

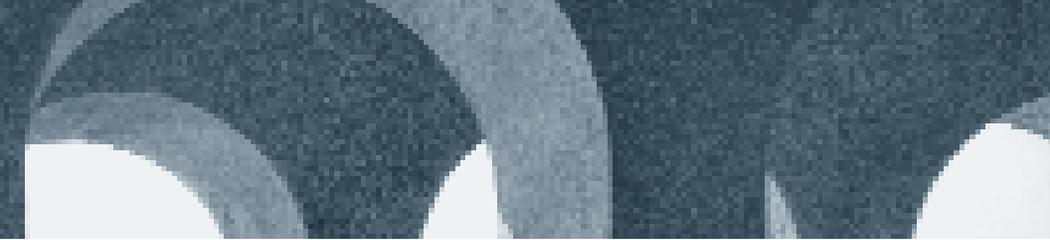


Archival Collections Guide

Survey of Archives of Latino and Latin American Art

In July 2003 the Metropolitan New York Library Council (METRO) subcontracted The Museum of Modern Art Library to survey archives documenting Latino art in greater New York as part of METRO's Documentary Heritage Program. The project was long overdue in this region, an epicenter of U.S. Latino and Latin American cultural production since the nineteenth century.

Through the decades artists from Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean, and South America have come to New York, attracted by the city's freedom, dynamism, and cosmopolitan flair. New York has also been the cradle of its own U.S. Latino art movement. Inspired by the Civil Rights movement and decolonization struggles of the 1950s and 60s, New York Puerto Rican—or Nuyorican—artists worked in conjunction with activists to make art a means for social change.



Nuyoricans, Latinos, and Latin Americans have been—and still are—instrumental in the establishment of a multicultural art scene in New York. They have not only participated as artists, but also as sociocultural agents. Through the establishment of museums and alternative spaces such as The Bronx Museum of the Arts, El Museo del Barrio, El Taller Boricua, and Exit Art, among many others, Latino and Latin American artists in New York have diversified and enriched the metropolitan art scene.

The intensity of their activity and breadth of their contributions have not guaranteed that the documentation of Latino and Latin American art is accessible or has even survived. This is due to numerous factors, among them the strict boundaries of the modern art canon. An equally important but more palpable reason has been the lack of archival practices in institutions whose resources serve only to maintain an active exhibition program.

MoMA Library's Survey of Archives of Latino and Latin American Art aims to document the archives of New York Latino institutions and establish a network of repositories. Thanks to the support of METRO for three consecutive years, the survey team documented the archival and bibliographic holdings of thirty institutions that have showcased or promoted Latino and Latin American art, including community centers, galleries, museums, and academic research centers.

The scope and research resources of each surveyed archive are described in detail on the project's Web site. Despite the limited lifespan of the survey project and uncertain future of some of the archives and institutions, we hope that this guide will provide researchers, scholars, curators, and the interested public with a general idea of the documents they are likely to find at each repository. In the long term, we also hope that this guide and the survey's Web site will promote individual and institutional responsibility in the preservation and accessibility of these archives.

Sharing and transparency are the key in this process. We are grateful for the model of the Archives of American Art and their Papers for Latino and Latin American Artists. At the same time, we note the emergence of a nationwide movement. Projects and visions in different parts of the country, under the auspices of the Chicano Studies Research Center at UCLA, the Institute for Latino Studies at Notre Dame University, and the International Center for the Arts of the Americas at The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, among others, are parallel efforts which strengthen our goal to document the history of Latino and Latin American art in the United States.

Taína B. Caragol
Project coordinator

AMERICAS SOCIETY

680 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10021
Tel. (212) 249-8950
<http://www.americas-society.org>

Since 1966 the mission of the Americas Society has been to promote the understanding of the political, economic, and cultural issues that define and challenge the Americas. Its exhibition program covers the continent and spans from Pre-Columbian times to the present. Today this organization is recognized for its long-standing commitment to showcasing contemporary avant-garde art from Latin America, as attested in its invaluable exhibition files. In 2003 the Americas Society donated a large part of its artist files on Latin American and Latino artists to The Museum of Modern Art, with plans to donate the remainder as well.

ART IN GENERAL

79 Walker Street
New York, NY 10013
Tel. (212) 219-0473
<http://www.artingeneral.org>

Art in General was founded in 1981 as a space where artists could exhibit unconventional work and exchange ideas with their peers. Its archives document the history of this alternative art space in New York. They consist primarily of operational records such as files and photography binders documenting exhibitions and programs organized at the space. Art in General's exhibition files are of particular interest, as this institution has served as a jumping-off point for many contemporary

Latino and Latin American artists. The systematic organization of these archives makes them easy to search.

