



Smithsonian  
*Archives of American Art*

A Finding Aid to the Antonio Sotomayor Papers,  
circa 1920-1988, in the Archives of American Art

Stephanie Ashley

2002

Archives of American Art  
750 9th Street, NW  
Victor Building, Suite 2200  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
<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>	Antonio Sotomayor papers
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.sotoanto
<b>Date:</b>	circa 1920-1988
<b>Extent:</b>	1.6 Linear feet
<b>Creator:</b>	Sotomayor, Antonio, 1904-
<b>Language:</b>	English
<b>Summary:</b>	The collection documents the career of painter and illustrator, Antonio Sotomayor, his interest in Latin American art and artists, and his association with the San Francisco arts community. Materials found in the collection include letters, writings, sketches and sketchbooks, printed material and photographs.

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## Administrative Information

### Provenance

The Antonio Sotomayor papers were donated to the Archives of American Art by Grace Sotomayor in 1998.

### Alternative Forms Available

The collection is available on 35 mm microfilm reels 4792-4793 at the Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan. Researchers should note that the arrangement of the material described in the container inventory does not reflect the arrangement of the collection on microfilm.

### Processing Information

The collection was processed by Kim Wheeler in 1993.

### Preferred Citation

Antonio Sotomayor papers, circa 1920-1988. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions on Access

The collection is open for research. Patrons must use microfilm copy.

## Ownership and Literary Rights

The Antonio Sotomayor 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.

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## Biographical Note

Antonio Sotomayor was born in Bolivia and came to San Francisco in 1923. He was educated at the Escuela de Belleas Arts in La Paz and the Hopkins Institute of Art in San Francisco. Primarily known for his murals and paintings, Sotomayor was also an illustrator, caricaturist, designer, ceramicist, and educator. Over the course of his career his work was exhibited in the United States, France, Italy, Spain, Mexico, and South America and he became known as the popular "artist laureate" of San Francisco where he lived with his wife, Grace. He died of cancer in 1985 at the age of 82.

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## Scope and Content Note

The collection consists primarily of correspondence, writings, artwork, printed material, and photographs documenting Sotomayor's career, his interest in Latin American art and artists, and his association with the San Francisco arts community.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged as six series:

- Series 1: Correspondence, 1931-1988, undated (box 1, 21 folders)
  - Series 2: Writings, 1932-1946, undated (box 1, 11 folders)
  - Series 3: Artwork, 1935, undated (box 1, 23 folders)
  - Series 4: Printed Material, 1935-1987 (boxes 1-2, 12 folders)
  - Series 5: Photographs, circa 1920-1984, undated (box 2, 13 folders)
  - Series 6: Oversized Material, 1941, 1958, undated (2 OV folders)
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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:

Art, Modern -- 20th century -- California -- San Francisco  
Caricatures and cartoons  
Cartoonists -- California -- San Francisco  
Hispanic American artists  
Illustration  
Illustrators -- California -- San Francisco  
Mural painting and decoration -- 20th century  
Muralists -- California -- San Francisco

Painters -- California -- San Francisco  
Works of art

Types of Materials:

Photographs  
Sketchbooks  
Sketches

Names:

Delphic Studios  
Entenza, John, 1903-  
Farr, Fred, 1914-1973  
Franco, Johan, 1908-  
Fried, Alexander, 1902-1988  
Gerstle, William Lewis, 1868-1947  
Labaudt, Lucien, 1880-1943  
Little, Philip, 1857-1942  
Long, Emilie  
Morley, Grace, 1900-1985  
Moya del Pino, Jose, 1891-1969  
Oldfield, Otis, 1890-1969  
Orozco, José Clemente, 1883-1949  
Pan American Union  
Pflueger, Timothy Ludwig, 1892-1946  
Reed, Alma M.  
Rivera, Diego, 1886-1957  
Robinson, Elmer E. (Elmer Edwin), b. 1894  
Salinger, Jehanne Bietry  
Salinger, Pierre  
Sauer, Carl Ortwin, 1889-  
Sotomayor, Grace  
Von Hagen, Victor Wolfgang, 1908-1985

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Correspondence and Biographical Material, 1931-1988, undated

*(box 1, 21 folders)*

This series contains correspondence relating to Sotomayor's mural commissions, paintings and caricatures, illustrations for various publications, exhibitions at museums and galleries, and lectures. Correspondents include John Entenza, Johan Franco, Emilie Long, Grace L. McCann Morley of the San Francisco Museum of Art, José Moya del Pino, José Clemente Orozco, the Pan American Union, Alma Reed of the Delphic Studios, San Francisco mayor Elmer Robinson, Carl Sauer, Grace Sotomayor, and ethnologist Wolfgang von Hagen. There is also a folder of biographical material containing lists of some of Sotomayor's work and exhibitions from the 1920s to circa 1963.

Correspondence and biographical materials are on reel 4792.

Box 1, Folder 1-9	Correspondence, 1931-1973, 1988, undated
Box 1, Folder 10-14	Correspondence Re: Exhibitions and Lectures, 1938-1947
Box 1, Folder 15-20	Correspondence Re: Book Illustrations, Magazines and Newspapers, 1938-1948
Box 1, Folder 21	Biographical Material, circa 1963

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## Series 2: Writings, 1932-1946, undated

(box 1, 11 folders)

This series contains two notebooks of biographical notes on Latin American artists, manuscripts and copies of manuscripts on Hispanic American artists and caricature, and articles and lectures by Sotomayor. There are also writings by others on Sotomayor, and the transcript of an interview of Sotomayor conducted by Grace Moreley regarding Latin American Art.

Writings are on reel 4792.

