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For Immediate Release: Smithsonian preserves UB faculty project, *Jorge J. E. Gracia and Lynette Bosch interviews with Cuban American Artists*

The Archives of American Art of the Smithsonian Institution has accepted for its permanent collection the pertinent documents resulting from a project entitled Jorge J. E. Gracia and Lynette Bosch interviews with Cuban American Artists. The Archives is the world's pre-eminent and most widely used research center dedicated to collecting, preserving, and providing access to primary sources that document the history of the visual arts in America.

The documents consist of thirty-seven mini digital video tapes of interviews, and their transcriptions, of Cuban artists who work, or have worked for significant periods of time, outside of Cuba, and primarily of artists who were active at the time this project was initiated (2006). Among the artists interviewed were Gustavo Acosta, Luis Cruz Azaceta, José Bedia, María Brito, Mario Bencomo, Humberto Calzada, Ramon Carulla, Demi, Emilio Falero, Eladio González, Carlos Estévez, Carlos Luna, Glexis Novoa, Alberto Rey, Arturo Rodríguez, Baruch Salinas, Paul Sierra, Rafael Soriano, and Pedro Vizcaíno. The focus is on painting, although some drawing, sculpture and photography-based art is also included.

The project was kicked off with the exhibition, *Layers: Collecting Cuban American Art*, hosted by the State University of New York at Buffalo at the UB Art Galleries located in the University's Center for the Arts. It was part of a Summer Seminar on "Negotiating Identities in Art, Literature, and Philosophy: Cuban Americans and American Culture," sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Samuel Capen Chair in 2006. The exhibition at Buffalo lasted until the end of the year, and subsequently traveled to the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Art Gallery at The College of the Holy Cross. Most of the interviews took place between 2005 and 2010 in Buffalo, Chicago, and Miami.

The project was directed by State University of New York Distinguished Professor and Samuel P. Capen Chair, Departments of Philosophy and Comparative Literature, University at Buffalo, Jorge J. E. Gracia, and co-directed by State University of New York Distinguished Professor and Chair, Department of Art History, SUNY Geneseo, Lynette Bosch. Twenty-one interviews were conducted by Prof. Gracia, nine by Prof. Bosch, and the rest jointly.

The aim of the project was to create in a particular historical time an oral record of the artists that provided some biographical information, an interview, contact details, and a sample of the work (usually images of one or two significant and characteristic pieces). Another aim also intended was to illustrate how different artists have dealt with issues of immigration, diaspora, and memory in their art, lives, and careers, and to serve as the basis of a philosophical reflection on issues raised by how they have negotiated their identities as Cubans, Americans, and Cuban Americans.

Archives of American Art, Smithsonian
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)
<https://www.neh.gov/>

Jorge J. E. Gracia, Samuel P. Capen Chair
<http://www.buffalo.edu/capenchair.html>