



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Philip Stein Papers
Regarding David Alfaro Siqueiros,
1933-2012, in the Archives of American Art

Harriet E. Shapiro

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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

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Philip Stein papers regarding David Alfaro Siqueiros
Identifier:	AAA.steiphil
Date:	1933-2012
Extent:	3.8 Linear feet 3.88 Gigabytes
Creator:	Stein, Philip, 1919-2009
Language:	The collection is in English and Spanish.
Summary:	The papers of muralist, writer, and activist Philip Stein regarding the Mexican muralist David Alfaro Siqueiros measure 3.8 linear feet and 3.88 GB and date from 1933 to 2012. The papers reflect Stein's relationship with Siqueiros as an art assistant and their shared commitment to leftist politics. Much of the material relates to Stein's book <i>Siqueiros, His Life and Work</i> (1994) and his first book <i>The Mexican Murals</i> (1984). Found are research materials, correspondence, interviews, printed and digital material, photographic materials, video and film recordings, writings about and by David Alfaro Siqueiros, and materials concerning Stein as a painter.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The Philip Stein papers regarding David Alfaro Siqueiros were donated to the Archives of American Art in 2015 by Anne Stein, daughter of Philip Stein.

Processing Information

This collection was processed and a finding aid prepared in 2015 by Harriet E. Shapiro. Motion picture film reels were inspected and re-housed in 2016 with funding provided by the Smithsonian Collections Care and Preservation Fund. Born-digital materials were processed by Kirsi Ritosalmi-Kisner in 2019 with funding from Smithsonian Collection Care and Preservation Fund.

Preferred Citation

Philip Stein papers regarding David Alfaro Siqueiros, 1933-2012. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

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Biographical / Historical

Artist, author and political activist, Philip Stein (1919-2009), also called "Estano," lived and worked in New York City, Mexico, and Spain. Stein worked as an assistant to muralist David Alfaro Siqueiros. Both men were committed to the Mexican Mural School of new-realism, painting exterior murals rather than easel paintings so art could be public and directed to the masses.

Stein was born in Newark, New Jersey and was a mostly self-taught artist, occasionally studying at local art schools. He served in the armed forces during World War II as a meteorologist, seeing action throughout Europe. After the war, he moved to California to paint movie sets. In 1948, Stein and his wife Gertrude moved to Mexico where he studied art on the GI Bill at The School of Fine Arts of San Miguel de Allende. There he met Siqueiros, an ardent communist, who had attempted to assassinate Leon Trotsky. Stein worked with Siqueiros on several murals in Mexico until Siqueiros' death in 1974.

Between 1953 and 1993 Stein occasionally exhibited in Mexico, New York City and Spain. One of Stein's best known murals is at the Village Vanguard club in New York City. His biography of Siqueiros, *Siqueiros, His Life and Work* was published in 1994. Stein died at home in Manhattan in 2009 at age 90.

Scope and Contents

The papers of muralist, writer, and activist Philip Stein regarding the Mexican muralist David Alfaro Siqueiros measure 3.8 linear feet and 3.88 GB and date from 1933 to 2012. The papers reflect Stein's relationship with Siqueiros as an art assistant and their shared commitment to leftist politics. Much of the material relates to Stein's book *Siqueiros, His Life and Work* (1994) and his first book *The Mexican Murals* (1984). Found are research materials, correspondence, interviews, printed and digital material, photographic materials, video and film recordings, writings about and by David Alfaro Siqueiros, and materials concerning Stein as a painter.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in 7 series:

