



Smithsonian

National Museum of the American Indian

Flora S. Kaplan Collection, 1965-1989

Rachel Menyuk

2012

National Museum of the American Indian
4220 Silver Hill Rd
Suitland, Maryland 20746-2863
nmaiarchives@si.edu
<http://nmai.si.edu/explore/collections/archive/>

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Museum of the American Indian
Title:	Flora S. Kaplan collection
Date:	1965-1989 (bulk 1972-1977)
Identifier:	NMAI.AC.024
Creator:	Kaplan, Flora S.
Extent:	0.3 Linear feet (1 Hollinger Box) 56 Photographic prints 3284 Slides (photographs) 1828 Negatives (photographic)
Language:	English .
Summary:	The Flora S. Kaplan collection includes manuscript materials, field notes, slides, negatives and photographs. The extensive slide collection was taken in several regions of Mexico from the mid-to-late 1960's through the early 1980's and documented local craft processes, particularly ceramics, their makers, their families and life styles.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

This collection was originally donated by Flora S. Kaplan in October of 2008. An additional archival donation was made in December of 2009.

Books transferred to the NMAI Library

A Mexican Folk Pottery Tradition: Cognition and Style in Material Culture in the Valley of Puebla
by Flora S. Kaplan

Una Tradition Alfarera by Flora S. Kaplan

The Changing Roles of Ceramics in Society: 26,000 B.P. to the Present Edited by W.D. Kingery

Processing Information

Photographs processed by Emily Moazami, Photo Technician in 2009 and papers processed by Rachel Menyuk, Archives Technician in 2012

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Collection Title, Box and Folder Number; National Museum of the American Indian Archive Center, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Access to NMAI Archive Center collections is by appointment only, Monday - Friday, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm. Please contact the archives to make an appointment (phone: 301-238-1400, email: nmaiarchives@si.edu).

Conditions Governing Use

Single photocopies may be made for research purposes. Permission to publish or broadcast materials from the collection must be requested from National Museum of the American Indian Archive Center. Please submit a written request to nmaiarchives@si.edu.

Biographical / Historical

Flora Edouwaye S. Kaplan, anthropologist, is a professor emerita, and former founding director (1978-99) of the Museum Studies Program, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, New York University. She taught Anthropology as a Fulbright professor, (1983-85), University of Benin, Nigeria; and previously taught at Lehman College, CUNY (1970-1976), before arriving at New York University in 1976. She publishes widely on Benin (Nigeria) and on Mexico, museum politics, art, photography, religion and gender. She holds degrees in anthropology from The Graduate Center, CUNY (Ph.D.), and Columbia University (M.A., archaeology). Dr. Kaplan is a former curator of The Brooklyn Museum, New York. She was a research associate at the Museum of the American Indian, (1977-87), and is an associate at the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies at NYU. She currently co-edits the books series 'Museum Meanings' (Routledge) and has been a Board member of the journal 'Museums & Society' (University of Leicester Press) since 2004.

Scope and Contents

The Flora S. Kaplan collection consists primarily of photographic materials documenting the pottery and pottery techniques of Mexican potters, as well as their families and lifestyles. A small amount of manuscript materials, including field notebooks, accompanied the slides, prints, and negatives which were donated to the National Museum of the American Indian in 2008 and 2009. Although the bulk of the photographs were taken by Flora Kaplan herself, a limited number of images were shot by photographer Sidney Kaplan (no relation). The photographs were taken primarily in the following area: barrios of Puebla de los Angeles (capital of the state of Puebla) (Barrios de la Luz) and the surrounding towns in the Puebla Valley (Acatepec, Santa María Tonantzintla, Amozoc, Cholula, La Acocota, Tepeaca, Izucar de Matamoros, Tecali de Herrera, Acoman, Ocototlan). There are also photographs of potters in the Mexican states of Chiapas (Chamula, Chanal, Amatenango, San Cristobal de las Casas, Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapa de Corzo); Morelos, Michoacan (Janitzio, Alcoman, Capula, Tzintzuntzan, Morelia, Patzcuaro); Oaxaca (San Bartolome Coyotepec, Santa Maria Del Tule); Guerrero (Acapulco), Veracruz (Puerto de Veracruz, Minatitlán); Mexico (Teotihuacan) and the Distrito Federal (Mexico City).

Arrangement

This collection is arranged in two series; Series 1: Papers, 1952, 1958, 1970-1986 and Series 2: Photographs, 1971-1978, 1988. The Photographs series is then divided into 3 subseries based on material type. Subseries 2A: Slides, 1972-1978, 1988, Subseries 2B: Negatives, 1972-1973, 1977, and Subseries 2C: Silver Gelatin Prints, 1971-1977.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art and anthropology

Folk art -- Mexico
Pottery -- Mexico
Pottery, Mexican

Places:

Chiapas (Mexico)
Distrito Federal (Mexico)
Guerrero (Coahuila, Mexico)
Jalisco (Mexico)
Michoacán de Ocampo (Mexico)
Morelos (Chihuahua, Mexico)
Oaxaca (Mexico : State)
Puebla (Mexico)
Veracruz-Llave (Mexico : State)

Container Listing

Series 1: Papers, 1970-1986, 1952, 1958

Scope and Contents: The papers in the Flora S. Kaplan collection are primarily materials from Kaplans field work in Mexico from 1972-1973 and in 1977. These materials include field notebooks from Kaplan's time in Puebla, Mexico, correspondence received, cards and adresses gathered as well as guidebooks and maps of various location in Mexico. Additionally included are articles written by Kaplan, a copy of her Masters thesis and two calendars that published her images. This series is arranged alphabetically.

