



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Roberto Sifuentes
papers, circa 1988-2006, bulk 1993-2000,
in the Archives of American Art

Ryan Evans

14 September 2018

Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Roberto Sifuentes papers
Identifier:	AAA.sifurobe
Date:	circa 1988-2006 (bulk 1993-2000)
Extent:	4.3 Linear feet 0.054 Gigabytes
Creator:	Sifuentes, Roberto, 1967-
Language:	English
Summary:	The papers of performance artist and educator Roberto Sifuentes measure 4.3 linear feet and date from circa 1988 to 2006. The collection documents Sifuentes' work as a professional artist and educator through biographical material and interviews; correspondence including emails; project files including project descriptions, documentation of individual productions, audio and video recordings, and components of works for multimedia projects; conference files documenting symposia and conference participation; articles, versions of performance scripts, and other writings; printed material including press clippings, promotional press packets, and source material; as well as photographic material documenting performances and social events.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The Roberto Sifuentes papers were donated by Roberto Sifuentes to the Archives of American Art in 2018.

Processing Information

The collection was processed and a finding aid prepared by Ryan Evans in 2018.

Preferred Citation

Roberto Sifuentes papers, circa 1988-2006, bulk 1993-2000. 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 recordings and born-digital records with no duplicate copy requires advance notice.

Conditions Governing Use

The Roberto Sifuentes 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 / Historical

Roberto Sifuentes, (born Los Angeles, 1967) is a Chicano performance artist and arts instructor at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. He completed his BA from Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut in 1989 and in 1993 founded La Pocha Nostra Performance Group with his career-long collaborator, Guillermo Gómez-Peña. La Pocha Nostra in its manifesto describes itself as a "trans-disciplinary arts organization...created out of our necessity to survive as Chicano artists in a racist Art World." Around 1992 Roberto began contributing as a collaborator and performer for performance works created by Gómez-Peña in collaboration with Coco Fusco, *Couple in the Cage* and *New World (B)order*. Sifuentes has continued his partnership with Gómez-Peña in creating new performance works and publications, as well touring widely to perform their works and deliver outreach programs including lectures and workshops.

Consistent with his work with La Pocha Nostra, Sifuentes has taken an activist sensibility and approach in incorporating stereotypical ritualistic and religious cultural imagery in his installations and performances, while engaging with emerging technologies. This juxtaposition between the futuristic and the traditional stereotype was reflected in his widely applied artistic persona Cybervato. Key works incorporating this persona include *Borderscape 2000*, *Temple of Confessions*, and *Mexterminator*. He has performed his works and contributed to symposia and conferences throughout the world at venues including National Review of Live Art, Glasgow; Center for Performance Research, Wales; Hemispheric Institute, New York University; Centro Cultural Recoleta, Buenos Aires; Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington DC; De Young Museum, San Francisco; and El Museo del Barrio in New York City.

Scope and Contents

The papers of performance artist and educator Roberto Sifuentes measure 4.3 linear feet and date from circa 1988 to 2006. The collection documents Sifuentes' work as a professional artist and educator through biographical material and interviews; correspondence including emails; project files including project descriptions, documentation of individual productions, audio and video recordings, and components of works for multimedia projects; conference files documenting symposia and conference participation; articles, versions of performance scripts, and other writings; printed material including press clippings, promotional press packets, and source material; as well as photographic material documenting performances and social events.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in 7 series:

- Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1990-2000 (0.2 linear feet; Box 1, 0.003 Gigabytes; ER01)
- Series 2: Correspondence, circa 1990-2000 (0.2 linear feet; Box 1, 0.004 Gigabytes; ER02-ER05)

