Finding Aid for the Alicia Gaspar de Alba Collection of Maquiladora Murders
Research Materials Collection 2005

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Chicano Studies Research Center, UCLA
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Descriptive Summary

Title: Alicia Gaspar de Alba Collection of Maquiladora Murders Research Materials Collection,

Date (inclusive): 2005

Collection number: 109

Creator: Gaspar de Alba, Alicia

Extent: 4.5 linear foot

Repository: University of California, Los Angeles. Library. Chicano Studies Research Center, UCLA

Los Angeles, California 90095-1490

Abstract: This is a collection of artifacts made by students to honor those women murdered in Juarez, Mexico in what has become known as the Maquiladora Murders. Researchers who would like to indicate errors of fact or omissions in this finding aid can contact the research center at www.chicano.ucla.edu

Physical location: CSRC Archive Library

Language of Material: Collection materials in English

Access

Access is available by appointment for UCLA student and faculty researchers as well as independent researchers. To view the collection or any part of it, please contact the CSRC at http://www.chicano.ucla.edu/

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Alicia Gaspar de Alba Collection of Maquiladora Murders Research Materials Collection, 109, Chicano Studies Research Center, UCLA, University of California, Los Angeles.

Acquisition Information

This collection has been deeded to the UCLA CSRC. Deed on file in the Archive office

Biography

Alicia Gaspar de Alba is an award-winning novelist as well as a professor and poet. Gaspar de Alba was born in El Paso, Texas on July 29, 1958. She taught English to Mexican executives and staff members of General Motors' maquiladoras at the Instituto Interlingua in Juarez, Chihuahua from 1978-1980. In 1979, The National Research Council (NRC) in Washington, DC offered her a Ford Foundation fellowship for minorities due to her excellent academic performance. She earned her B.A. in English in 1980 and M.A. in English in 1983 from the University of Texas in El Paso. She enrolled as a PhD student in American Studies at the University of Iowa in 1985 but then quit a year later due to culture shock. Afterward, Gaspar de Alba returned to her doctoral studies in American Studies, this time at the University of New Mexico, where she graduated with distinction. She focused her research on Chicano/a art, pop culture, literature, and writing. For her dissertation, "Mi Casa [No] Es Su Casa: The Cultural Politics of the Chicano Art: Resistance and Affirmation Exhibit," she won the Ralph Henry Gabriel American Studies Dissertation Fellowship in 1993, a Ford Foundation Fellowship in 1993, and a Chicana Dissertation Fellowship from the University of California, Santa Barbara in 1992. It was named the Best Dissertation in the field of American Studies in 1994. The University of Texas Press published the dissertation as a book, titled Chicano Art Inside/Outside the Master's House: Cultural Politics and the CARA Exhibition, in January 1998.

Scope and Content

This is a collection of approximately 3 linear feet of artifacts created and collected by Alicia Gaspar de Alba and Sandra Ruiz from UCLA Today: Since the signing of the North American Free Trade Agreement, young women from poor villages in the interior of Mexico have flocked to Ciudad Juárez, the city that borders El Paso, Texas, to look for jobs in American-owned maquiladoras or factories. Instead, what hundreds of them have found is a gruesome and early death, said Alicia Gaspar de Alba, associate director of the Chicano Studies Research Center. Since 1993, more than 300 young women and girls have been killed in Ciudad Juárez, across the border from Gaspar de Alba's hometown of El Paso. This 10-year crime wave of deadly violence will be the focus of an international conference, "The Maquiladora Murders, Or, Who is Killing the Women of Juárez?" slated for Oct. 31-Nov. 2 at UCLA. It will coincide with Days of the Dead, a Mexican holiday that honors the dead. "You have to understand that these crimes are more than murders," said Gaspar de Alba, who wrote a mystery novel, "The Factory: A Novel on the Maquiladora Murders." "They are ritual acts of pure and unadulterated hatred and desprecio (scorn)
toward the indigenous female body. Who can hate these powerless women so much?" The arrests made so far in some of the deaths have usually turned out to be controversial or erroneous, Gaspar de Alba said. For instance, police allegedly tortured some of the suspects into confessing they were guilty while other suspects have been released, she said. Still, the murders of young women in Juárez have not stopped. In February 2003, four new bodies were discovered, including one of a 5-year-old girl with multiple stab wounds and her eyes removed. Many of the victims remain unidentified. “Beyond exploring the many theories that exist around the question ‘Who is killing the women of Juárez?,’ the conference will look at the complicity of silence that has protected the killers on both sides of the border,” Gaspar de Alba said. Participants will examine the sexism that surrounds the murders. According to Gaspar de Alba, some people, including the authorities, believe: “She asked for it by the way she dressed.” Organizers also hope to draw attention to the American companies who employ many women. Many of the victims were killed on their way home from work at night. “The maquiladora industry needs to be made accountable for not protecting its personnel,” Gaspar de Alba said.