THE BRONX MUSEUM OF THE ARTS

1040 Grand Concourse
Bronx, NY 10456
Tel. (718) 681-6000
<http://www.bronxmuseum.org>

The Bronx Museum of the Arts (BxMA) was founded in 1971 to serve the culturally diverse populations of the Bronx and the greater New York metropolitan area. The content of the museum's archive reflects its mission to collect works from the latter half of the twentieth century to the present by artists of Latin American, Asian, and African descent and by artists with strong ties to the Bronx. The artist files are the strength of the BxMA's research materials and include slides of works by Latino and Latin American contemporary artists who are rarely represented in other local slide collections.



Miguel Angel Ríos. *Una lengua extraña*. 1994. Cibachrome on pleated canvas with push pins, 70 diam. x 1 1/4". The Bronx Museum of the Arts. Gift of the artist and partial museum purchase with funds from Enid McKenna Soifer in memory of Samuel and Lena Soifer, 2004.3

**CENTER FOR CUBAN STUDIES/
CUBAN ART SPACE**

124 West 23rd Street
New York, NY 10011
Tel. (212) 242-0559
<http://www.cubaupdate.org>

The Center opened in 1972, organized by a group of scholars, writers, artists, and other professionals to create a communication link between the U.S. and Cuba. In 1999 the Center for Cuban Studies created the Cuban Art Space to collect, exhibit, and sell the art of artists born and living in Cuba, and occasionally of Cuban artists in other Latin American countries and the United States. The records of the Cuban Art Space are a unique source of information for researchers interested in Cuban art produced on the island after the Revolution. The Center's Lourdes Casal Library complements the holdings on art with books and periodicals on the history, culture, and politics of Cuba since 1959.

**EL CENTRO DE ESTUDIOS
PUERTORRIQUEÑOS/
THE CENTER FOR PUERTO RICAN
STUDIES—LIBRARY & ARCHIVES**

Hunter College,
City University of New York
695 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10021
Tel. (212) 772-4197
<http://centrop.org>

Founded in 1973, El Centro Library and Archives is devoted to collecting, preserving, and providing access to resources documenting the history and culture of Puerto Ricans—primarily on the mainland, but

also in Puerto Rico. Although El Centro Library and Archives is best known for its holdings in history, literature, sociology, and cultural anthropology, its holdings documenting the visual arts are of comparable strength. Outstanding sources on this topic include current and out-of-print art historical publications, drawings, and prints by renowned Nuyorican and Puerto Rican artists, the films produced by the 1950s DIVEDCO, and a growing collection of artist files. The Center for Puerto Rican Studies is one of the few places in the city where these materials are catalogued and readily accessible.



Poster for Jorge Soto's exhibition at Galería Nocturna, Madrid, 1983. 18 3/16 x 13 1/4". Archives of the Puerto Rican Diaspora, Centro de Estudios Puertorriqueños, Hunter College, CUNY

**COOPER-HEWITT
NATIONAL DESIGN MUSEUM**

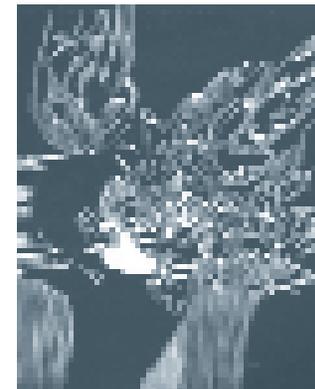
2 East 91st Street
New York, NY 10028
Tel. (212) 849-8330
<http://ndm.si.edu>

Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, Smithsonian Institution, is the only museum in the United States devoted exclusively to historic and contemporary design. The Museum's Latino-Hispanic Archive was created in 1995 in response to the growing need for information about, and a fuller awareness of, the diversity of those working in American design. A part of the Library's Archive, the Latino-Hispanic Archive documents the work of contemporary designers of Latino and Hispanic descent, with a focus on those working in the United States and the Caribbean. South American and Central American designers are also represented. The archive consists of slides, photographs, exhibition catalogues, clippings, promotional materials, and periodicals. The Latino-Hispanic Archive at the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum represents a remarkable resource on the contributions of Latinos to the fields of architecture, design, and decorative arts.

