Long Island, undated
Box 9, Folder 7-8	New York, Studio, 1960
Box 9, Folder 9	New York, Sunsets, 1975
Box 9, Folder 10	New York, World Trade Center, 1974-1976
Box 9, Folder 11	Pennsylvania, 1950, 1974, undated
Box 9, Folder 12	Pennsylvania, Schoolhouse Country Home Near Wanamaker, 1959
Box 9, Folder 13-14	Puerto Rico, 1963-1971, undated

Box 10, Folder 1	Rhode Island, Tiverton Flower Sketches, 1965
Box 10, Folder 2	Rio De Janeiro, 1957
Box 10, Folder 3	St. Barthélemy (St. Barts), undated
Box 10, Folder 4	St. Maarten, undated
Box 10, Folder 5-6	San Andres, 1971, undated
Box 10, Folder 7	San Luis, 1971
Box 10, Folder 8	South Carolina, Charleston, 1946, undated
Box 10, Folder 9	Spain, 1976
Box 10, Folder 10	Sunsets, 1976
Box 10, Folder 11	Tapestry Designs, 1944, undated
Box 10, Folder 12	Texas, 1967, undated
Box 10, Folder 13	Texas, Ranch Near Austin, 1959
Box 10, Folder 14	U.S. Virgin Islands, undated
Box 11, Folder 1	Vermont, undated
Box 11, Folder 2	Washington, D.C., undated
Box 11, Folder 3-10	Unidentified Architecture, 1940s-1979, undated
Box 11, Folder 11	Unidentified Doorways, undated
Box 11, Folder 12	Unidentified Interiors, undated
Box 11, Folder 13-14	Unidentified Landscapes and Seascapes, 1955-1976, undated
Box 11, Folder 15	Unidentified, Miscellaneous, undated
6.3: Oversized Loose Sketches, 1945-1979, undated	

Some of the categories found in this subseries repeat, and overlap with, those found in 6.4 but the sketches are larger and are therefore stored in oversized folders. The final entry in the subseries is out of sequence but has been separated because it represents several sketches of architecture that were too large to store in oversized folders.

Oversize 12	Boston City Hall Project, Working Sketches, 1969
Oversize 13	Boston City Hall Project, Working Sketches, 1969
Oversize 14	Boston City Hall Project, Working Sketches, 1969
Oversize 15	Christmas Card Ideas, undated
Oversize 15	Circus, 1969-1970, undated
Oversize 15	Cuba, 1950, undated
Oversize 16	"El Zaguán," 1968-1971, undated
Oversize 16	Fabric Design, undated
Oversize 16	Horizons, undated
Oversize 16	Illustrations for <i>Arte del Perú Colonial</i> , circa 1951
Oversize 17	New England, 1945
Oversize 17	New Orleans, 1968
Oversize 17	New York City, 1945-1950
Oversize 17	New York, Long Island, E. F. Hutton House, undated
Oversize 17	Phipps House, 1965
Oversize 18	Poster Designs, 1965, 1968, 1978, undated (includes original working sketch and finished poster for 1978 Sanchez exhibition at Williams College Museum of Art; also #20 of 50 posters for 1968 Sanchez exhibition at Associated American Artists, signed)
Oversize 18	Puerto Rico, 1964-1965, undated
Oversize 18	Puerto Rico Landscape Project, circa 1964



Oversize 18	St. Maarten, 1970
Oversize 18	Tapestry Designs, 1974
Oversize 18	Texas, Galveston, 1967, undated
Oversize 18	Trinidad, 1961
Oversize 19	Unidentified Architecture, 1950-1977, undated
Oversize 20	Unidentified Architecture, 1950-1977, undated
Oversize 21	Unidentified Architecture, 1950-1977, undated
Oversize 22	Unidentified Doorways, 1965-1979, undated
Oversize 22	Unidentified, Miscellaneous, 1972, 1979, undated
Roll 23; Roll 24	Architecture, Various, circa 1960s-1970s, undated

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## Series 7: Unprocessed Addition to the Emilio Sanchez Papers, 1949-2012

### 10.1 Linear feet (boxes 25-34, OV 35)

The unprocessed addition is 10.1 linear feet and contains biographical materials, correspondence, writings, photographs, works of art, subject files, printed materials, and scrapbooks. Biographical materials include address books, birth certificates, naturalization documents, and family-related documents. Correspondence is personal and professional and is with family, friends and museums. Writings are personal and include a log book and a typed transcription (possibly incomplete). Photographs are of Sanchez, his family, works of art, and source subjects for works of art, as well as CD-Roms of works of art. Some photographs assembled by Hugh Harrison, long-time friend of the Sanchez. Works of art include 10 sketchbooks and loose sketches. Also included are a drawing and 4 prints by Estrella Fonts, Sanchez's mother. Subject files include a print register, appraisals, mailing lists, and consignments. Printed material includes exhibition announcements and clippings. Also included are 3 scrapbooks, 2000-2012, that chronicle the history of the Emilio Sanchez Foundation's activities, including press releases, photographs, and exhibition-related material and hard drives of the foundation's databases in Filemaker format.

Box 25	Unprocessed Papers, 1949-2012
Box 26	Unprocessed Papers, 1949-2012
Box 27	Unprocessed Papers, 1949-2012
Box 28	Unprocessed Papers, 1949-2012
Box 29	Unprocessed Papers, 1949-2012
Box 30	Unprocessed Papers, 1949-2012
Box 31	Unprocessed Papers, 1949-2012
Box 32	Unprocessed Papers, 1949-2012
Box 33	Unprocessed Papers, 1949-2012
Box 34	Unprocessed Papers, 1949-2012
Oversize 35	Unprocessed Oversize Material, 1949-2012

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