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library’s online public access catalog.

Subjects
Alicia Gaspar de Alba
Hate Crime
Juarez Mexico
Maquiladora Murders
Sandra Ruiz
The Maquiladora Murders, Or, Who is Killing the Women of Juárez?
Women

Box 1, Folder 1

Alicia Gaspar de Alba Collection of Maquiladora Murders Research Materials Collection
no date

Physical Description: Costume
Scope and Content Note
Long black dress shirt with spots of glitter and nails are pierced into the bottom of the dress. There is a broken phone attached to the dress along with several phone wires sticking out. A pin cushion is attached and a measuring tape hangs around the collar of the dress. Computer chips are also attached to the dress. A red tape acts as the belt. Underneath the dress there is a white, laced camisole. There is an ID badge with loose phone buttons. In the middle there is a white hole and there is an extension cord that sits at the top of the dress shoulders that is wrapped around with several wires.

Box 1, Folder 2

Alicia Gaspar de Alba Collection of Maquiladora Murders Research Materials Collection
no date

Physical Description: Costume
Scope and Content Note
Long sleeve green shirt with a thin brown cardigan. There is a small yellow flyer attached to the cardigan. Its yellow and reads "United States of America" with a red heart and the country of Mexico. With each state having a number. There is a green skirt that has a flower print and then a big, bright, pink flower pinned. There is also a black rosary.

Box 2, Folder 1

Alicia Gaspar de Alba Collection of Maquiladora Murders Research Materials Collection
no date

Physical Description: Costume
Scope and Content Note
Black, velvet dress with spots of glitter and small metallic stars. There is also a black velvet heart sewed on to the dress that is outlined in sequence with a letter opener thrusting through the middle. There is also a red velvet lips sewed on to the front bottom of the dress and back. Different colored Mardi Gras beads hang from the hanger. In the back of the velvet dress there is a purple bra attached.
Alicia Gaspar de Alba Collection of Maquiladora Murders Research Materials Collection
no date

Physical Description: Costume

Scope and Content Note
Pillow cases with different prints and images:
First pillow case has a black square printed on there with the word GAZE in red.
Second pillow case has flower prints with the pink image of a phone jack connection to the wall that links to a mexican/aztec image. It is titled CODEX-PESADILLA.COM
Third pillow case has the image of woman and it has a small paragraph above titled YANKEE! WELCOME TO MEXICO
Fourth pillow case is brown and it has 2 bloody hand prints
Fifth pillow case has several black and brown stains with faint red cross stains
Six pillow case is an image of one of the Juarez women and states TO WORK AND DIE IN JUAREZ

Alicia Gaspar de Alba Collection of Maquiladora Murders Research Materials Collection
no date

Physical Description: Costume

Scope and Content Note
School girl outfit that consists of a brown skirt where there is a crayon, compass and top lid of a sharpener. White, long, sleeve blouse with push pins actings as buttons. There is a pen hanging like a necklace. The side pocket is full of BIG push pins of different colors. The right sleeve has a blue manila folder that has the words TYPING and MECANOGRafia
Box 3  Alicia Gaspar de Alba Collection of Maquiladora Murders Research Materials Collection  no date

Scope and Content Note
There is a tote bag called “THE MAQUILADORA MURDERS OR, WHO IS KILLING THE WOMEN OF JUAREZ?” An International Conference, Days of the Dead, October 31-November 2, 2003. Along with the tote there is a black t-shirt with the same logo of "THE MAQUILADORA MURDERS OR, WHO IS KILLING THE WOMEN OF JUAREZ?"

There is also an additional totebag that is blue and has the logo of HOMEGIRL industries "JOBS NOT JAILS"

There is also clothing articles such as:
- a red scarf
- a black ASUCLA Student workers t-shirt
- A brown Chicano Studies Research Center t-shirt with the C/S logo
- A white t-shirt that says "CORRIDOS SIN FRONTERAS, JUNE 5-SEPTEMBER 27, 1998, UCLA CHICANO STUDIES CENTER"
- A white t-shirt that says "EAST LOS ANGELES WOMEN’S CENTER"
- a dark tan t-shirt that says "HICKS CAMP ESTABLISHED 1915"

A name badge of Emma Perez from the University of Colorado, Boulder

Chicano Studies Research Folder filled with the Maquilando Mujeres en Juarez O, Quien son los Asesions? Conference materials
Dia de los Muertos, Oct. 31 - Nov. 2 2003.

