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Guide to MS638 Manuel Acosta collection

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Guide to
MS638
Manuel Acosta collection

Span Dates, 1920s – 2009
Bulk Dates, 1970s - 2002

1 foot, 7 inches (linear)

Processed by Lesley Ordaz
Biographical sketch research by Lesley Ordaz
Front matter by Abbie Weiser
February 3, 2022

Purchased from Hal Marcus, 2016.

Citation: Manuel Acosta collection, MS638, 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

Historical Sketch

Manuel Gregorio Acosta (1921 – 1989) was an important El Paso artist. Acosta created paintings, drawings, murals, and sculptures. He was born on May 9, 1921 in Aldama, Mexico, and moved to El Paso with his family as a child. At Bowie High School, Acosta studied drawing under Octavia Magoffin Glasgow. During WWII, he served in the U.S. military. In 1946, he began studying art at the College of Mines and Metallurgy (later UTEP). Acosta studied with Urbici Soler and later apprenticed under Peter Hurd. He then studied art at the University of California – Santa Barbara and at the Chouinard Institute in Los Angeles. After his time in California, Acosta returned to El Paso and established his own art studio where he became known for his paintings of El Pasoans and El Paso scenes. Commissions included the pioneer murals at the West Texas Museum; the First National Bank, Las Cruces, New Mexico; and the Bank of Texas Houston. Acosta's work is in Texas Tech University in Lubbock; the Museum of New Mexico; the El Paso Museum of Art; the Harmsen Western Collection in Denver; the National Portrait Gallery, and the Time Inc. Collection in New York. Acosta's most well-known work is his 1969 portrait of Cesar Chavez, which was on the cover of *Time Magazine*. Acosta was brutally murdered on October 25, 1989. He was inducted into the El Paso Artists' Hall of Fame in 2002.

[Sources: Handbook of Texas Online; halmarcus.com;
<https://internationalmuseumofart.org/annual-programs/hall-of-fame/>]

Series Description or Arrangement

Materials left in the order found by archivist.

Scope and Content Notes

The Manuel Acosta collection, MS638, dates 1920s – 2009, bulk 1972 – 2002. The collection helps document Acosta's work and career as an artist. Types of records include correspondence, photographs, slides, and publications.

Provenance Statement

Purchased from Hal Marcus, 2016.

Restrictions

No rights to art and publications.

Literary Rights Statement

Permission to publish material from this collection must be obtained from the C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, the University of Texas at El Paso Library. Citation should read, Manuel Acosta collection, MS638, C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, the University of Texas at El Paso Library.

Notes to the Researcher

See also:

El Paso Herald-Post records, MS348

Oral history interview No.63 <https://scholarworks.utep.edu/interviews/63/>

Mago Gandara papers, MS584, Box 3

Container List

Box #	Folder #	Title	Date
1	1	Manuel Gregorio Acosta: A Retrospective/ Una Retrospectiva [Book]	2009 April 5 – June 21
1	2	Black & white photographs & Newspaper clippings [7 photographs]	1976 March 15 - 1999
1	3	El Paso Artists' Hall of Fame 2002 [color photographs & newspaper clippings & record with songs "Dime Suzy Label " by Juan Manuel Carreon]	2002
1	4	Tribute to Manuel Acosta by Hal Marcus in 1999 El Paso Scene Magazine	1999
1	5	For Derrell E. Hiatt from Bobby Escobedo Photographs & retail appraisals [35 Xerox color reproductions & wholesale & retail appraisals from 2002]	2002

