



# Smithsonian

## *Archives of American Art*

### Oral history interview with Regina Vater

This interview is part of the series "Recuerdos Orales: Interviews of the Latino Art Community in Texas," supported by Federal funds for Latino programming, administered by the Smithsonian Center for Latino Initiatives.

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with Regina Vater
<b>Date:</b>	2004 February 23-25
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.vater04
<b>Creator:</b>	Vater, Regina (Interviewee) Cordova, Cary (Interviewer) Recuerdos Orales: Interviews of the Latino Art Community in Texas
<b>Extent:</b>	67 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Digital Content: Oral history interview with Regina Vater, 2004 February 23-25, Transcript</a> <a href="#">Audio: Oral history interview with Regina Vater, 2004 February 23-25, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)</a>

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

This interview is part of the Archives of American Art Oral History Program, started in 1958 to document the history of the visual arts in the United States, primarily through interviews with artists, historians, dealers, critics and administrators.

### Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

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## Biographical / Historical

Regina Vater (1943-) is a Brazilian born multimedia artist from Austin, Texas. Cary Cordova (1970-) is an art historian from Austin, Texas.

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## Scope and Contents

An interview of Regina Vater conducted 2004 February 23-25, by Cary Cordova, for the Archives of American Art, in her home in Austin, Texas.

## Scope and Contents

Vater speaks of her childhood in Copacabana, Ipanema, south of Rio de Janeiro; her father's career as a physician; her Basque, Portuguese, and Jewish heritage; her early education including early experiences with Greek philosophy; her parents' reaction to her desire to be an artist; her great-grandfather's translation of Virgil and Homer into Portuguese; her study abroad in France in 1972; her move to New York in the mid-1970s; her motivations for various works of art, including the series *Gentle Solitude*, *Three Chinese Monkeys*, *Luxo Lixo*, *Electronic Nature*, *The Knots*, *Tina America*, and "O Que e Arte?"; her Guggenheim fellowship in 1981; the 1976 Whitney Biennial; her marriage to video installation artist Bill Lundberg; her move to Austin, Tex.; her work with the Franklin Furnace Gallery and *Flue* magazine; her involvement with "cinema vérité"; making films with Ruth Escobar; her travels in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Lima, Peru, Bolivia, and Colombia; her perception of the emotional differences between Latinos and Americans; her love of Brazilian culture; her own classification of her work and potential reasons for the lack of scholarship on her work; her activities as a curator including the 1984 show "Latin American Visual Thinking," at the Art Awareness Gallery in New York, N.Y.; difficulties with the Brazilian government in attempting to bring her film *Green* into that country; her love of poetry, especially concrete poetry; and the spirituality of her work. Vater also recalls Helio Oiticica, Lygia Clark, Frank Schaeffer, Antonio Diaz, Carlos Vergara, Rubens Gerschman, Mario Schemberg, Lucy Lippard, Augustos de Campos, John Cage, Joseph Beuys, Quentin Fiore, Tomasso Trinino, Bill Lundberg [the artist's husband], Leo Castelli, Dore Ashton, Nam June Paik, Charlotte Moorman, Sophie Calle, Nelson Pereira dos Santos, Ruth Escobar, Antonio Pitanga, Bobby Wilson, Sylvia Orozco, Bill Viola, Ana Mendieta, Martha Wilson, Catalina Parra, Liliانا Porter, and others.

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## General

Originally recorded on 4 sound discs and 1 compact disc. Duration is 5 hr., 10 min.

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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:

- Cinéma vérité
- Curators -- Texas
- Latino and Latin American artists
- Multimedia (Art)
- Women artists

### Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

### Names:

- Ashton, Dore
- Calle, Sophie
- Castelli, Leo
- Clark, Lygia, 1920-
- Diaz, Antonio
- Escobar, Ruth.

Lippard, Lucy R.  
Lundberg, Bill, 1942-  
Mendieta, Ana, 1948-1985  
Moorman, Charlotte  
Oiticica, Hélio, 1937-1980.  
Orozco, Sylvia, 1954-  
Paik, Nam June, 1932-  
Parra, Catalina  
Pereira dos Santos, Nelson  
Pitanga, Antonio, 1939-  
Porter, Liliana, 1941-  
Recuerdos Orales: Interviews of the Latino Art Community in Texas  
Schaeffer, Frank  
Schenberg, Mário  
Vergara, Carlos, 1941-  
Viola, Bill, 1951-  
Wilson, Bobby  
Wilson, Martha, 1947-