

Finding Aid for Nora Chapa Mendoza Papers

MS.2007.2

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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

Creator - Artist Mendoza, Nora Chapa

Title Nora Chapa Mendoza Papers

Date [inclusive] 1974-2006

Extent 1.0 Linear foot

Language English

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

Abstract This collection contains materials that document the artistic career of Michigan-based artist, Nora Chapa Mendoza. Includes biographical materials, writings and lectures, exhibition catalogs and invitations, newsclippings, photographs and publications that feature her artwork. Her concern for women's and migrant workers' rights, as well as indigenous and human rights are represented the collection.

Preferred Citation note

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

Biographical/Historical note

Nora Chapa Mendoza grew up in Texas and later studied at Madonna University in Livonia, Michigan, the Birmingham and Bloomfield Art Association, and the Center for Creative Studies in Detroit. Both in her art and in her life, she has been involved in and a supporter of Latino migrant workers, indigenous, and women's affairs. Notably, César Chávez commissioned a design from her to use as a greeting card for the United Farm Workers of America's Children in the Fields Program. She has spent time in Chiapas, Mexico, and has exhibited in countries such as Cuba and Egypt. She has taught numerous community workshops and classes and has received a number of awards, including Michigan Artist of the Year Award as well as Michigan Governor's Arts Award for her contributions to Michigan's cultural life and her dedication to the southwest Detroit arts community. Her works are widely collected and are held by singer Aretha Franklin, actor Edward James Olmos, former president of General Motors, Jack Smith as well as are in the corporate collections of General Motors, Ford, and Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

Scope and Contents note

This collection documents the artistic accomplishments of Nora Chapa Mendoza, including her exhibition history, public appearances, and samples of works published, many of which also offer a glimpse into her commitment to workers' and women's rights. Included are photocopies of handwritten pages from Mendoza's notebook, listing exhibitions, workshops and other projects in chronological order. Also included are lecture drafts and copies of her other writings, original catalogs and printed materials for exhibits, newspaper articles that cover her art, and several publications in which her artwork is featured (many as cover art). Also included is a set of note cards she designed for a fundraiser for the United Farm Workers of America.

Arrangement note

The collection is arranged into five series: 1.Biographical Materials 2.Personal Materials 3.Exhibition Materials 4.Writings, Lectures, and Workshops and 5.Published Artworks

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Julian Samora Library at the Institute for Latino Studies

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- National Council of La Raza.
- United Farm Workers of America.

Subject(s)

- Abstract expressionism--United States
- Hispanic American art--20th century
- Migrant labor
- Painting, Abstract--United States--Exhibitions
- Painting, American--Michigan--20th century--Exhibitions
- Women painters--United States