Guide to the Laura Aguilar Papers M0829

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1997; revised 2020
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URL: http://library.stanford.edu/spc
Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: Department of Special Collections and University Archives
Title: Laura Aguilar papers
Creator: Aguilar, Laura
Identifier/Call Number: M0829
Physical Description: 2.75 Linear Feet (8 boxes)
Date (inclusive): 1981-1995

Conditions Governing Access
Open for research; material must be requested at least 36 hours in advance of intended use. Selected photographs have been digitized and are available online: https://purl.stanford.edu/jm174sx1579

Immediate Source of Acquisition
Purchased from Laura Aguilar, 1996.

Biographical / Historical
Laura Aguilar is a photographer whose works are mostly portraits. Professor Chon Noriega of UCLA's Department of Film and Television writes that Aguilar's work documents "social groups and identities that remain invisible in mainstream culture: Latina lesbians, black couples, obese people, et al." She cooperates with her subjects so that "her work is not about power differentials between photographer and subject as is often, if implicitly, the case with...the social documentary tradition." An autobiographical element is also apparent in Aguilar's work. Art critic Diana Emery Hulick noted that "the circumstances of [Aguilar's] life are reflected overtly in her art." Aguilar, Hulick wrote, "is large, lesbian, and Chicana, acutely aware of her separateness, yet comfortable enough with herself to present us with a personal vision that is both intimate and authoritative."

Laura Aguilar was born in west San Gabriel Valley, California in 1959. She has studied in the East Los Angeles Community College photography program and the Santa Fe Photographic Workshop, among other programs. In 1994/95 she was the recipient of a California Arts Council Fellowship and in 1991/92 of an Artist's Project Grant from Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions (LACE). Her work has appeared in exhibits in California, Texas, New York, and Mexico. Collections of her work can be found at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the Santa Monica Cultural Affairs Department in Santa Monica, California. Aguilar lives in Rosemead, California.


Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Laura Aguilar Papers, M0829, Dept. of Special Collections, Stanford Libraries, Stanford, Calif.

Processing Information
Processed by Patricia Mazón, 1996 April

Scope and Contents
The Aguilar Papers and Photographs include the personal and professional materials of Laura Aguilar and occupy 2.75 linear feet. The collection traces through correspondence with mentors and friends both Aguilar's artistic development and her struggle with dyslexia. Her professional achievements are detailed in the series on exhibitions and published works. The print series includes original prints of three of Aguilar's photographic series: Latina Lesbians, Plush Pony, and Clothed/Unclothed.

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Subjects and Indexing Terms
Dyslexia.
Hispanic American lesbians.
Mexican American art.
Obesity.
Photography.
Photoprints.
Cuadros, Gilbert.
House, Suda.
Martel, Pat.
Tenneson, Joyce.

Series 1. Correspondence

Box 1, Folder 1  Deborah Bright, The Passionate Camera, 1995
Box 1, Folder 2  Cre Arte, pART, 1994
Box 1, Folder 3  Gilbert Cuadros, 1994
Box 1, Folder 4  Letters of recommendation for Aguilar, 1991-1995
Box 1, Folder 5  "Letters on photos," 1987-1994
Box 1, Folder 6  Los Angeles County Museum of Art, 1995
Box 1, Folder 7  Pat Martel, 1990-92
Box 1, Folder 8  Siobhan Somerville, Purdue University, 1995
Box 1, Folder 9  Joyce Tenneson, 1991-1993
Box 1, Folder 10 Joyce Tenneson, 1993-1995
Box 2 (legal), Folder 1  Biennale di Venezia, 1993
Box 2 (legal), Folder 2  Suda House, 1980-90

Series 2. Exhibitions & Published Works

Box 3 (legal), Folder 1  Exhibitions and published works, 1986
Box 3 (legal), Folder 2  Exhibitions and published works, 1987
Box 3 (legal), Folder 3  Exhibitions and published works, 1989
Box 3 (legal), Folder 4  Exhibitions and published works, 1990
Box 3 (legal), Folder 5  Exhibitions and published works, 1990
Box 3 (legal), Folder 6  Exhibitions and published works, 1990
Box 3 (legal), Folder 7  Exhibitions and published works, 1991
Box 3 (legal), Folder 8  Exhibitions and published works, 1991
Box 3 (legal), Folder 9  Exhibitions and published works, 1992
Box 3 (legal), Folder 10 Exhibitions and published works, 1992
Box 3 (legal), Folder 11 Exhibitions and published works, 1992
Box 3 (legal), Folder 12 Exhibitions and published works, 1993
Box 4 (legal), Folder 1  Exhibitions and published works, 1993
Box 4 (legal), Folder 2  Exhibitions and published works, 1994
Box 4 (legal), Folder 3  Exhibitions and published works, 1994
Box 4 (legal), Folder 4  Exhibitions and published works, 1994
| Box 4 (legal), Folder 5 | Exhibitions and published works, 1995 |
| Box 4 (legal), Folder 6 | Exhibitions and published works, 1995 |
| Box 4 (legal), Folder 7 | Exhibitions and published works, 1995 |
| Box 4 (legal), Folder 8 | Exhibitions organized and curated by Aguilar, 1989-92 |
| Box 5 (OS), Folder 1 | Exhibitions, workshops, conferences, 1987-90, n.d. |
| Box 5 (OS), Folder 2 | Other Work |
| Box 5 (OS), Folder 3 | Luz Calvo, paper draft, 1995 |
| Box 5 (OS), Folder 4 | Certificate, honorable mention, for Mexican exhibit, 1988 |
| Box 5 (OS), Folder 5 | Elan (East Los Angeles College: Winter 1980) |
| Box 5 (OS), Folder 6 | Photo Nation, and undated (workshop) 1992 |
| Box 5 (OS), Folder 7 | Square Peg (Dec./Jan. 1992/93) |
| Box 5 (OS), Folder 8 | "Writing about being dyslexia [sic] at Pasadena City College," 1983 |
| Box 5 (OS), Folder 9 | Nueva Luz, v. 4, no. 2 (1993) |

**Series 3. Prints**

| Box 6 (OS), Folder 1 | Latina Lesbian series, 1986-1990 |
| Box 7 (OS), Folder 1 | Clothed/Unclothed series, list of photos |
| Box 7 (OS), Folder 2 | Clothed/Unclothed series, nos. 1-17 1990-94, |
| Box 7 (OS), Folder 3 | Clothed/Unclothed series, nos. 18-34 1990-94, |
| Box 7 (OS), Folder 4 | Plush Pony series, 1992 |