



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Liliana Wilson

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

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Liliana Wilson
Date:	2004, July 13-27
Identifier:	AAA.wilson04
Creator:	Wilson, Liliana, 1953- (Interviewee) Cordova, Cary (Interviewer) Recuerdos Orales: Interviews of the Latino Art Community in Texas
Extent:	99 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Liliana Wilson, 2004, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Liliana Wilson, 2004, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)

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.

Biographical / Historical

Liliana Wilson (1953-) is a Chilean born artist in Austin, Texas. Cary Cordova (1970-) is an art historian from Austin, Texas.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Liliana Wilson conducted 2004 July 13-27, by Cary Cordova, for the Archives of American Art, in Austin, Texas.

Scope and Contents

Wilson displays a slideshow of her works and discusses *Disparecidos en el Cielo*; *The Gatekeepers*; *The Immigrants*; *Man Running from Himself*; *Girl and Red Fish*; *Self-Portrait*; *Organic Barbed Wire*; *The Fish*

Tree; The Wedding; Desperate Housewife; The Lovers; The Meaning of Life; Lies; Proposition 187; Luciano; Time; Shift; El día en que le hicieron pedazos la corona; Casi Gomez; Man and Leaf, and others. Wilson also discusses her relationship with Gloria Anzaldua; her sister's kidnapping by the Pinochet regime; experiences winning art contests at primary school; her uncommon last name; her use of Catholic imagery; her bad experience teaching; her childhood in Valparaiso, Chile; the patriarchal qualities of Chilean culture; attending architecture school and then transferring to law; her father's death and the family's resulting financial struggles; her disdain for traditional political paradigms; Santiago during the 1973 coup by Augusto Pinochet; her apartment being raided by the Army; moving to America and working as an au pair; enrolling in Austin Community College; her color choices in her paintings; moving to San Francisco; her various jobs doing commercial art; her early grant from MACLA; her anti-social nature, and how Anzaldua's nature is similar; her various residences in San Francisco; her conversion to Buddhism; moving back to Austin and her love for its community; learning to promote her own work; painting nude forms; her disdain for certain Catholic ideologies; the painters which she considers influences, such as Bosch, Kahlo, and Klee; her inability to be recognized by museums; the masculine nature of art academia; her involvement in the San Antonio arts scene; and the positive qualities of the United States. Wilson also discusses Cynthia Perez, Mia Gonzales, Jesse Treviño, Rene Yañez, Pema Chödrön, Neil Wilson, Arturo Almeida, Mary Margaret Navarro, Marjorie Agosin, and others.

General

Originally recorded on 6 sound discs. Reformatted in 2010 as 8 digital wav files. Duration is 4 hr., 55 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Art -- Study and teaching -- Chile
- Latino and Latin American artists
- Painting
- Religion in art
- Women artists
- Women painters

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Agosin, Marjorie
- Almeida, Arturo
- Anzaldúa, Gloria
- Chödrön, Pema
- Gonzales, Mia
- Navarro, Mary Margaret
- Perez, Cynthia
- Pinochet Ugarte, Augusto
- Recuerdos Orales: Interviews of the Latino Art Community in Texas
- Treviño, Jesse, 1946-
- Wilson, Neil

Yanez, Rene

Occupations:

Painters -- Texas -- Austin