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1	6	Manuel Acosta's self-portrait with the story of what happened to this famous work of art	undated
1	7	Photographs Envelope A: 9 photographs of Manuel Acosta's famous parties Envelope B: 19 photographs of artworks Envelope C: 3 photographs from Teresa & Alfonso Gallardo collection Envelope D: Hurd-La Rinconada Gallery & 2 photographs of Manuel Acosta's paintings Envelope E: 9 funeral prayer cards from Manuel Acosta's rosary Envelope F: 2 poster photographs Envelope G: Photograph of a painting of a man with a big hat	1989 October 25 – 2003 March 17
1	8	American Art Review page 163 Manuel Acosta's piece "El Sombrero Verde", 2002	2002
1	9	Photocopy of 1969 Time Magazine cover with portrait of Cesar Chavez by Manuel Acosta	1969 July 4
1	10	"The Art of the People of El Paso" Burlington Northern Foundation Watercolor Exhibit in the 1980's	undated
1	11	Manuel Acosta slides of artwork [87 slides]	undated
1	12	"The Art of the People of El Paso" & Art of the Pass of the North: An Exhibition of Watercolors [Art of the People of the Pass of the North An Exhibition of Watercolors by Manuel Gregorio Acosta, The Art of the People of El Paso]	undated
1	13	Magazine articles celebrating Manuel Acosta & American Art Review page 163	1974 - 2001

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1	14	Newspaper articles honoring the death and celebration of Manuel Acosta tribute & 2 colored photographs	1972 - 2002
1	15	Newspaper articles, forms, and a letters for an exhibit at Ysleta	1973 - 1999
1	16	Tribute papers and newspaper articles from 1989	1989 - 1999
2	17	Hall of Fame Speech [by Hal Marcus on 2002 October 18 at the International Museum of Art]	2002 October 18
2	18	Speech Notes for Acosta's Induction	2002
2	19	Postcards from "Maestro Pintor" exhibit at Hal Marcus Gallery 2002	2002
2	20	Photo of Still Life	undated
2	21	1961 Photo of Cowboy wearing a Red Shirt with note from Sharon Semko	1961, 2004 February 12
2	22	Photos from Mr. & Mrs. Escobedo [with 4 photographs]	undated
2	23	Letters to/from Ysela O'Malley from Acosta & articles	1953 - 1999

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2	24	Tribute Inventory Papers 1999	1999
2	25	Xeroxed photos & letters of Manuel Acosta's paintings	2002
2	26	Appraisals & Photographs 1994 [Lone Star envelope with 2 colored photographs & 2 papers]	1994
2	27	Estate papers of Manuel Acosta & Inventory Appraisement in 1994 & List of claims by Manuel Acosta	1994
2	28	Photographs [childhood, military, family, and other images; 36 Photographs, 23 colored & 13 black and white; removed from folding screen]	1920s - 1969
2	29	Slides of Acosta's Artwork, many of which have not been shown publicly [100 slides]	undated
3	-	2 Porcelain ash trays with reproductions of murals Manuel did at a bank in Las Cruces	undated
3	-	DVD- Tapestry 2 by Rosa Guerrero	2005
3	-	DVD – Manuel Gregorio Acosta 1921-1989	undated
3	-	VHS videos of Manuel Acosta produced by the Hal Marcus Gallery & Interviews with Manuel Acosta	2003 January 3

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4	-	VHS videos [2] of Manuel Acosta produced by the Hal Marcus Gallery & Interviews with Manuel Acosta	2003 January 3
4	1	Photographs and negatives of art by Manuel Acosta	undated
4	2	Photographs and negatives of art by Manuel Acosta	undated
4	3	Photographs and negatives of art by Manuel Acosta	undated
4	4	Photographs and negatives of art by Manuel Acosta	undated
4	5	Photographs and negatives of art by Manuel Acosta	undated
4	6	Photographs and negatives of art by Manuel Acosta	undated
4	7	Photographs and negatives of art by Manuel Acosta	undated
4	8	Photographs and negatives of art by Manuel Acosta	undated
4	9	Photographs and negatives of art by Manuel Acosta	undated

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4	10	Photographs and negatives of art by Manuel Acosta	undated
4	11	Photographs and negatives of art by Manuel Acosta	undated
4	12	Photographs and negatives of art by Manuel Acosta	undated
Map Drawer 21	o/s	Southwestern Art Form Magazine 1976 & Herald-Post 1972 [Southwestern Art Form Magazine with article about Manuel Acosta written by Hal Marcus in 1976 & Betty Ligon article about Acosta written for the Herald-Post in 1972]	1972 July 28; 1976 March 15