- Series 3: Project Files, circa 1986-2000 (1.9 linear feet; Boxes 1-3, 0.051 Gigabytes; ER06-ER15, ER18-ER19)
- Series 4: Conference Files, circa 1995-2006 (0.2 linear feet; Box 3)
- Series 5: Writings, circa 1993-2000 (0.8 linear feet; Boxes 3-4, 0.002 Gigabytes, ER16-ER17)
- Series 6: Printed Material, circa 1993-2000 (0.9 linear feet; Boxes 4-5)
- Series 7: Photographic Material, circa 1990s (0.1 linear feet; Box 4)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Photographs
Sound recordings
Video recordings

Occupations:

Art teachers -- Illinois -- Chicago
Hispanic American artists--Illinois--Chicago
Mexican American artists--Illinois--Chicago
Performance artists--Illinois--Chicago

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1990-2000

0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

0.003 Gigabytes (ER01)

Biographical material includes narrative biographies, interviews with Sifuentes as well as his artistic persona Cybervato in the form of audio recordings, and materials relating to work in the entertainment industry including film crew call sheets and a reading for a voiceover reel on audiocassette. Digital biographical material includes biographies and a rent statement.

Box 1, Folder 1	Biography, circa 1995
Box 1, Folder 2	Innovative Arts Management, Biography and Project Descriptions, circa 1999
Box 1, Folder 3	Identification, Membership Cards, circa 1990s
Box 1, Folder 4	Business Card Book (including Membership Cards), circa 1990s
Box 1, Folder 5	Tenancy, circa 1990s
Box 1, Folder 6	World Cup 1994, 1994
Box 1, Folder 7	<i>Silence of the Hams</i> Call Sheets, 1993
Box 1, Folder 8	Canada Immigration Centre, 1994
Box 1, Folder 9	Fictitious Business Registration (blank), circa 1990s
Box 1, Folder 10	Travel Documents, circa 1996
Box 1, Folder 11	Interview, WDET-FM (Aug. 26, 1994), 1994 <i>1 Sound cassette</i>
Box 1, Folder 12	Interview, WBAI with Matthew Finch (Jul. 1997), 1997 <i>1 sound cassettes (dat)</i>
Box 1, Folder 13	1-900 Immorality Reading, Voice-over Reel with Kitchen Sisters, circa 1995-2000 <i>1 Sound cassette</i>
Box 1, Folder 14	Interview by David Hunt, circa 1995-1998 <i>1 interview transcript</i>

Folder ER01

Miscellaneous Digital Biographical Material, 1994, 1995
0.003 Gigabytes (3 computer files)

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Series 2: Correspondence, circa 1990-2000

*0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)**0.004 Gigabytes (ER02-ER05)*

Correspondence is arranged alphabetically, and includes contact information for correspondents including a press list, as well as faxes and emails. While some professional correspondence appears in the series, the majority is found in the Project Files.

Box 1, Folder 15	A, circa 1994
Box 1, Folder 16	B, 1996, 1997
Box 1, Folder 17	C, 1995
Box 1, Folder 18	F, 1993, 1996
Box 1, Folder 19	L, 1997
Box 1, Folder 20	M, 1992-1997
Box 1, Folder 21	P, 1996
Box 1, Folder 22	S, 1995, 1997
Box 1, Folder 23	V, 1995
Box 1, Folder 24	W, 1994, 1996
Box 1, Folder 25	Z, 1994, 1997
Box 1, Folder 26	Family Correspondence, 1997
Box 1, Folder 27	Unidentified/First Name Only, circa 1995-2000 <i>Includes 1 videocassette (vhs) containing overhead projector and puppet rehearsal performances for a show called Rex Rocket, at least partially without sound.</i>
Box 1, Folder 28	Press Contacts, circa 1996
Box 1, Folder 29	Telephone Contacts, circa 1990s
Box 1, Folder 30	Faxes, Outgoing, circa 1992-1995
Folder ER02	Faxes (Digital Files), Outgoing , 1994, 1995

0.001 Gigabytes (14 computer files)

Folder ER03 Email 1, Digital Files, 1996
0.001 Gigabytes (172 computer files)

Folder ER04 Email 2, Digital Files, 1996-1997
0.001 Gigabytes (329 computer files)

Folder ER05 Email, Guillermo Gómez-Peña (Digital Files), 1995
0.001 Gigabytes (13 computer files)

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Series 3: Project Files, circa 1986-2000

1.9 Linear feet (Boxes 1-3)

0.051 Gigabytes (ER06-ER15; ER18-ER19)

Project files include project descriptions, documentation of individual productions at various institutions including audio and video recordings, and components of works in the form of audio and video recordings, as well as elements of digital multimedia projects. Scripts and articles related to each of these projects can also be found in the Writings Series.