Additional papers relating to the Mujeres of Juarez such as:
- Mission statement from the Amigos de las Mujeres de Juarez
- Letter and report from the Justicia para Nuestras Hijas
- Article from the Los Angeles Times titled "Vanished"
- Press release from UCLA News about the murders of the women of Juarez
Alicia Gaspar de Alba Collection of Maquiladora Murders Research Materials Collection
no date

Physical Description: Artifacts

Scope and Content Note
There is also a medium sized light blue cross that is covered in glitter. There is a heart at the crossing with an Aztec symbol.

There is a ceramic mask that is painted with birds and flowers in pastel colors.

There is a large silver frame which the inside is covered with dirt all over. On top of the dirt there are several random things glued on to it. Some of the objects include:
a pink round mirror with sequence around it
broken crayons
a wheel
broken pencils
pieces of women's underwear
small silver keys
battery
candy wrappers
piece of measuring tape
push pins
pennys
pieces of newspaper
little doll plastic boots
gold necklace
small soccer eraser
nails
small picture of skeleton
pony tail holders
Box 5

**Alicia Gaspar de Alba Collection of Maquiladora Murders Research Materials Collection**

**no date**

**Physical Description: Shoes**

**Scope and Content Note**

1 platform show painted red and yellow. It has a picture of a women on the strap and is covered with 3 small purple flowers glued to the sole. The words “NI UNA MAS” are written on the side of the shoe and in the back of the show a black cross is painted.

big shoe loafer that is painted dark green, white, red, yellow, and blue. There are flowers painted on each side with the words JUSTICIA on the front and a picture of a small skeleton face in the front of the shoe.

Black, platform sandal that is decorated with blue, yellow, and white paint all around the bottom portion of the show. There are daisy's painted on the strap of the sandal.

Low heel sandal where the sole is painted light blue and the strap is painted green with blue flowers. On the sole there is a picture of a woman and her child glued on to the sole.

Pink sketcher platform show that is painted in pink and is covered with purple and green glitter (also included in the inside of the sole) There are black stripes painted on the back of the shoe along with 2 white feathers glued on the back.

Platform Sandal that is covered all over in messy red paint. All over the platform there are pictures of women and children. Some of the pictures are not visible since the red paints covers part of the picture. There is a scissor pierced through the strap of the sandal in the front and it also pierced a picture of a little boy that is glued on the strap.

Nicely decorated sandal that is painted in hues of pink and it decorated with a white outline and red and pink poke a dots and flowers all over the sandal.

Platform school loafer painted in dark green paint with a navy blue strap. In the inside of the show there is a light blue lace doily and a piece of lily flowers glued in the middle.

High black platform sandal that is covered in images of women around the platform and decorated with colored confetti and small pieces of ornaments such as butterflies, bees, flowers, beads, buttons, small pendants, and earrings. There is also pink puff paint on the show and on the strap is says “Will be miss!” with hearts.

Black platform school loafer covered in pink paint with colored beads glued on the top front of the shoe and green and yellow feathers glued on top as well. There is also purple glitter in the inside of the shoe.

Multi-colored platform covered in light blue, green, white and pink paint. Heart, dots, and peace symbol on shoe. Flower glued on top of loafer.

Black leather boot with studs. Covered in earth symbols such as water, sun and earth paintings. It is also stuffed with artificial flowers inside.
Container List

Box 6

**Alicia Gaspar de Alba Collection of Maquiladora Murders Research Materials Collection**

**no date**

**Physical Description:** Shoes

**Scope and Content Note**

baby girl's sandal. The bottom is covered with purple lace and the whole sandal is painted yellow. It has a purple bead intertwined with silver sequence decorating the shoe. There is also a picture of a woman on the front part of the sandal

low heel sandal painted in light brown paint. There is a small piece of white lace glued around the heel and there is a silver heart pendant glued on the sole. On the strap there are the words "RIP" in black and white string with a silver hoop earring attached and 3 flowers.

