

Finding Aid for Bibiana Suárez Papers

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Finding aid prepared by Chiayi Tsui

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Summary Information

Repository Julian Samora Library at the Institute for Latino Studies

Title Bibiana Suárez Papers

Date [inclusive] 1989-2006

Extent 0.5 Linear feet

Language English

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

Abstract The Bibiana Suárez Papers include the artist's personal accounts of the significance of cultural exchange in the development of artistic growth and individual identity. The items in this collection highlight her concerns as a Puerto Rican who has "acculturated" to the U.S. Her personal statements and work descriptions, in the context of her participation in various exhibits and projects-- materials for which are included in this collection-- raise not only the dilemma of equitable representation of minority artists but also questions of a shared history: how the individual artist responds to the collective experience.

Preferred Citation note

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

Biographical/Historical note

Bibiana Suárez was born and raised in Puerto Rico and came to Chicago in 1980. She has an MFA in painting and drawing from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She teaches art/art history at DePaul University, where she has also been involved with the Latin American Studies program and the Center of Latino Research. She describes her own work as "[reflecting] a search for self-identification and the problems of living on the edge between two cultures." Her solo exhibitions include "Domino/Dominó" at El Museo del Barrio in New York and the Illinois Arts Gallery in Chicago; "De Pico a Pico" at Sazama Gallery and "Island Adrift: The Puerto Rican Identity in Exile" at Taller Puertorriqueño in Philadelphia.

Scope and Contents note

This collection consists primarily of photocopies of articles related to the controversy that shrouded The Chicago Show in 1990 and artist statements and lectures by Suárez. The photocopied articles include newspaper and magazine clippings on the Show's failure to reflect the city's ethnic diversity-- a situation exacerbated by decisions to retrospectively invite minority artists, commentaries on the Show organizers' reactions to the growing controversy, as well as statements issued by Chicago Artists' Coalition and Alliance for Cultural Equity, of which Suárez was a member. The other documents include project descriptions and personal statements for "Dominos" and "Encuentros", exhibition proposal for "The Puerto Rican Equation" with a list of questions and Suárez's responses, transcription of a panel given in response to The Chicago Show controversy, an original brochure for the exhibit "Transnational Identities", and a copy of "Diálogo" in which Suárez discusses her show "Domino/Dominó".

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Julian Samora Library at the Institute for Latino Studies

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Alliance for Cultural Equity. (Chicago, Ill.)
- Chicago Artists' Coalition.
- Chicago Show. (1990: Chicago, Ill.)
- De Pico a Pico. (1993: Chicago, Ill.)
- Domino/Dominó. (1998: New York, NY)
- Island Adrift: The Puerto Rican Identity in Exile. (1993: Philadelphia, Pa.)
- Los Encuentros/ Los Encontros/ Encounters. (Chicago, Ill.)

Personal Name(s)

- Suárez, Bibiana, b. 1960

Subject(s)

- Art museums--United States--Exhibitions
- Art, Puerto Rican--20th century--Exhibitions
- Hispanic American art--Illinois--Chicago--20th Century
- Hispanic American artists--Exhibitions