Jet of Blood

Box 1, Folder 33 St. Mark's Poetry Project (with Bob Holman), circa 1988
3 Sound cassettes

Couple in the Cage

Box 1, Folder 34 Cage Specifications, Technical Requirements, circa 1992

Box 1, Folder 35 Donation Box, circa 1992

Box 1, Folder 36 Docent Text, circa 1992

Box 1, Folder 37 Text Panels, circa 1992

Box 1, Folder 38 Cage Tape, circa 1992
1 Sound cassette

The New World (B)order

Box 1, Folder 39 "The Year of the White Bear" The Field Museum of Natural History, Randolph Street Gallery (Dec. 1992 - Feb. 1993), circa 1992-1993

Box 1, Folder 40 UC Santa Cruz Performing Arts Center (Apr. 1993), circa 1992-1993

Box 1, Folder 41 Northwest Film Center (Apr. 1993), 1993

Box 1, Folder 42 Internationales Sommer Theater, Hamburg (July 1993), circa 1993

Box 1, Folder 43 ¡Mexico: A Cultural Tapestry! Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (Oct. 1993), circa 1992-1993

Box 1, Folder 44 X'teresa Arte Alternativo, Mexico City (Oct. 1993), 1993

Box 1, Folder 45 University of Florida, Gainesville (Nov. 1993), 1993

Box 1, Folder 46 Grantmakers in the Arts Conference (Nov. 1993), 1993

Box 1, Folder 47 Dance Theater Workshop (Nov. 1993), circa 1993

Box 1, Folder 48 Scottsdale Center for the Arts (Feb. 1994), circa 1993-1994

Box 1, Folder 49 Banff Centre (Feb. 1994), circa 1994

Box 1, Folder 50 Museum of Fine Arts/Exile Santa Fe (Feb. 1994), circa 1994

Box 1, Folder 51 Cleveland Center for Contemporary Art (Mar. 1994), circa 1994

Box 1, Folder 52 Pittsburgh Cultural Trust (June 1994), 1994

Folder ER06 Miscellaneous Digital Files, 1995, 1996
0.001 Gigabytes (3 computer files)

Shame-man Meets El Mexi-Can't

Box 1, Folder 53 Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History (June 1993), circa 1993

Box 1, Folder 54 Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum (Apr. 1994), circa 1994

Folder ER07 Miscellaneous Digital Files, 1994, 1995
0.001 Gigabytes (13 computer files)

Chicano-Vivant

Folder ER08 Miscellaneous Digital Files, 1994, 1995
0.001 Gigabytes (11 computer files)

Temple of Confessions

Box 1, Folder 55 Description and Specifications, circa 1994

Box 1, Folder 56 Publication, Power House Books, 1996

Box 1, Folder 57 Interview Questions, 1996

Box 1, Folder 58 Website, Latin American Youth Center, 1996

Box 1, Folder 59 Statements Incorporated and Derived From Work, circa 1996

Box 1, Folder 60 Confessions, circa 1994-1996
 2 *Sound tape reels*

Box 1, Folder 61 Final Mix, circa 1994-1996
 1 *Sound tape reel*

Box 1, Folder 62 Recordings, circa 1994-1996
 2 *Sound cassettes*

Box 2, Folder 1 Scottsdale Center for the Arts (Feb. 1994), circa 1994

Box 2, Folder 2-4 Pittsburgh Cultural Trust (June 1994), circa 1994

Box 2, Folder 5-6 (Including *Borderama*) Detroit Institute of Arts (Oct. - Nov. 1994), circa 1994