Black platform sandal which has 3 pictures of women on the platform with 2 heart pendants glued on the side. There is also written in red paint "No Mas?" In addition there is a nail stabbed on the side. In the strap there is a picture of a women along with an apple pendant and purple beads wrapped around and pieces of white and yellow string spelling out "NO". There is also pink flowers glued to the sole and another nail stabbed into the sole.

A light brown slipper covered in different colored beads all over

A sandal painted in green and green glitter with blotches on pink paint all around and purple and orange feathers glued randomly.

sneaker painted in pink with green and purple glitter all over and one light blue feather glued to the shoelace

Brown platform show with yellow and blue paint. On the front of the shoe there are flames painted and on the back there is a sun. On the heel of the show there are churches painted in red and white and in the middle there is a picture of a woman. Here is also silver glitter and a silver pendant hanging in the front by a safety pin stabbed through the shoe

Black platform sandal with the sole of the show with foil and brown construction paper. There is a picture of a woman glued to the foil and the word "HIJA" is written. The sandal is decorated with pink beads all over the bottom part of the show and there are pink and black flowers on the strap of the sandal. The sandal is glued to black construction paper and white netting.

Black child's sandal that the inner sole is covered in colored confetti and there is a purple earring and pink feathers glued on. On top of the feather there is a picture of a woman and 2 red earrings hang on the back of the sandal.

platform sandal with the platform painted red and the inner sole green with a picture of a woman glued to the inner sole. The straps have pink dots.

White heel with 4 pictures of women on the inner sole. There is a purple flowers attached to the straps and purple lace.

Pink sneaker covered in green and purple glitter and yellow and purple feathers are glue don randomly

Low heel black sandal with a yellow sunflower glued on in the front and sea shells glued too. On the heel there is a white cross painted and the sign for female gender symbol.

red leather loafer covered in black lace all around. Spots of yellow dots all around as well. Picture of a woman glued to the front of the loafer. Inside the sole these is 3 army men glued
Alicia Gaspar de Alba Collection of Maquiladora Murders Research Materials Collection

Physical Description: Shoes
Scope and Content Note
Tan leather boot with green, white, and red lace glued on the side of the boot. There is a black ribbon that goes around the boot and there are 2 army soldiers at the knot. There is a red flower glued at the front and there are multi-colored flowers glued to the bottom portion of the boot.

Pink low heel where the heel has the word "VIVA" in Red glitter and inside the sole we have flowers painted with the word "MUJER" in the middle.

Brown low top loafers with burgandy lace outlining the show and used as shoelaces.

Low leather brown boot covered in random spots of pink and red paint. It also has little metallic flowers and buttons. There is also pieces of white, yellow, and black string in the front with an artificial purple flower.

Low black heel covered in red and yellow colors. On the back of the shoe there are the words LIFE in yellow paint with red designs surrounding it. There is also red ribbon all over the shoe with green Mardi Gras beads and yellow and red Popsicle sticks. Inside the sole there is a silver and blue beaded necklace while red and white beads come out of the saole and are glued to the heel making a handle. In the front of the shoe there is a picture of a woman with hearts pendants.

Alicia Gaspar de Alba Collection of Maquiladora Murders Research Materials Collection

June 3, 2005

Scope and Content Note
The Chronicle of Higher Education
Volume LI, Number 39
Seeing Latino Art

Alicia Gaspar de Alba Collection of Maquiladora Murders Research Materials Collection

October 2003

Scope and Content Note
Panorama Journal
The Border-Murders Mystery
Someone is killing young women along the U.S.-Mexico frontier
By Katharine A. Diaz

Alicia Gaspar de Alba Collection of Maquiladora Murders Research Materials Collection

April 2005

Scope and Content Note
Association for Latin American Art
Volume 17, No. 1
A Ver: Revisioning Art History
Box 8, Folder 1  Alicia Gaspar de Alba Collection of Maquiladora Murders Research Materials Collection
April 2007
Physical Description: Article
Scope and Content Note
The Annual Music Issue HISPANIC: Norteno Nation
The 40 year reign of Los Tigres del Norte

Box 8, Folder 1  Alicia Gaspar de Alba Collection of Maquiladora Murders Research Materials Collection
September 18, 2007
Physical Description: Article
Scope and Content Note
Upside Down World: Immigration, Latin America and the Next U.S. President

Box 8, Folder 1  Alicia Gaspar de Alba Collection of Maquiladora Murders Research Materials Collection
Jan 22, 2006
Physical Description: Articles
Scope and Content Note