**CUNY-DOMINICAN STUDIES
INSTITUTE LIBRARY**

Cohen Library, Room 1/340
The City College,
City University of New York
New York, NY 10031-9198
Tel. (212) 650-7170
<http://www.ccnycunyu.edu/dsi>

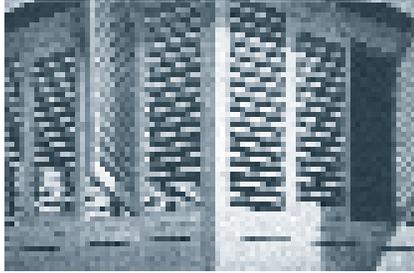
The CUNY-Dominican Studies Institute at City College began as a pilot project to address the lack of reliable information on Dominicans for academic researchers and others. In 1994, it became an integral component of the City University of New York. Currently it is the first and only university-based research institution in the United States focusing on the study of Dominican life in the diaspora. The CUNY-DSI Library is the largest repository of bibliographic and research materials devoted to the study of the Dominican experience in the United States. Holdings documenting the visual arts include exhibition catalogues, rare publications on Dominican art history and criticism, clippings, and audiovisual materials. Although limited in size, this collection is an outstanding resource for the study of the under-documented Dominican artistic community in New York and beyond.



Consuelo Gotay. *El enjambre de besos y el olvido*, 1996. Linocut from artist's book based on Pedro Mir's *Hay un país en el mundo. Poema gris en varias ocasiones*. Copy owned by the Dominican Studies Institute Library

THE EMILIO SÁNCHEZ FOUNDATION

19 West 21st Street, Suite 502
New York, NY 10010
Tel. (212) 924-0786
<http://emiliosanchezfoundation.org>



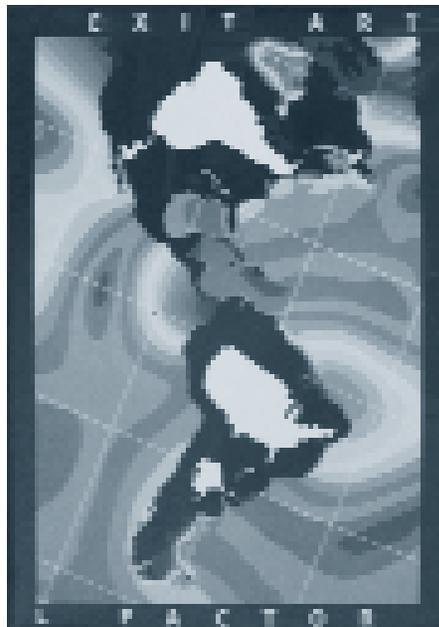
Emilio Sánchez. *Untitled, Shutters*. c. 1968. Ink on board, 40 x 60".
Emilio Sánchez Foundation

The Emilio Sánchez Foundation is a non-profit organization that preserves and promotes the legacy of the Cuban-born American artist Emilio Sánchez (1921–1999) through research, exhibitions, and publications. The archival records of the Emilio Sánchez Foundation represent a unique resource documenting the art of this artist who spent most of his career in New York. Sources include Sánchez's artwork, photographs that served as a basis for his artwork, sketchbooks, and travel journals. The singular focus of the archive and its organization make it easy and pleasant to consult.

EXIT ART

475 Tenth Avenue
New York, NY 10018
Tel. (212) 966-7745
<https://www.exitart.org>

Founded in 1982 by artist Papo Colo and curator Jeanette Ingberman, Exit Art creates and presents exhibitions and programs exploring the diversity of cultures and voices that continually shape contemporary art and ideas in America. Exit Art's archives pertain mostly to the institution's operations. Sources include, but are not limited to, exhibition and artist files, slides and digital images, catalogues, recordings of interviews and performances, and artwork. The archives offer rich information on contemporary international artists, including many Latinos and Latin Americans. These records are also invaluable



Exhibition poster for **L Factor** exhibition, November 22–February 15, 2004.
Exit Art Archives

as sources documenting the history of one of the main alternative art spaces and centers of multiculturalism in New York and the United States. Exit Art also holds the personal papers of Papo Colo.