Box 2, Folder 7 Rhode Island College Art Center (Oct. 1995), circa 1995

Box 2, Folder 8 Corcoran Gallery of Art (Oct. 1996), circa 1996-1997

Folder ER09 Miscellaneous Digital Files, 1994-1996
 0.001 *Gigabytes (53 computer files)*

Borderama

Box 2, Folder 9 Hostos Culture and Arts Program (Oct. 1994), circa 1994

Folder ER10 Miscellaneous Digital Files, 1994-1996
 0.001 *Gigabytes (9 computer files)*

The Cruci-fiction Project

Box 2, Folder 10 Headlands Center for the Arts (Apr. 1994), circa 1994

Folder ER11 Miscellaneous Digital Files, 1994
 0.001 *Gigabytes (2 computer files)*

Terreno Peligroso

Box 2, Folder 11 UCLA World Arts & Culture (Feb. 1995), circa 1995

Dangerous Border Game

Box 2, Folder 12 Project Description, circa 1995

- Box 2, Folder 13 Wabash College (Apr. 1995), circa 1995
Includes 1 sound cassette
- Box 2, Folder 14 GALA Hispanic Theater (June 1995), 1995
- Box 2, Folder 15 New Mexico State University (Sep. 1995), 1995
- Box 2, Folder 16 Johnson County Community College Residency (Sep. 1995), circa 1995
- Box 2, Folder 17 Solo Mio Theatre Festival (Sep. 1995), circa 1995
- Box 2, Folder 18 Theater Artaud (Jan. - Feb. 1996), 1996
- Box 2, Folder 19-20 Washington Performing Arts Society Residency (Mar. 1996), circa 1995-1996
- Box 2, Folder 21 California State Summer School for the Arts (July 1996), 1996
- Box 2, Folder 22 Presentation House/ Western Front, Vancouver (Sep. 1996), 1996-1998
- Box 2, Folder 23 Yale Repertory Theater (Feb. 1997), circa 1996-1997
- Folder ER12 Miscellaneous Digital Files, 1994-1996
0.001 Gigabytes (17 computer files)
- Tribal Slam*
- Box 2, Folder 24 Holter Museum (May 1996), 1996
- Borderscape 2000*
- Box 2, Folder 25 Project Description, 1997
- Box 2, Folder 26 Sound Cues, circa 1997-1999
8 Sound cassettes
- Box 2, Folder 27-28 Trinity College, UMass Amherst, Magic Theatre, circa 1999
- Box 2, Folder 29 UMass Amherst Theater (July 1997), circa 1997
- Mexterminator*
- Box 3, Folder 1 Movies Collage (full tape loop), circa 1996-1998

- Box 3, Folder 2 *Mexterminator II*, Neutral Ground (Sep. 1997), 1997
- Box 3, Folder 3 *Mexterminator II*, Atlantic Center for the Arts Residency (Nov. 1998), 1997
- Folder ER19 Miscellaneous Digital Files, 1997
0.001 Gigabytes (2 computer files)
- Friendly Cannibals/Artificial Savages*
- Box 3, Folder 4 Arts Festival Atlanta (Sep. 1997), 1997
- LA Indian Queen*
- Box 3, Folder 5 Video Recordings, circa 1999
3 videocassettes (vhs)
- Box 3, Folder 6 Contract Planner (Various Projects), circa 1995-1996
- Folder ER18 Miscellaneous Contracts, Digital Files, 1993-1995
0.001 Gigabytes (14 computer files)
- Box 3, Folder 7 Miscellaneous Project Documents, circa 1993-1998
- Folder ER13 Miscellaneous Project Documents, Digital Files, 1994-1996
0.001 Gigabytes (79 computer files)
- Box 3, Folder 8 Various Project Documents
10 computer_disc_3.5
- Box 3, Folder 9 Various Multimedia Projects (*Mexterminator*, *Cyber-Chicano*, *Color Cycling*,
Cybervato, *Go Zapata Go*), 1998
3 electronic discs (cd)
Includes born-digital records, see ER14-ER15
- Folder ER14 Instructions for *Mexterminator* Multimedia Project, 1998
0.001 Gigabytes (1 computer file)
- Folder ER15 Various Multimedia Files for *Go Zapata, Go*, 1995, 1998
0.048 Gigabytes (10 computer files)