- Series 1: Correspondence, 1934-2010 (0.3 linear feet; Box 1)
- Series 2: Interviews, 1977-1994 (0.1 linear feet; Box 1)
- Series 3: Writings, 1937-2006 (0.6 linear feet; Boxes 1-2, 0.021 GB; ER01)
- Series 4: Subject Files and Research Files, 1933-2009 (0.6 linear feet; Boxes 2-3)
- Series 5: Printed Material, 1949-2009 (0.7 linear feet; Boxes 2-3,5)
- Series 6: Photographic Materials, 1933-2005 (0.5 linear Feet; Boxes 3-4, 0.011 GB; ER02)
- Series 7: Sound, Video and Film Recorings, circa 1967-2012 (1.3 linear feet; Box 3, 4, FC 6-9, 3.85 GB; ER03-ER04)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Muralists -- Mexico
Muralists -- New York (State) -- New York
Painters -- New York (State) -- New York

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Motion pictures (visual works)
Photographs
Video recordings

Names:

Siqueiros, David Alfaro

Occupations:

Painters -- Mexico

Container Listing

Series 1: Correspondence, 1934-2010

0.3 Linear feet (Box 1)

Philip Stein's correspondence is both professional and personal in nature. Diana Zykovsky Anhalt wrote about American expatriates in Mexico during the McCarthy era and Stein was concerned with the accuracy of Anhalt's representation of his activities. Correspondence with Angelica Arenal de Siqueiros, and Adriana and Robert Siqueiros is mostly in Spanish, and relates to Stein's research for *Siqueiros, His Life and Work*. Correspondence with Graciela de Arenal, also in Spanish, is of a personal nature. The Raphael Cruz Arvea correspondence involves the translation of Stein's book. David Siqueiros' correspondence include letters from the Communist Party and a photocopy of a letter from Diego Rivera.

Box 1, Folder 1	Diana Zykovsky Anhalt, 1995-2006
Box 1, Folder 2	Angelica Arenal de Siqueiros, 1963-1990
Box 1, Folder 3	Graciela de Arenal, 1977-2004
Box 1, Folder 4	Raphael Cruz Arvea, 1998-2007
Box 1, Folder 5	Adriana Siqueiros, 1989-1995
Box 1, Folder 6	David Alfaro Siqueiros, 1934-1953
Box 1, Folder 7	Robert Siqueiros, 2005
Box 1, Folder 8-9	Philip Stein, 1955-2010

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Series 2: Interviews, 1977-1994

0.1 Linear feet (Box 1)

Included in this series are cassette recordings of an interview with Adriana Siqueiros, Siqueiros' daughter, conducted by Charles Keller and Stanley Faulkner and four interviews with Angelica Siqueiros, his wife.

Box 1, Folder 10 Adriana Siqueiros, 1994
 1 *Sound cassette*

Box 1, Folder 11 Angelica Siqueiros, 1977-1980
 4 *Sound cassettes*

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Series 3: Writings, 1937-2006

0.6 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

0.021 Gigabytes (ER01)

Writings by Stein, Siqueiros and others are in English and Spanish and include audiovisual and digital materials. The materials concern Siqueiros' view of the development of public art in Mexico and the relation between Mexican muralism and the Mexican Revolution. There are speeches by Siqueiros given to the Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes in Mexico and the Central University of Caracas (Venezuela). Writings by Siqueiros largely concern his position on "his assault of the house of Leon Trotsky" and mass mailing letters regarding his release from prison in 1964. Found are Stein's notes, four notebooks (with occasional drawings), two journals, jottings, and "final drafts" relating to Siqueiros.

Folder ER01	Jorge Fernandez Vazquez, "Siqueiros y Su Relacion con los Pinteros del Cono Sur", Master's Thesis, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico (2006), Digital Documents, Audio Recordings and Presentation, 2005-2006 <i>0.021 Gigabytes (12 computer files)</i>
Box 1, Folder 13	Mayer Sasson, Programa Aniversario Siqueiros", New School, 1996 <i>1 Videocassettes (VHS)</i>
Box 1, Folder 14	David Siqueiros, Speeches, circa 1950
Box 1, Folder 15	David Siqueiros, Writings, 1937-1960
Box 1	Philip Stein
Box 1, Folder 17	Philip Stein, Journals, 1973-1980
Box 1, Folder 16	"David Alfaro Siqueiros, Tal y Como Lo Conoci,", after 1958
Box 1, Folder 18	Miscellaneous Writings, 1953-1956
Box 1, Folder 19	"Perspective Notes", circa 1940s-circa 1950s
Box 1, Folder 20	Notebook, Research re: Mexico, Siqueiros, and Mural Painting, circa 1960s-circa 1970s
Box 1, Folder 21	Notes, circa 1950s- circa 1980s
Box 1, Folder 22	"Philip Stein, Siqueiros I, First Draft", before 1994
Box 1, Folder 23	"Philip Stein, Siqueiros II, Second Draft", before 1994
Box 1, Folder 24	Talk on Siqueiros, 1994 <i>1 Sound cassette</i>