EN FOCO

32 Kingsbridge Road
Bronx, NY 10468
Tel. (718) 584-7718
<http://www.enfoco.org>

Founded in 1974 by three New York-based Puerto Rican photographers—Charles Biasiny-Rivera, Phil Dante, and Roger Cabán—En Foco's mission is to promote and exhibit work by photographers of color (e.g. Latinos, African Americans, and Asians) in the United States. En Foco has important institutional records and clippings documenting the history of the first Puerto Rican photography group in New York, and the developments of a Puerto Rican and Latino photographic aesthetic. Their slide registry and the photographs of the permanent collection are also useful sources for the study of established and emerging photographers.



André Cypriano, *Tatuagem*, from the *Devil's Cauldron* (*Caldeirão do Diabo*) series. 1993. Gelatin silver print, 16 x 20". En Foco Archives

FELIX GONZALEZ-TORRES FOUNDATION

525 West 24th Street
New York, NY 10011
Tel. (212) 627-6000



Felix Gonzalez-Torres. *Untitled* (*Lovers – Paris*). 1993. The Felix Gonzalez-Torres Foundation. Courtesy of Andrea Rosen Gallery, New York

The Felix Gonzalez-Torres Foundation was established in 2002 by Andrea Rosen with the goal of fostering an appreciation for the work of Felix Gonzalez-Torres among scholars, art historians, and the general public. The Foundation provides guidance and assistance to those who are interested in including his work in exhibitions. The Felix Gonzalez-Torres Foundation can facilitate access to the archival records and research materials on the artist housed at Andrea Rosen Gallery. These include visual documentation of his work, newspaper clippings, and catalogues that have featured his work. The Felix Gonzalez-Torres's library and archives at Andrea Rosen Gallery are the most comprehensive in the world, and are thus a great resource for anyone studying the development of his career and practice.

THE HEMISPHERIC INSTITUTE FOR PERFORMANCE AND POLITICS

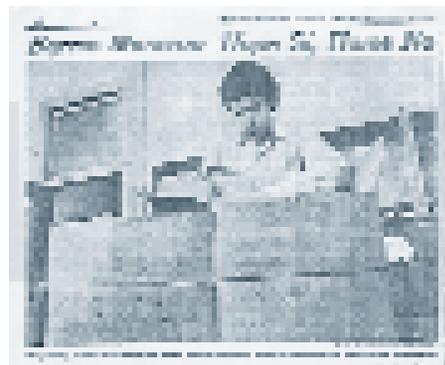
Tisch School of the Arts,
New York University
721 Broadway, 6th Floor
New York, NY 10003, USA
Tel. (212) 998-1631
<http://hemi.nyu.edu>

The Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics was founded in 1998 as a consortium of institutions, artists, scholars, and activists dedicated to exploring the relationship between expressive behavior (broadly construed as performance) and social and political life in the Americas. The Hemispheric Institute is primarily a Web-based project. Its Web site serves as an extensive archive of digitized materials. The Institute is currently working with NYU Libraries to create the Hemispheric Institute Digital Video Library, a project that would give access to curated collections of performance documentation. These materials will be accessible online through the Hemispheric Institute's Web site and in DVD format at NYU's Avery Fisher Center in Bobst Library. The Hemispheric Institute has also partnered with NYU libraries to create a physical archive for Hemispheric Institute materials and other relevant collections from the Americas. This archive will be housed as part of NYU's Tamiment Library & Wagner Labor Archives.

LEHMAN COLLEGE ART GALLERY

250 Bedford Park Boulevard West
Bronx, NY 10468-1589
Tel. (718) 960-8731
<http://www.lehman.edu/gallery>

Created in 1984, Lehman College Art Gallery presents works by leading figures in contemporary art, promising emerging artists, and significant thematic shows. The archives at Lehman College Art Gallery mainly comprise records generated for the production of exhibitions. In the last fifteen years, the gallery has had numerous exhibitions showcasing the work of Latino and Latin American artists, many of whom live in New York. The gallery has also published exhibition catalogues and gallery notes. Education and the use of technology have been main components of the gallery's mission. Public Art in the Bronx and the forthcoming Bronx Architecture are Web-based projects that highlight contributions of Latinos and artists of diverse backgrounds to the urban landscape of the borough.