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Series 4: Conference Files, circa 1995-2006

0.2 Linear feet (Box 3)

Conference files reflect Sifuentes' participation in various symposia and conferences. Included are conference programs, planning documents, and some notes.

Box 3, Folder 10	National Performance Network Annual Meeting (Nov. 1995), circa 1995
Box 3, Folder 11	"Performance, Tourism, and Identity" Theater Conference, Center for Performance Research (Sep. 1996), 1996
Box 3, Folder 12	Performance Art, Culture, and Pedagogy Symposium (Nov. 1996), 1996
Box 3, Folder 13	Performance and Technology Conference, Atlanta (Apr. 1997), 1997
Box 3, Folder 14	"Performance Sites: Intersecting Art, Technology and the Body" Penn State (Oct. 2000), 2000
Box 3, Folder 15	"Intersection IV: Regenerations" Conference and Theater Festival, UMass Amherst (Apr. 2006), 2006

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Series 5: Writings, circa 1993-2000

0.8 Linear feet (Boxes 3-4)

0.002 Gigabytes (ER16-ER17)

Writings include notebooks, draft articles, and various versions of performance scripts and project descriptions.

Box 3, Folder 16	<i>Borderscape 2000</i> Draft (Mar. 1997), 1997
Box 3, Folder 17	<i>Borderscape 2000</i> Working Script, circa 1997-1999
Box 3, Folder 18	<i>Borderscape 2000</i> Wales Draft (Apr. 1999), 1999
Box 3, Folder 19	Catalog texts by Guillermo Gómez-Peña, circa 1995
Box 3, Folder 20	<i>Chicano-Vivant</i> Project Description, Spanish (July 1994), 1994
Box 3, Folder 21	<i>Crossing Borders</i> Documentary Script, circa 1994-1998
Box 3, Folder 22	<i>Cyberbarrio Pages</i> Houston Performances Draft (June 1997), 1997
Box 3, Folder 23	<i>Dangerous Border Game</i> Script (Dec. 1995), 1995
Box 3, Folder 24	<i>El Existentialist Mojado</i> Script, circa 1990s
Box 3, Folder 25	"Freefalling Towards a Borderless Future", circa 1995
Box 3, Folder 26	"Mexican Beasts and Living Santos" (Oct. 1995), 1995
Box 3, Folder 27	<i>El Mexterminator I (Ethno-Cyborgs and Artificial Savages)</i> Proposal, circa 1997
Box 3, Folder 28	<i>Mexterminator II</i> Script (Sep. 1996), 1996
Box 3, Folder 29	<i>El Naftazteca</i> Television Script, iEar Studios, 1994
Box 3, Folder 30	<i>New World (B)order</i> Script, circa 1993
Box 3, Folder 31	<i>New World (B)order</i> Program Notes, circa 1993-1995
Box 3, Folder 32	<i>New World (B)order</i> Script, Dance Theater Workshop Version, circa 1993
Box 3, Folder 33	<i>New World (B)order</i> Working Draft of Script (June 1993), 1993
Box 3, Folder 34	<i>New World (B)order</i> Mexico Script (Oct. 1993), 1993

