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## Guide to MS411 Hal Marcus papers

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Guide to  
MS 411  
Hal Marcus papers

Span Dates, 1905-2016  
Bulk Dates, 1967-2000

5 feet, 5 inches (linear), 1 oversized box, 2 oversized folders

Processed by Michael Reyes  
28 July 2016

Donated by Hal Marcus

Citation: Hal Marcus papers, 1905 – 2016, MS 411, C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, The University of Texas at El Paso Library.

C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department  
University of Texas at El Paso

## Biographical Sketch

Hal Marcus, an artist and gallery owner, was born in 1951 in El Paso, Texas. He comes from a family of Syrian immigrants who owned a grocery store on Dyer Street and Mesa Street. Growing up Marcus was influenced by daily trips to Juárez with his grandmother. Although he has no formal art training beyond high school, Marcus prides himself on being a well-traveled artist who explores artistic forms and meanings in various cultures. Marcus has traveled to Argentina, Brazil, France, Italy, Spain, Greece, Israel, Algeria, China, Turkey, and throughout Mexico.

Marcus is a well-respected artist within the El Paso community and many organizations have collaborated with him for fundraising purposes. These organizations include La Fe Clinic, the Rio Grande Food Bank, Planned Parenthood of El Paso, the United Way, and the Sun Bowl Association. Marcus also has numerous art installations found throughout El Paso. Artwork can be found at the University of Texas at El Paso's Library, the El Paso Public Library Central Branch, Temple Mt. Sinai, the Chamizal National Memorial Theater, Scottish Rite Temple, Ronald McDonald House and the El Paso County Courthouse. Many of his paintings hang in the lobby of University Medical Center Children's Hospital, and St. Pius X Catholic Church is home to 21 stained-glass windows.

Marcus has been an advocate for the El Paso and Juárez communities. He promoted literacy by writing, illustrating, and publishing the book *Animal Alphabet Album*. He also toured schools and libraries throughout Texas with this project.

In 1996 Marcus opened his own gallery, the Hal Marcus Gallery, in grandparents' former home at 2430 N. Mesa in El Paso. The Gallery, later in a different location, 1308 N. Oregon, housed his recent works, reproductions, cards, and books. The Gallery regularly hosts other artists and projects within its doors and specializes in early El Paso art.

Marcus's notable works include: *El Paso Gracias a Dios, My Life, My Friends, My World, El Mercado Juárez, Seven Days of the Creation of the World, El Paso Navidad Niños Del Sol, The Four Seasons/Four Directions of El Paso Series, and Bowie Bakery*.

Hal Marcus was honored with a street named after him, Hal Marcus Place, in 1996. He also received honors and awards from the University of Texas at El Paso in 1999 for his contributions to the university. He was inducted into the El Paso Artists Hall of Fame in 2003. He gifted President Barack Obama a proof of *El Paso Gracias a Dios* in 2010.

[Sources: [www.halmarcus.com](http://www.halmarcus.com), Gomez, Monica, and Patricia Medici. *Hal Marcus Art & times*. El Paso, TX: Paso Al Sol, 2015. Marcus, Hal, Patricia Medici, Mark Schrier, Tara Schrier, and Kelly Foss. *Hal Marcus El Paso Arthouse*. El Paso, TX: Paso Al Sol, 2011. and biography found in his donor file.]

## Series Description or Arrangement

This collection is divided into five series: Biographical, Correspondence, Photographs and other media, Publications and printed material, and Creative work.

Series 1: Biographical – newspapers, newspaper clippings, notes, photocopies, programs, pamphlets, speeches, flyers, invitations, postcards, and artwork. Arranged in chronological order.

Series 2: Correspondence – incoming and outgoing correspondence. Arranged in chronological order.

Series 3: Photographs and other media – photographs, cassette tapes, VHS tapes, and DVDS. Arranged in chronological order.

Series 4: Publications and other media – newspaper clippings, articles, pamphlets, brochures, books, advertisements, and albums. Arranged in chronological order.

Series 5: Creative work – maracas, puppets, calendar prints, and notebooks. Arranged in approximate chronological order within material types.

## Scope and Content Notes

The Hal Marcus papers, MS 411, dates from 1905-2015. The collection contains materials that document Hal Marcus's childhood, family life, and his career as an artist. The collection also contains correspondence, gifts, books, and creative works.

The **Biographical** series contains photocopies detailing Hal Marcus's family history and descendants. The series also includes correspondence between various individuals and organizations, newspaper clippings, speeches at various events, and invites to galleries and other social events.

The **Correspondence** series contains emails sent to Hal Marcus and his wife Patricia Medici, correspondence between him and UTEP, and letters from Temple Mount Sinai.

