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

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Collection Overview

Repository: Archives of American Art
Title: Antonio Sotomayor papers
Identifier: AAA.sotoanto
Date: circa 1920-1988
Extent: 1.7 Linear Feet
Creator: Sotomayor, Antonio, 1904-
Language: English
Summary: 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.

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 microfilm reels 4792-4793. The microfilm is available for interlibrary loan.

Processing Information
The collection was processed by Kim Wheeler in 1993.

Preferred Citation

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.
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.

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.

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)

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
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 notebooks)

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 Bulletin of the Pan American Union, by Jehane Biétry Salinger, 1933

Box 1, Folder 32
"Sotomayor, Pintor de Bolivia" for Bulletin of the Pan American Union, by José Goméz 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 *Where San Francisco Dines* by Collier Connell, 1935
Box 1, Folder 56  Artwork by Others, undated

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(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 The Coast, Sept., Oct., 1938

Box 2, Folder 6 The Coast, Feb., Oct., Dec., 1939

Box 2, Folder 7 Modern Music, 1945

Box 2, Folder 8 La Revue Moderne, 1955

Box 2, Folder 9 Publications, The Coast and Saturday Review, 1939, 1953

Box 2, Folder 10 Publications, The Kerlan Collection, Walter Library, University of Minnesota, 1971
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 Sotomayor Residence, circa 1952
Box 2, Folder 23  Photograph of Bathroom Rug by Grace Sotomayor, undated
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.

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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