Box 3, Folder 35	"La Pocha Nostra Cafe Presents Nouvelle Mexican Art" Menu, circa 1997-2000
Box 3, Folder 36	<i>Shame-Man</i> Final Script (Apr. 1994), 1994
Box 3, Folder 37	"Techno Confessional, NYC" Questionnaire, circa 1994-1998
Box 3, Folder 38	"Techno Dioramas (Ethno-Cyborgs & Artificial Savages)" Lecture, circa 1997
Box 3, Folder 39	<i>Temple of Confessions</i> Catalog Draft, circa 1994-1995
Box 3, Folder 40	<i>Temple of Confessions</i> Radio Script, circa 1994-1998
Box 3, Folder 41	Publication Source Texts, Visuals, circa 1990s
Box 3, Folder 42-43	Unidentified Scripts, circa 1990s
Box 4, Folder 1-2	Unidentified Scripts, circa 1990s
Box 4, Folder 3	Notes, circa 1990s
Box 4, Folder 4-7	Notebooks, circa 1995-1998
Folder ER16	Various Essay Drafts by Guillermo Gómez-Peña, 1995, 1996 <i>0.001 Gigabytes (11 computer files)</i>
Folder ER17	(Roger) Bartra Essay, 1996 <i>0.001 Gigabytes (1 computer file)</i>

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Series 6: Printed Material, circa 1993-2000

0.9 Linear feet (Boxes 4-5)

Printed material includes press clippings, promotional press packets, and source material including popular culture magazines and comic books.

Box 4, Folder 8	Invitations and Programs, circa 1993-1998
Box 4, Folder 9	Clippings, circa 1995-1997
Box 4, Folder 10	<i>Action Pursuit Games Magazine</i> , 1997
Box 5, Folder 1	<i>Biombo Negro Journal</i> , 1994
Box 5, Folder 2	Cardoso Flea Circus, Inscribed Poster, circa 1995
Box 4, Folder 11-12	Comic Books, circa 1993-1997 Comic books include <i>Chesty Sanchez</i> , <i>Lobo</i> , <i>Texasylum</i> , <i>Star Wars X-Wing</i> , <i>Bobby Ruckers</i> , and titles by Lance Tooks.
Box 4, Folder 13	<i>Diaspora Magazine</i> , 1994
Box 4, Folder 14	<i>Frontera Magazine</i> , 1995, 1996
Box 4, Folder 15	"The Latino Boom...Boom!!" <i>The Broken Line Journal</i> , 1989
Box 4, Folder 16	<i>Lowrider Magazine</i> , <i>Lowrider Arte</i> , 1997
Box 4, Folder 17	<i>New World (B)order</i> Publication Promotion, 1996
Box 5, Folder 3-5	Newsprint Publications, 1993-1996
Box 4, Folder 18	Press Packets, circa 1994-1996
Box 4, Folder 19	<i>Proceso Magazine</i> , 1996
Box 4, Folder 20	<i>Rap Pages Magazine</i> , 1997
Box 4, Folder 21	<i>Rungh Magazine</i> , 1995
Box 4, Folder 22	<i>Soldier of Fortune Magazine</i> , 1997
Box 4, Folder 23	<i>Surreal Magazine</i> , 1994

Box 4, Folder 24-26 Miscellaneous Printed Material, circa 1990s

Box 4, Folder 27 Seminar and Workshop Music Compilations, circa 1993-1998
2 Sound cassettes

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Series 7: Photographic Material, circa 1990s

0.1 Linear feet (Box 4)

Photographic material includes mostly snapshots with some contact sheets documenting performances and social events.

Box 4, Folder 28	Photographs of the Artist, circa 1990s
Box 4, Folder 29	Argentina, circa 1993
Box 4, Folder 30	Performance- El Mexterminator, Cybervato, circa 1995-1998
Box 4, Folder 31	Unidentified Album (Banff Centre and Others), circa 1994
Box 4, Folder 32	Unidentified Photographs, circa 1990s
Box 4, Folder 33	Contact Sheets, circa 1990s
Box 4, Folder 34	Photocopies, circa 1990s

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