The **Photographs and other media** series contains photographs documenting Hal Marcus's family, friends, and artwork. The series also contains cassette tapes, VHS tapes, and DVDs documenting Hal Marcus's art and music ventures.

The **Publications and printed material** series contains books, albums, brochures and articles highlighting Hal Marcus's artwork.

The **Creative Work** series contains notebooks, puppets, maracas, paint brushes, paint palette, and oversized prints of Hal Marcus's artwork.

## **Provenance Statement**

The Hal Marcus papers were donated to the C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department of the University of Texas at El Paso Library on March 29, 1995; February 2, 2000; August 15, 2000; January 1, 2003; August 15, 2004; March 2009; November 17, 2015; and August 17, 2016.

## **Restrictions**

There are two restricted boxes that cannot be viewed until 2025.

## **Literary Rights Statement**

Permission to publish material from the Hal Marcus papers must be obtained from the C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, the University of Texas at El Paso Library. Citation should read, Hal Marcus papers, C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, the University of Texas at El Paso Library.

## **Notes to the Researcher**

Two boxes are restricted and cannot be viewed until 2025 or until Hal Marcus releases them for public use.

## Container List

### Series I: Biographical

Box #	Folder #	Title	Date
1	1	Notebook I [photocopied photographs]	1905-1968
1	2	Family Members [invitations, news clippings, program, eulogy]	1964-2000
1	3	[newspaper clippings, photos, notes, programs, flyers, articles]	1967-2008
1	4	Notebook I [photocopies]	1968-1970
1	5	Notebook I [photocopies]	1971-1975
1	6	Notebook I [photocopies]	1976-1977
1	7	[newspaper clippings, notes, letters, programs, photographs, brochures]	1976-2008
1	8	Notebook I [photocopies]	1977-1993
1	9	Notebook I: <i>Black and White, Day and Night</i> [photocopies]	1977
1	10	Notebook I [business card and template]	1977
1	11	[Invitations, photocopies, and newspaper clippings of Caminata Espiritual, Mexico-Los Angeles]	1986
1	12	Notebook II [photocopies]	1989
1	13	Notebook II [photocopies]	1990-1991
1	14	[newspaper clippings, notes, pamphlets, programs, postcards, inventory list]	1990s
1	15	Notebook II [photocopies]	1992-1993
1	16	Notebook II: Nicole and Marco's artwork	1993
1	17	Notebook III	1994
2	1	Photos, newspaper clippings, book, programs, invitations, notes, speeches, pamphlets, brochures [1 out of 2]	1996-2007
2	2	Photos, newspaper clippings, book, programs, invitations, notes, speeches, pamphlets, brochures [2 out of 2]	1996-2007
12	1	Book inventory list	1996-2015

12	2	Notepad titled "My Influences"	c. 2000s
2	3	Photocopies, news clippings, correspondence, invitations, certificates	2001
2	4	Speeches, notes, notepad, sketches, Alphabet Alligator pin	2013-2015
12	3	Dayminders 2005-2012	2005-2010
12	4	Early years, 1951-1964 notes	c. 2010s
12	5	Calendar and guest lists for events	c. 2010s
12	6	Notes on individuals that influenced Hal Marcus	c. 2010s
12	7	Notes and poem	c. 2010s
12	8	Dayminders 2010-2014	2010-2014
12	9	My Jewish Journey drafts	July 2012
12	10	Check and receipt to El Paso Museum of Art and El Paso Museum of Art Foundation	19 July 2012 – 1 January 2015
12	11	Creativity sermon	8 March 2013
12	12	Notes on creativity	8 March 2013
12	13	Peace pilgrimage to Turkey speech	21 June 2013
12	14	Raindrop Turkish House speech	6 August 2013
12	15	Book design/production estimate and notes	29 July 2014
12	16	2015 book notes	2015
12	17	2015 Rodef Shalom Award speech	2015
12	18	EPMA speech	April 2015
12	19	Drafts of notes about artwork	29 June 2015
12	20	Hal Marcus <i>Lyric Modern</i> write ups for EPMA and El Paso Scene	29 August 2015 – September 2015
12	21	Speech for EPMA	September 2015
12	22	<i>Mother and Child</i> notes	June 2016
12	23	Border Hero speech, notes, and button	2016
12	24	Hal Marcus biographies	2016

## Series II: Correspondence

3	1	Notebook III: Correspondence with UTEP	1992-1995
3	2	Card from Temple Mount Sinai and newspaper clippings	1995-2000s
3	3	Card from Mount Temple Sinai	27 December

			1997
3	4	Emails and letters to Hal Marcus and his wife Patricia Medici	1998-2015
12	25	Correspondence between Hal Marcus, Vincent Peterson, Leonard Sipiora, Michael Tomar, and Dorian Clouser	11 June 2015-23 September 2015