Box 8, Folder 1  Alicia Gaspar de Alba Collection of Maquiladora Murders Research Materials Collection
March 8, 2002
Physical Description: Articles
Scope and Content Note
The Chronicle of Higher Education
American Family: Mi Casa Es Su Casa
By Chon Noriega

Box 8, Folder 1  Alicia Gaspar de Alba Collection of Maquiladora Murders Research Materials Collection
Spring 2003
Physical Description: Articles
Scope and Content Note
Amnesty Now
The Juarez Murders

Box 8, Folder 1  Alicia Gaspar de Alba Collection of Maquiladora Murders Research Materials Collection
Oct. 27, 2004
Physical Description: Articles
Scope and Content Note
The Los Angeles Times: Calendar
LACMA to put spotlight on local Latino artists: The museum plans an initiative with UCLA's Chicano Studies Center

Box 8, Folder 1  Alicia Gaspar de Alba Collection of Maquiladora Murders Research Materials Collection
Sept/Oct 2007
Physical Description: Articles
Scope and Content Note
Home Movies: box Set Pick Treasurers III: Social issues in American Film, 1900-1934
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<td>Los Angeles Times: Calendar</td>
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<td>&quot;Things are Heating Up&quot;</td>
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<td>New York Times</td>
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<td>A Rare Dictionary is Born, the Product of an Immigrant’s Life on the Margin</td>
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<td>UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center &amp; Center for the Study of Women invite you to: The Lupe Anguiano Archive at UCLA</td>
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<td>Gloria Steinem, Keynote Speaker and Hnery Cisneros, Closing remarks</td>
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<td>UCLA abre ventane al arte Chicano</td>
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<td>Los Angeles Times: Arts and Music:</td>
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<td>Driven to Distraction</td>
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<td>With a '53 truck as his canvas, artist Vincent Valdez set out to tell the story of Chavez Ravine. Easier said than done.</td>
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<td>Los Angeles Times: Calendar</td>
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<td>It's not trash. it's bits of downtown few notice.</td>
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Oct. 31, 2007  
Physical Description: Article  
Scope and Content Note  
Los Angeles Times: Business  
Even 30 years after his death, Elvis remains the King

Box 8, Folder 1  Alicia Gaspar de Alba Collection of Maquiladora Murders Research Materials Collection  
Nov. 1, 2007  
Physical Description: Article  
Scope and Content Note  
Los Angeles Times: Calendar  
Español goes prime time

Box 8, Folder 1  Alicia Gaspar de Alba Collection of Maquiladora Murders Research Materials Collection  
Nov. 1, 2007  
Physical Description: Article  
Scope and Content Note  
UCLA Daily Bruin: A celebration to die for  
Dia de los Muertos festivities bring new life to mourning as music and decorations immortalize the dead

Box 8, Folder 1  Alicia Gaspar de Alba Collection of Maquiladora Murders Research Materials Collection  
Nov. 27, 2007  
Physical Description: Article  
Scope and Content Note  
Los Angeles Times: California  
Latino's use of health services studied

Box 8, Folder 1  Alicia Gaspar de Alba Collection of Maquiladora Murders Research Materials Collection  
Collectionals Aug. 26, 2003  
Physical Description: Articles  
Scope and Content Note  
Media Coverage Summary: Dr. Alicia Gaspar De Alba on Maquiladora Murders

Box 8, Folder 1  Alicia Gaspar de Alba Collection of Maquiladora Murders Research Materials Collection  
September 29, 2003  
Physical Description: Articles  
Scope and Content Note  
Letter from Mexico  
A Hundred Women  
Why has a decade-long string of murders gone unsolved>  
By Alma Guillermooprieto
Box 9  Alicia Gaspar de Alba Collection of Maquiladora Murders Research Materials Collection

Physical Description: Art  
Scope and Content Note  
3-D Dollhouse  
Welcome to the Maquihouse by Sandra Ruiz  
Materials: plastic, wire, Astroturf, acrylic paint, wood, and barbies  
also included are the following items:  
12 barbies which 11 are dark hair and dark skinned and 1 is blonde, blue eyes  
a doorway  
throne/chair  
doll clothes  
pair of porcelain doll shoes with the inscription "Quien sigue? and Who is next?"  
A bag of army soldiers  
random alphabet letters  
A sign that says "Se Solicita (Mano de Obra)*crossed out* and underneath written  
Maqui-Locas  
the metal gate of the dollhouse  
And the astroturf