Director Rafael Montañez Ortiz preparing to move from 425 West 125th Street to PS 206 at 508 East 120th Street. Grace Glueck, "Barrio Museum: Hope Si, Home No," *The New York Times*, 30 July 1970: 30. Archives of El Museo del Barrio

LONGWOOD ARTS PROJECT

450 Grand Concourse
Bronx, NY 10451
Tel. (718) 518-6728
<http://www.longwoodcyber.org>

The Bronx Council on the Arts created the Longwood Arts Project in 1981. Its mission is to give visibility and raise the technical/creative ceiling of artists from underrepresented groups, through exhibitions at the Longwood Art Gallery at Hostos Community College and the Longwood Cyber Residency program. The artist registry and exhibition records at Longwood trace the institution's instrumental role in supporting and displaying the work of established and emerging Latino and Latin American artists. Many of these artists are not extensively documented elsewhere.

EL MUSEO DEL BARRIO

1230 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10029
Tel. (212) 831-7272
<http://elmuseo.org>

El Museo del Barrio, the leading Latino and Latin American cultural institution in the nation, was founded in 1969 by artist-educator Rafael Montañez-Ortiz in response to the interest of Puerto Rican parents, educators, artists, and community activists in East Harlem. The institution has compiled and preserved a sizable biographical, bibliographical, and visual archive on Latino artists. The strength of this archive is in its artist files, which contain slides, clippings, and invitations pertaining to Puerto Rican, Latino, and Latin American artists, and includes both those

who have exhibited work at El Museo and artists who have not. The institutional files, catalogues, and exhibition slides of El Museo also constitute a major asset of the library and archives, as they document the history of the first museum in the United States dedicated to Puerto Rican, and all Caribbean, Latino, and Latin American art.

THE ARCHIVES OF THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY HISPANIC ART

Hostos Community College,
City University of New York
Library, A-213K
475 Grand Concourse
Bronx, NY 10451
Tel. (718) 518-4220
<http://www.hostos.cuny.edu>

The Museum of Contemporary Hispanic Art (MoCHA) was born in 1985 as an alternative museum in SoHo, showcasing the art of Latin American and Latino artists underrepresented in mainstream institutions. MoCHA operated under the umbrella of Friends of Puerto Rico, Inc. (FOPR), a non-profit organization founded and incorporated in 1956. From 1974 to 1984, FOPR administered the Cayman Gallery, which in its lifetime was the only noncommercial Hispanic arts center in the mainstream of American art. Despite its short existence, MoCHA helped launch the careers of numerous artists who became successful in the 1990s. After it closed in 1990, its archival records were taken to Hostos Community College, City University of New York, in an effort to preserve them. These invaluable records document the history of the institution and the early careers of many of the artists it exhibited.

Primary sources include exhibition and artist files, recorded symposia of public programs organized by the museum, and published exhibition catalogues. Although accessible, these records remain unprocessed.

MUSEUM OF MODERN ART LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

**11 West 53rd Street
New York, NY 10019
Tel. Library: (212) 708-9433
Archives: (212) 708-9617
<http://www.moma.org>**

The Library of The Museum of Modern Art was founded in the 1930s. The Library's collection holdings are devoted to literature on modern and contemporary art, dating from the 1880s to the present. From the 1940s to the 1980s, the research materials on Latin American Art collected by the Museum were united under the Latin American Archive at the Library. Eventually, these materials were integrated into the general holdings of the MoMA Library. The Library contains over 15,000 volumes of literature on Latin American, Caribbean, and U.S. Latino art.



MoMA Ice Piece, included in the exhibition **Information** (Ree Morton and Rafael Ferrer seated on steps). 1970. The Museum of Modern Art. July 2, 1970, through September 20, 1970. Department of Public Information Event Photos, 66. The Museum of Modern Art Archives, New York

The Museum Archives hold important records including personal papers of former Museum staff members and Trustees who established connections with Latin America (e.g. papers of Alfred Barr, René d'Harnoncourt, and Elaine Johnson), oral histories, and files documenting exhibitions of Latin American artists organized at MoMA. The Archives will soon have an inventory of the archival records of P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, an affiliate of The Museum of Modern Art and a venue as well for contemporary Latino and Latin American artists.

ORGANIZATION OF PUERTO RICAN ARTISTS INC. (O.P. ART)

**258 West 15th Street, # 4RE
New York, NY 10003
Tel. (212) 989-3633
<http://www.op-art.org>**

Founded in 1993, O.P. Art is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the development and promotion of Puerto Rican artists internationally. O.P. Art organizes exhibitions and advises its members on matters related to exhibitions, conferences, workshops, and scholarships. The archival records of O.P. Art are comprised of correspondence, grant files, minutes, press clippings, and catalogues related to exhibitions organized by the group in Puerto Rico as well as in the United States. This archive also documents the participation of some Puerto Rican artists members of O.P. Art in the AIDS awareness movement.