Box 1	Writings by Sotomayor
Box 1, Folder 22	Notebooks (in Spanish), undated (2 <i>notebooks</i> )
Box 1, Folder 23	"Hispanic American Art," undated
Box 1, Folder 24	Lecture to the Sigma Delta Pi, undated
Box 1, Folder 25	"Caricature and American Caricaturists," 1941
Box 1, Folder 26	Newspaper Articles, 1932-1933, undated
Box 1, Folder 27	Radio Interview Transcript (in Spanish and English), circa 1939
Box 1	Writings by Others
Box 1, Folder 28	"Sotomayor" by Joe Danysh, undated
Box 1, Folder 29	Press Release by Edward Perkins, undated
Box 1, Folder 30	"Bolivia Speaks in the Art of Antonio Sotomayor," by Jehane Biétry Salinger, undated
Box 1, Folder 31	"Antonio Sotomayor" for <i>Bulletin of the Pan American Union</i> , by Jehane Biétry Salinger, 1933
Box 1, Folder 32	"Sotomayor, Pintor de Bolivia" for <i>Bulletin of the Pan American Union</i> , by José Gómez Sicre, 1946

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## Series 3: Artwork, 1935, undated

(box 1, 23 folders)

This series contains 130 sketches and 35 sketchbooks, mostly containing travel sketches done in South America, the Middle East, and Europe, particularly Italy. One volume contains caricatures of prominent architects. Sotomayor's mock up for the unpublished *Where San Francisco Dines* by Collier Connell can also be found here. See also Series 6: Oversized Material.

Artwork is on reels 4792-4793.

Box 1, Folder 33	Loose Sketches, undated
Box 1, Folder 34	Loose Travel Sketches, Europe, undated
Box 1, Folder 35	Sketchbook of Travel Sketches, Europe, undated (2 sketchbooks)
Box 1, Folder 36-39	Sketchbook of Travel Sketches, Italy, undated (7 sketchbooks)
Box 1, Folder 40	Sketchbook of Travel Sketches, Middle East, undated
Box 1, Folder 41-45	Sketchbook of Travel Sketches, South America, undated (8 sketchbooks)
Box 1, Folder 46	Sketchbook of Travel Sketches, California, undated (2 sketchbooks)
Box 1, Folder 47	Sketchbook, "AIA Building Production Exhibition," undated
Box 1, Folder 48-53	Sketchbooks, Miscellaneous, undated (11 sketchbooks)
Box 1, Folder 54	Book of Ink Drawings/Illustrations, undated
Box 1, Folder 55	Mock Up of Illustrations for Book <i>Where San Francisco Dines</i> by Collier Connell, 1935
Box 1, Folder 56	Artwork by Others, undated

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## Series 4: Printed Material, 1935-1987

(boxes 1-2, 12 folders)

This series contains clippings, exhibition catalogs and announcements, and several publications containing illustrations by Sotomayor.

Printed material is on reel 4793.

Box 1, Folder 57-58	Clippings, circa 1942-1987
Box 2, Folder 1	Exhibition Catalog, San Francisco Museum of Art, 1935
Box 2, Folder 2	Exhibition Catalog, M.H. de Young Memorial Museum, 1943
Box 2, Folder 3	Exhibition Catalog, Cincinnati Art Museum, 1945
Box 2, Folder 4	Exhibition Catalogs and Announcements, 1946-1978, undated
Box 2	Publication Illustrations
Box 2, Folder 5	<i>The Coast</i> , Sept., Oct., 1938
Box 2, Folder 6	<i>The Coast</i> , Feb., Oct., Dec., 1939
Box 2, Folder 7	<i>Modern Music</i> , 1945
Box 2, Folder 8	<i>La Revue Moderne</i> , 1955
Box 2, Folder 9	Publications, <i>The Coast</i> and <i>Saturday Review</i> , 1939, 1953
Box 2, Folder 10	Publications, <i>The Kerlan Collection</i> , <i>Walter Library</i> , <i>University of Minnesota</i> , 1971

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## Series 5: Photographs, circa 1920-1984, undated

*(box 2, 13 folders)*

Photographs found here include portraits of Sotomayor, and photographs of the artist with family and friends, including Grace Sotomayor, Fred Farr, Al Fried, William Gerstle, Lucien Labaudt, Philip Little, José Moya Del Pino, Otis Odfield, Timothy Pflueger, Diego Rivera, Pierre Salinger. There are also photographs of Sotomayor with members of the Pan American Union and the Bohemian Club, and of artwork, including some in the Sotomayor residence. See also Series 6: Oversized Material.

Photographs are on reel 4793.

Box 2, Folder 11-12	Portraits of Sotomayor, 1924-1984, undated
Box 2, Folder 13-15	Family and Friends, circa 1920-1983, undated
Box 2, Folder 16	Scrapbook of Family and Friends (loose pages), circa 1947
Box 2, Folder 17	Group Photographs, 1974-1983, undated
Box 2, Folder 18-21	Photographs of Artwork, 1952-1983, undated
Box 2, Folder 22	Photographs of Artwork in Sotomoyor Residence, circa 1952
Box 2, Folder 23	Photograph of Bathroom Rug by Grace Sotomayor, undated

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## Series 6: Oversized Material, 1941, 1958, undated

*(2 OV folders)*

This series contains sketches, an exhibition poster, and several oversized photographs of artwork by Sotomayor and of Sotomayor with friends (duplicate of photograph in Series 5: Photographs).

Oversized material is on reels 4792-4793.

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| Box OV 3 | Ink Drawing, "Peace is Sharing," undated                     |
| Box OV 3 | Sketch of Union Square Office Mural and Related Letter, 1958 |
| Box OV 4 | Exhibition Poster for Illinois Art Gallery, undated          |
| Box OV 4 | Oversized Photographs, 1941, undated                         |

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