Box 2, Folder 1-2

Writings by Others, Miscellaneous, circa 1951-2003

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Series 4: Subject Files and Research Files, 1933-2009

0.6 Linear feet (Boxes 2-3)

Files include materials relating to Philip Stein's exhibitions, as well as materials concerning Diego Rivera and Jackson Pollock. There are FBI files for both Stein and Siqueiros. Also found are articles by Hugo Gellert and a transcript of an interview with him, and items by scholar, Larry Hulburt and Mark Vallen, artist-activist. In addition to sketches by Stein, there are clippings relating to the Hollywood Strike of 1946, clippings and material concerning the "assault on Leon Trotsky," and notes and clippings covering the 1960 Siqueiros trial. Further, there are materials regarding Stein's book *The Mexican Murals* (1984), correspondence and commentary on *Siqueiros, His Life and Work* (1994) and materials from the 1996 symposium on Siqueiros, "Otras Rutas Hacia Siqueiros."

Box 2, Folder 3	Luis Arenal, 1933-1980s
Box 2, Folder 4	FBI Files on David Alfaro Siqueiros (photocopies), 1943-1965
Box 2, Folder 5	FBI Files on Philip Stein (photocopies), circa 1980
Box 2, Folder 6	"Free Siqueiros" Materials, 1961-1964
Box 2, Folder 7-8	Freedom of Information Act Research, 1984-1997, 1930
Box 2, Folder 9	Hugo Gellert, 1967-1998
Box 2, Folder 10	Hollywood Strike, 1990, 1945-1947
Box 2, Folder 11	Larry Hulburt, 1974-1977
Box 2, Folder 12	Jackson Pollock, 1981-2002
Box 2, Folder 13	Polyforum Cultural Siqueiros, 1960s-1970s
Box 2, Folder 14	Diego Rivera, 1948-1998
Box 2, Folder 15	San Miguel de Allende, 1948-1949, 1996-2006
Box 2, Folder 16	Symposium, "Otras Rutas Hacia Siqueiros", 1995-1996, 1979
Box 2, Folder 17	Siqueiros Book, 1955-2009
Box 2, Folder 18	Siqueiros Trial, 1960-1968
Box 2, Folder 19	Philip Stein, 1953-2005
Box 2, Folder 20;	Philip Stein, "The Mexican Murals", 1979-2005

Box 2, Folder 19

Box 2, Folder 21 Leon Trotsky Assassination Attempt, 1994-1996

Box 2, Folder 22 Mark Vallen/Art-For-A-Change , 2003-2007

Box 2, Folder 23 Vietnam Anti-War Activities, 1969

Box 2, Folder 24 White Chapel Exhibition, Siqueiros, 1997

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Series 5: Printed Material, 1939-2009

0.7 Linear feet (Boxes 2-3, 5)

Printed material includes a folder of political fliers from the early 1950s, some signed by the "Frente de Pintores Revolucionarios de Mexico" and more recent announcements of events relating to Siqueiros and political action. Found are articles in Spanish by Siqueiros from the newspaper, *Excelsior*, and articles by others relating to muralism and general political developments. There also are exhibition announcements, catalogs and price lists relating to Siqueiros' artwork. Lastly, there is a collection of Mexican periodicals with articles pertaining to Siqueiros' life and work.