PUERTO RICO AND THE AMERICAN DREAM/MEDIANOCHÉ

**161 East 106th Street
New York, NY 10029
Tel. (212) 828-0401
<http://www.prdream.com>
<http://www.medianoche.us>**



The Krutch. 2005. Directed by Judy Escalona. Archives of PR Dream

PR Dream was founded in 1998 to serve as a bilingual Web site on the history, culture, and politics of Puerto Rico and the Puerto Rican diaspora. The visual arts archive of PR Dream contains important documentation on the art of Puerto Ricans from the island and the mainland. Its highlights include a curated Nuyorican film series, featuring films written or directed by Puerto Ricans on the subject of the diaspora. PR Dream has also a growing collection of videotaped interviews with Puerto Rican visual artists from the island and the mainland. Symposia and lectures on art are also documented through video. A large part of PR Dream's archive is Web-based and thus easily accessible.

PR Dream owns MediaNoche, a multimedia gallery that showcases network-based art and other multimedia works by interna-

tional artists. MediaNoche has an exhibition archive and has launched MediaNoche_wifi, extending its gallery beyond its walls onto 106th Street and across the street to White Park.

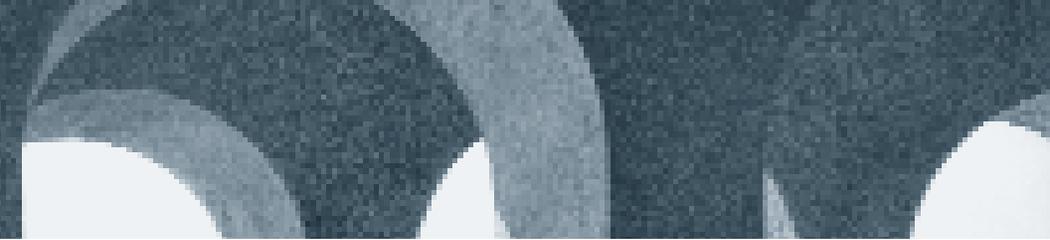
EL TALLER BORICUA

**The Puerto Rican Workshop
1680 Lexington Avenue
New York, NY 10029
Tel. (212) 831-4333
<http://www.tallerboricua.org>**

El Taller Boricua was founded in 1970 as one of the first institutions to provide workshops and exhibition space to Puerto Rican artists in New York. Born from the Nuyorican movement for cultural affirmation, El Taller has always aimed to use art as a tool for empowerment and social change in the community of El Barrio, East Harlem. Despite El Taller Boricua's loss of research material from over thirty-five years of operation, the administrative files, photographs, videos, and publications that remain are of great value in understanding the interaction of the artistic and social movements of the 1960s and 1970s and the history of pioneering Puerto Rican art institutions in New York.



Taller Boricua member Esperanza Martell teaching an outdoor ceramics workshop East Harlem. c. 1973. Archives of El Taller Boricua



Other research resources on Latino and Latin American art developed nationwide include:

Archivos Virtuales: Papers of Latino and Latin American Art, Archives of American Art
<http://www.aaa.si.edu/guides/site-archivos/index.cfm>

A Ver, Chicano Studies Research Center, University of California, Los Angeles
<http://www.chicano.ucla.edu/research/ArtHistory.html>

Proyecto CARIDAD Chicano Visual Arts Kit: A Guide, California Ethnic Multicultural Archives, Library of the University of California, Santa Barbara
http://cemaweb.library.ucsb.edu/visual_arts_kit.html

Documents of 20th-century Latin American and Latino Art, International Center for the Art of the Americas (ICAA), Museum of Fine Arts, Houston
<http://www.mfah.org/main.asp?target=icaa&par1=1>

Researching Latino Visual Arts: A Guide to Finding Archives and Collections of Primary Source Materials, The Institute for Latino Studies, Notre Dame University
http://www.nd.edu/~latino/arts/research_guide.htm

Táina B. Caragol and Milan Hughston would like to thank Donald Woodward for conceiving the survey project; interns Jessica Hankey, Orlando Hernández-Ying, and Kimberly Randall; consultant archivist William Saffady; the members of the Advisory Committee to the Survey; and the New York Metropolitan Library Council and the New York State Archives. Without their help and the support of many others, the survey would not have accomplished its important goal.

The survey's Web site is accessible at <http://www.moma.org/research/library/latinosurvey/index.html>