Box 1, Folder 1	Cards and Addresses: Puebla, Mexico, 1973
Box 1, Folder 2	Correspondence: Alberto Beltrau, 1989
Box 1, Folder 3	Correspondence: Puebla, Mexico, 1973
Box 1, Folder 4	Ephemera: Calendars Containing Kaplan Photos, 1986, 1979
Box 1, Folder 5	Ephemera: Mexico Maps and Guidebooks, 1977, 1970, 1952, undated
Box 1, Folder 6	Field Notebooks: Izucar de Matamoros, San Miguel Tenextatiloyan, 1972
Box 1, Folder 7	Field Notebooks: Puebla, Jun-Jul 1973
Box 1, Folder 8	Field Notebooks: Puebla, Jul-Aug 1973
Box 1, Folder 9	Field Notebooks: Mexican Folk Pottery, 1977
Box 1, Folder 10	Writings: M.A. Thesis, 2006, 1958
Box 1, Folder 11	Writings: Articles by Kaplan, 1994, 1981, undated

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Series 2: Photographs, 1971-1978, 1988

Scope and Contents: The slides and prints in this collection were item level catalogued, individually described and digitized. Many of the slides can be found and viewed on the National Museum of the American Indian Collections Search site. As noted in the collection level scope and content note, the photographs highlight the lives and techniques of Mexican potters during the 1970's. The photographs were taken by Flora Kaplan in various locations throughout Mexico, with the bulk being shot in and around Puebla. The slides are arranged by their unique image number. The negatives are arranged chronologically, geographically and by film roll number. The photographic prints are also arranged numerically by image number.

2A: Slides, 1972-1978, 1988

3284 Slides (photographs)

Box 2	Mexico: S12299-S12786, 1972-1978 488 Slides (photographs)
Box 2	Mexico: S12787-S12954, 1977 169 Slides (photographs)
Box 3	Mexico: S12955-S13253, 1988, 1977, 1972 299 Slides (photographs)
Box 3	Pueblo de los Angeles: S13274-S13482, 1977, 1972-1973 249 Slides (photographs)
Box 3	Puebla State: S13483-S13613, 1972-1973 130 Slides (photographs)
Box 4	Graves: S13614-S13646, 1973 27 Slides (photographs)
Box 4	Oaxaca State: S13647-S13746, 1977, undated 106 Slides (photographs)
Box 4	Chiapas Scenics and Pottery: S13747-S13883, 1977 137 Slides (photographs)
Box 4	Red and Blackware Typology Studies: S13884-S14200, 1973 318 Slides (photographs)
Box 5	Mexico, D.F.: S14201-S14385, 1977 184 Slides (photographs)
Box 5	Puebla State, Tepeaca: S14386-S14455, 1977 70 Slides (photographs)
Box 5	School San Jeroniplo Ocotitlan, Puebla: S14456-S14483, 1972

28 Slides (photographs)

Box 5	Izucar Potters and Candelabras: S14484-S14592, 1972 110 Slides (photographs)
Box 5	Pueblo State, Amozoc: S14593-S14701, 1972-1973 110 Slides (photographs)
Box 6	Puebla de los Angeles, La Luz: S14702-S14867, 1972-1973 166 Slides (photographs)
Box 6	Jalisco State, Tonalá: S14868-S14941, 1977 74 Slides (photographs)
Box 6	Candelabra: S14942-S15306, 1977, undated 365 Slides (photographs)
Box 6	Death: S15307-S15324, 1988 18 Slides (photographs)
Box 7	Puebla de los Angeles, Toctos Santos: S15325-S15373, 1973 49 Slides (photographs)
Box 7	Day of the Dead: S15374-S15378, 1973 5 Slides (photographs)
Box 7	Capula, Michoacan and Santa Fe: S15379-S15546, 1972 168 Slides (photographs)
Box 7	Vera Cruz City Scenes: S15547-S15560, 1972 14 Slides (photographs)
Box 7	Uncatalogued, 1977, 1972-1973 11 Slides (photographs)

2B: Negatives, 1972-1973, 1977, undated*1828 Negatives (photographic)*

Box 8	Mexico: Series 66527, Rolls C1-C5, 1972 145 Negatives (photographic)
Box 8	Mexico: Series 7025, Rolls 1-4, 1972 144 Negatives (photographic)
Box 8	Mexico: Series 7025, Rolls 5-8, 1972 110 Negatives (photographic)
Box 8	Mexico: Series C42, Rolls 380-383, 1972-1973

129 Negatives (photographic)

Box 8	Mexico: Series SK, Rolls 1-6, 1973 186 Negatives (photographic)
Box 8	Mexico, Puebla City: Series 6321, Rolls 1-3, undated 94 Negatives (photographic)
Box 8	Mexico: Rolls 1-5, undated 171 Negatives (photographic)
Box 8	Mexico: Rolls 6-13, undated 286 Negatives (photographic)
Box 8	Mexico, Puebla City Potters: Series 3174, Rolls 1-5, undated 169 Negatives (photographic)
Box 8	Mexico, Puebla City Potters: Series 3174, Rolls 6-10, undated 168 Negatives (photographic)
Box 8	Mexico, Puebla City Potters: Series 3174, Rolls 11-16, undated 175 Negatives (photographic)
Box 8	Mexico: Series 77, Rolls 16-21, 1977 207 Negatives (photographic)
Box 8	Mexico: Alonso Garcia Family, 1977 5 Negatives (photographic)
Box 8	Mexico: Miscellaneous Unidentified Negatives, undated 25 Negatives (photographic)

2C: Silver Gelatin Prints, 1971-1977

56 Photographic prints

Oversize A71	P37311-P37335
Oversize A72	P37336-P37366

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