Box 2, Folder 25	Book Excerpts about Siqueiros, 1970s-1980s
Box 2, Folder 26-27	Clippings, 1950-2005
Box 2, Folder 28-29	Clippings, Siqueiros, 1950-2007
Box 3, Folder 1	Conference Announcement and Fliers, 1953-2007
Box 3, Folder 2	<i>Excelsior</i> Newspaper Articles by Siqueiros, 1949-1950
Box 3, Folder 3	Exhibition Catalogs and Announcements, 1950-2009
Box 3, Folder 4	Exhibition Catalogs, Announcements, and Price Lists, Siqueiros, 1962-2004
Box 3, Folder 5	Miscellaneous Printed Items, 2008
Box 3, Folder 6	Periodicals, 1961-2006
Box 3, Folder 7	"Planeta Siqueiros de JOSE RAMON Mikelajauregui", 1995 <i>1 Videocassettes (VHS)</i>
Box 5, Folder 1	Oversized Miscellaneous Periodicals (from Box 3, Folder 6), 1939-1970

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Series 6: Photographic Material, 1933-2005

0.5 Linear feet (Boxes 3-5)

0.011 Gigabytes (ER02)

Many of the photographs of Siqueiros, Stein, and others identify those present with notes in English. Siqueiros is shown with his artwork, with his grandfather, with Stein, and at events. There are both portraits of Siqueiros and Angelica Renal de Siqueiros and digital prints of Stein with family or friends. Also found are numerous photographs and slides of Siqueiros' and Steins' artwork. Some photographs are in digital format.

Box 3, Folder 8	"Angelica" and Artwork Slides, 1960s-1970s
Box 3, Folder 9-11	Artwork by Siqueiros and Stein , 1933-2001 <i>19 Slides</i> <i>includes slides; oversized material housed in Box 3, Folder 9</i>
Box 3, Folder 12	Mural Book, 1962-1979
Box 3, Folder 13	Places, 1966-1968
Folder ER02	Robert and Cristella Siqueiros, "Photos with Gertrude and Philip Stein", Digital Photographs, 2006 <i>0.011 Gigabytes (Six computer files)</i>
Box 3, Folder 15	Siqueiros, Stein and Others, 1927-circa 2000
Box 4, Folder 3	Slides of Siqueiros' Murals, Easel Paintings, and Miscellaneous Artwork , circa 1960s-circa 2000
Box 5, Folder 2	Oversized Artwork Siqueiros and Stein (from Box 3, Folder 9), 1933-2001

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Series 7: Sound, Video, and Film Recordings, circa 1967-2012

1.3 Linear feet (Box 3-4, FC 6-9)

3.85 Gigabytes (ER03-ER04)

The sound and video recordings appear to include documentary presentations.

Box 3, Folder 16	Siqueiros Murals, 1973-1977 2 Film reels (Labels read "Mexico Siqueiros" and "Murals 74 and 77 Mexico" ; Super 8 mm) Motion picture film stored separately in film cans numbered FC 6-7
Folder ER03	Life and Times, PBS KCET TV, Digital Video Recording, 2005 0.132 Gigabytes (One computer file)
Box 3, Folder 18	"Mexican Murals"; "Sp War Murals"; "Mex Archeologist" 1 Videocassette
Folder ER04	Interview of Philip Stein on Siqueiros (April 4, 2005), Digital Video Recording, 2006 3.72 Gigabytes (Nine computer files)
Box 3, Folder 20	Siqueiros Murals, 1972-1975 2 Film reels (Super 8 mm) Motion picture film stored separately in film cans numbered FC 8-9
Box 4, Folder 1-2	Unidentified Sound Recordings, 1967-1976 6 Sound cassettes
Item FC 6; Item FC 7; Item FC 8; Item FC 9	4 Motion Picture Film Reels from Box 3, folders 16 and 20

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