### Series III: Photographs and other media

4	1	Photos of Hal Marcus, Manuel Acosta, artwork	1969
4	2	<i>El Mercado</i>	1989
4	3	Photo of Hal Marcus and Patricia Medici, Hal Marcus pamphlet	1990s-2003
4	4	Photos of Hal Marcus, Patricia Medici, children, artwork, various individuals	circa 1990s-2000s
12	26	Photos of artwork and two unidentified females	circa 1990s-2010s
4	5	2 cassette tapes, "Jitano"	1995
4	6	2 cassette tapes, "No U Turn"	1997
12	27	Hal Marcus presents "Sip & Slide" parts 1-3 DVDs	circa 2000s
4	7	Hal and Patricia	2000
4	8	Hal Marcus Open House 2000 photos, postcard	2000
4	9	Hal Marcus 2001 video	2000
5	1	Hal Marcus 2001 VHS	2000
12	28	3 CD's, 1 DVD, <i>Hal Marcus 2001</i> , <i>Hal Marcus/Lyric Modern</i> , <i>The four seasons of Hal Marcus</i> , <i>Morda</i> , <i>The Battle Within</i>	2001-2016
5	2	Hal Marcus induction into Hall of Fame	17 October 2003
5	3	4 DVDS of Hal Marcus	April 2006-2009
12	29	<i>Sub-conscious, as Babylon burns</i> CD	2010

### Series IV: Publications and printed material

13	1	16 cards and postcards	1970-2014
6	1	<i>Black &amp; White, Day &amp; Night</i>	1977
6	2	<i>Black and White, Day and Night, Hal Marcus Art Book 2008</i>	1977-2008



6	3	Event programs, art gallery invites, benefit dinners, advertisements	1979-2015
6	4	Goat Love	1980
6	5	"13 full moons" by Gene Keller, "Seven Blue Women" by Marge Gianelli, postcard, bumper sticker, "Sacred Fire" by Gene Keller	16 January 1986-11 November 2000
6	6	<i>El Mercado</i> notecards	1988
6	7	<i>El Mercado</i> artwork articles [includes note from Manuel Acosta]	1989-1991
6	8	Notebook II: The sign language circus	1989
13	2	22 postcards and cards	1990-2015
6	9	Newspaper clippings of Hal Marcus	1991-2003
6	10	Articles-Artwork	1994-1998
6	11	<i>A Celebration of Time: A Shabbat Siddur</i>	1995
6	12	<i>Four Seasons</i> notecards	1995
6	13	<i>Four Seasons</i> of El Paso articles	March 1995
6	14	<i>A Celebration of Time: A Shabbat Siddur</i>	December 1995-January 1996
6	15	<i>Animal Alphabet Album</i>	1996
6	16	<i>Animal Alphabet Album</i> – Articles	1996
6	17	Music Articles	1997-1998
6	18	Articles and Pamphlets [includes correspondence]	1997-2000
6	19	Artwork show invitations	23 December 1997-20 January 2001
6	20	Hal Marcus 2001 Video-article	2000
6	21	Hal Marcus gallery brochures, article, and advertisement	2002
6	22	Artwork pamphlets	2003
13	3	Booklets showing Hal Marcus art	2003-2015
13	4	Dinner tickets, invites, openings	2010-2016
13	5	5 signed postcards	2010-2013
13	6	<i>Reading ancient symbols in the Book of Tezcatlipoca</i> key	2011
6	23	<i>The Book of Felix and Brevity</i> by Gene Keller	2011
13	7	Programs of events hosting Hal Marcus	2013-2016
13	8	Pamphlets-Hal Marcus Gallery, El	2015

		Paso Museum of Art, El Paso Symphony Orchestra	
13	9	Magazines with articles about Hal Marcus	Spring 2015-Autumn 2015
13	10	Brochures, pamphlets, and tickets to various events	November 2015-6 May 2016
13	11	<i>What's Up</i> article	30 March 2016-6 April 2016

### Series V: Creative Work

7 [over-size box]		2 maracas and 2 puppets	undated
8 [over-size box]		13 journals and 1 letter of correspondence [***RESTRICTED***]	1967-1997
9 [over-size box]		8 journals [***RESTRICTED***]	1967-1997
Map Case Drawer # 8	1	Calendar Prints [oversized newspaper articles]	1990-2007
Map Case Drawer # 8	2	Signed Calendar Print	2003
10 [over-sized box]		Contains newspapers and clippings on Hal Marcus's art, career, and family	1969-2015
11 [over-sized box]		Contains paint brushes, painting palette, Manuel Acosta paper hat, framed picture of the Virgen de Guadalupe, shopping bag, and prints of Hal Marcus paintings.	undated