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

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Collection Overview

Repository: Archives of American Art
Title: Emilio Sanchez papers
Identifier: AAA.sancemil
Date: 1922-2012
Extent: 18.1 Linear feet
Creator: Sanchez, Emilio, 1921-1999
Language: Multiple languages

The records are in English and Spanish.

English; Spanish

Summary: 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.

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.
Ownership and Literary Rights

The Emilio Sanchez papers are owned by the Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution. Literary rights as possessed by the donor have been dedicated to public use for research, study, and scholarship. The collection is subject to all copyright laws.

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 Cossio 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.

Scope and Content Note

The Emilio Sanchez papers 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.

**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.)

**Names and Subject Terms**

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

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

**Types of Materials:**
- Interviews
- Photographs
- Sketchbooks
- Sketches
Container Listing

(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
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 (contact sheets)
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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*(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

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
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 *Arte del Peru Colonial*, circa 1951
Box 8, Folder 9  La Rochelle, undated
Box 8, Folder 10  Maine, undated
Box 8, Folder 11  Massacusetts, 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 Rugge 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

Box OV 15  Christmas Card Ideas, undated

Box OV 15  Circus, 1969-1970, undated

Box OV 15  Cuba, 1950, undated

Box OV 16  "El Zaguan," 1968-1971, undated

Box OV 16  Fabric Design, undated

Box OV 16  Horizons, undated

Box OV 16  Illustrations for Arte del Perú Colonial, circa 1951

Box OV 17  New England, 1945

Box OV 17  New Orleans, 1968

Box OV 17  New York City, 1945-1950

Box OV 17  New York, Long Island, E. F. Hutton House, undated

Box OV 17  Phipps House, 1965

  (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)

Box OV 18  Puerto Rico, 1964-1965, undated

Box OV 18  Puerto Rico Landscape Project, circa 1964
Box OV 18  St. Maarten, 1970
Box OV 18  Tapestry Designs, 1974
Box OV 18  Texas, Galveston, 1967, undated
Box OV 18  Trinidad, 1961
Oversize 19  Unidentified Architecture, 1950-1977, undated
Oversize 20  Unidentified Architecture, 1950-1977, undated
Oversize 21  Unidentified Architecture, 1950-1977, undated
Box OV 22  Unidentified Doorways, 1965-1979, undated
Box OV 22  Unidentified, Miscellaneous, 1972, 1979, undated
Box 23;  Architecture, Various, circa 1960s-1970s, undated
Box 24

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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
Box OV 35 Unprocessed Oversize Material, 1949-2012

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