



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the René Santos Papers, 1970-1987, 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.

2019/01/29

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

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	René Santos papers
<b>Date:</b>	1970-1987
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.santrene
<b>Creator:</b>	Santos, René, 1954-1986
<b>Extent:</b>	0.9 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The papers of Puerto Rican born painter, photographer, and art history instructor René Santos measure 0.9 linear feet and date from 1970 to 1987. The papers document Santos's career through biographical records including one sound recording of Santos's memorial service, correspondence to Santos and sympathy letters upon Santos's death, writings and notes by Santos including one diary, printed material, and photographic material including slides of Santos with friends and his artwork.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The René Santos papers were donated by Brad Baker in 1994 and 1995.

### Processing Information

The collection was processed and a finding aid prepared by Sarah Mundy in 2019.

### Preferred Citation

René Santos papers, 1970-1987. 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 audiovisual records with no duplicate copies requires advance notice.

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## Biographical / Historical

René Santos (1954-1986) was a painter, photographer, and educator in New York, New York. Santos was born Carlos René Santos in Puerto Rico. He received a bachelor's degree from Tufts University in 1973 and a master's degree in 1976 from Hunter College where he studied with art critic Rosalind Krauss. His work is in the collections of The New Museum of Contemporary Art in New York and the Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Santos's work has been shown in numerous exhibitions including several held after he died in 1986.

## Scope and Contents

The papers of Puerto Rican born painter, photographer, and art history instructor René Santos measure 0.9 linear feet and date from 1970 to 1987. The papers document Santos's career through biographical records including one sound recording of Santos's memorial service, correspondence to Santos and sympathy letters upon Santos's death, writings and notes by Santos including one diary, printed material, and photographic material including slides of Santos with friends and his artwork.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged as one series.

- Series 1: René Santos papers, 1970-1987 (Boxes 1-2, OV 3; 0.9 linear feet)
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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

### Types of Materials:

Diaries  
Sound recordings

### Occupations:

Art teachers -- New York (State) -- New York  
Painters -- New York (State) -- New York  
Photographers -- New York (State) -- New York

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: René Santos papers, 1970-1987

#### 0.9 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2, OV 3)

Scope and Contents: Biographical material includes an address book, resume, passport and other official documents, a few financial records, Santos's 1972 yearbook, and one sound recording of Santos's memorial service. A small amount of correspondence is with William Olander, Allen Memorial Art Museum, Oberlin College, as well as sympathy letters to Brad Baker after Santos's death. Writings include one diary and writings on art, photography, and science by Santos, as well as notes taken by Santos possibly as a student and as a teacher. Also found are clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs, and a photocopy of a book segment about style. Photographs include slides of Santos traveling in Cape Cod and Nova Scotia with friends and at the Gray Gallery Dog Show, as well as and slides, photographs, and a negative of works of art by Santos.

Box 1, Folder 1-4	Biographical Records, 1970-1986 Includes 1 sound cassette of Santos's memorial service.
Box 1, Folder 5-6	Correspondence, circa 1979-1986
Box 1, Folder 7-8	Writings by Santos, circa 1976-1986 Language: The diary is in Spanish.
Box 2, Folder 1-3	Writings by Santos, circa 1976-1986
Box 2, Folder 4	Writings by Unidentified Authors, undated
Box 2, Folder 5-7	Printed Materials, 1981-1987, undated
Oversize 3	Printed Material, 1986
Box 2, Folder 8-10	Photographic Materials, 1979-1986

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