

Finding Aid for Paul Sierra Papers MS.2006.5

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Summary Information

Repository Julian Samora Library at the Institute for Latino Studies

Title Paul Sierra Papers

Date [inclusive] 1974-2010

Extent 5.5 Linear feet

Language Multiple languages

Language of Materials note Materials mostly in English, with select pieces in Spanish.

Abstract The Paul Sierra Papers include materials related to the career and life of Cuban-American artist Paul Sierra. The collection includes exhibition catalogs, invitations and cards, news clippings, lectures, correspondence, and collected catalogs of friends' exhibitions. Related materials include a 2008 oral history interview and artwork donated by Sierra.

Preferred Citation note

Researchers wishing to cite materials from this collection may use the following acknowledgement: [title of item], Paul Sierra Papers, Julian Samora Library at the Institute for Latino Studies, University of Notre Dame.

Biographical/Historical note

Paul Sierra was born in Havana in 1944 and came to the United States with his family at the age of 17. The family lived briefly in Florida and then settled in Chicago. Sierra studied at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in the 1960s. He spent the following decades in Chicago, working as a commercial graphic designer while continuing to paint. He participated in major group exhibitions such as the 1987-1989 "Hispanic Art in the United States: Thirty Contemporary Painters and Sculptors", organized by the Corcoran Gallery of Art and the Houston Museum of Art, and "Outside Cuba/Fuera de Cuba", organized by Rutgers University, thereby gaining national recognition. He has held multiple solo exhibitions at places like the Silva Gallery in Atlanta, GA, J. Sori Gallery in Coral Gables, FL, the University Club of Chicago, and the Krannert Art Museum in Champaign, IL. His work can be found in the collections of several museums including the Smithsonian's National Museum of American Art, Museo del Barrio in New York, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago, and the Latino Museum of Art & Culture in Los Angeles.

Scope and Contents note

The Paul Sierra papers document the career of American painter Paul Sierra particularly during the period of the late 1980s and 1990s which was a time of renewed interest in Latin American and Hispanic art in the United States. The collection includes extensive exhibition materials for Sierra's solo and group shows including catalogs, invitations, published reviews, published artwork, clippings, Sierra's exhibition files for major shows including correspondence with curators. Also includes scrapbooks and portfolios of exhibition reviews and articles about Sierra, correspondence with friends, the public and students, lectures, artist statements, personal photographs, and original artwork and a complete set of digital images of Sierra's works. Notable is correspondence with Cuban-American poet, writer and art critic Ricardo Pau Llosa (restricted access).

The collection includes materials from the following notable exhibitions: "Outside Cuba"(Rutgers University, 1987-1988), "Hispanic Art in the United States: Thirty Contemporary Painters and Sculptors" (Corcoran Gallery of Art, 1987-1989), "Expresiones Hispanas, 1988 Coors National Hispanic Arts Exhibit and Tour", "¡Mira! The Canadian Club Hispanic Art Tour 1988-1989", "A Cultural Corridor" (Latino Museum of Art, Los Angeles, 1998), "Loin de Cuba" (Aix-en-Provence, France 1998).

Arrangement note

The collection is arranged into seven series: 1. Printed Materials 2.Exhibition Files 3. Correspondence 4. Writings 5.Grants, Fellowships and Awards 6. Artwork and 7. Photographs. Documents within each series have been arranged in chronological order when no other order by the creator was detected. The Printed Material is the largest series and is divided into the following sub-series: exhibition catalogs, invitations, news clippings, reviews, published artwork, auction catalogs, and friends' catalogs

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Julian Samora Library at the Institute for Latino Studies

Related Materials

Separated Materials note

An oral history interview with Paul Sierra (OH 2007.13) is held by the Julian Samora Library. Original artwork donated by the artist can also be found in the library's flat files, these include multiple hand-colored proofs for the print "El Trouvador" and some sketches.

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Mira! The Canadian Club Hispanic Art Tour, 1988-1989 .

Personal Name(s)

- Pau-Llosa, Ricardo

- Sierra, Paul, b. 1944

Subject(s)

- Art, American--20th century
- Cuban American art--20th century--Exhibitions
- Cuban American artists
- Expressionism (Art)--Themes, motives
- Hispanic American art--20th century
- Hispanic American art--Exhibitions
- Latino art
- Painting--United States--Exhibitions