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## Joseph Sciorra papers 10286286

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Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Columbia University, Mail Code 1127  
535 W. 114th St.  
New York, NY 10027  
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Fax Number: (212) 854-1365  
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URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

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## Summary Information

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|----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Repository:</b>               | Rare Book and Manuscript Library  |
| <b>Creator:</b>                  | Sciorra, Joseph   |
| <b>Title:</b>                    | Joseph Sciorra papers   |
| <b>ID:</b>                       | 10286286  |
| <b>ID:</b>                       | MS#1660   |
| <b>Date [inclusive]:</b>         | 1907-2006   |
| <b>Date [bulk]:</b>              | 1984-2006   |
| <b>Physical Description:</b>     | 2 linear feet 2 record cartons  |
| <b>Language of the Material:</b> | English , French , Italian , Spanish .  |
| <b>Abstract:</b>                 | This collection comprises the papers of Joseph Sciorra, academic and folklorist. It includes research materials related to his memorial wall project and other projects on Latin American life in New York. |

### Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Joseph Sciorra Papers; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

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Joseph Sciorra is an Associate Director for Academic and Cultural Programs at Queens College CUNY. He is a folklorist who researches vernacular culture, religious practices, cultural landscapes and popular music. He earned a PhD from the University of Pennsylvania in folklore and folklife and an MA from NYU in performance studies. He published *R.I.P. Memorial Wall Art* (Henry Holt 1994), reprinted in 2002 (Thames and Hudson). Sciorra served as a curator for numerous exhibitions and has coedited several volumes on various cultural topics.

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## Summary

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The material consists of Sciorra's own research, secondary research material, newspaper clippings, correspondence, photographs, slides, ephemera, architectural plans and elevations, as well as three containers of audio-cassettes. The material relates to Sciorra's research into memorial wall art, Puerto Rican vernacular culture, housing projects, casitas, crime in New York City, and other topics. The material dates from approximately 1984 to 2006.

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## Arrangement

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Material is arranged into 3 Series.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

### Revision Description

xml document instance created by Adrien Hilton EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. 2013-06-11 2019-05-20

### **Restrictions on Access**

This collection is located off-site. You will need to request this material at least three business days in advance to use the collection in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library reading room.

### **Restrictions on Access**

This collection has no restrictions.

### **Terms Governing Use and Reproduction**

Reproductions may be made for research purposes. The RBML maintains ownership of the physical material only. Copyright remains with the creator and his/her heirs. The responsibility to secure copyright permission rests with the patron.

### **Immediate Source of Acquisition**

2012.2013.M150: Source of acquisition--Joseph Sciorra. Method of acquisition--Gift; Date of acquisition--April, 2013.

### **Ownership and Custodial History**

The Joseph Sciorra Papers were the gift of Joseph Sciorra to the Rare Book & Manuscript Library at Columbia University in April, 2013.

### **Processing Information**

Papers processed Kathryn Lasdow, GSAS 2017, David Allen, GSAS 2017, Tracy Riggle Young, UTS 2015, Alexander Rocca, GSAS 2016, Vincent Wilcke, GSAPP 2014, Caitlin Beach, GSAS 2017 June, 2013.

### **Processing Information**

Finding Aid written Kathryn Lasdow, David Allen, Tracy Riggle Young, Alexander Rocca, Vincent Wilcke, and Caitlin Beach June, 2013.

### **Accrual**

No additions are expected

### **Accruals**

Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. Contact [rbml@columbia.edu](mailto:rbml@columbia.edu) for more information.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Graffiti -- New York (State) -- New York
- Mural painting and decoration, American -- New York (State) -- New York
- Mural painting and decoration, American -- New York (State) -- New York -- 20th century
- Mural painting and decoration -- Themes, motives
- Street art -- New York (State) -- New York
- Sciorra, Joseph

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## Collection Inventory

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### Series I: *R.I.P. Memorial Wall Art Project, 1985-2005*

#### Scope and Contents

Series I contains research for Sciorra's book project and Bronx Museum of the Arts exhibition on memorial wall art and graffiti in New York City. It also includes newspaper clippings on violent crime, journal articles, notes on wall locations in New York and elsewhere, photographs, funding applications, interview transcripts, and conference correspondence. For audiocassette interviews related to these projects see Series III.

| Title/Description  | Instances |
|--|-----------|
| NY Times RAP Italiano, 2001-2002   | box 1     |
| Newspaper Clippings, 2003-2005   | box 1     |
| Graffiti -- Today, 1990-2001   | box 1     |
| Commercialization of Graffiti, 1993-1997                                     | box 1     |
| Anti-Graffiti, 1994-1996   | box 1     |
| Miscellaneous Wall Info, undated   | box 1     |
| Memorial Paintings in Newspapers, 1985-2001                                  | box 1     |
| Memorials in the News: Special Photo Spreads, 1990-1994                      | box 1     |
| Wall Forms, undated  | box 1     |
| Memorials, 1992-1996   | box 1     |
| Funerary Portraiture, 1984 1995-1997, 1984, 1995-1997                        | box 1     |
| New York City Death Markers (crosses, flowers, assemblages, etc.), 1985-1997 | box 1     |

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Memorial Shirts, 1992                         | box 1 |
| Memorials USA, 1993                           | box 1 |
| "Wild Shots," 1990-1994                       | box 1 |
| Stop the Violence, 1991-1994                  | box 1 |
| Crown Heights Youth Collective, 1990-1992     | box 1 |
| Violence and Machismo, 1992-1994              | box 1 |
| Guns, 1992-1994                               | box 1 |
| Death Statistics, Black and Latino, 1990-1998 | box 1 |
| Lecture Poster, 1997                          | box 1 |
| Index of Wall Information, 1991-1993          | box 1 |
| Decline in Homocide (1994), 1995-1997         | box 1 |
| J.B. O'Kane, 1994                             | box 1 |
| Historic Catholic Death Markers, 1990-1994    | box 1 |
| Graffiti Memorials, 1987-1993                 | box 1 |
| Interviews, 1993                              | box 1 |
| Andre "Zone" Charles, 1991-1996               | box 1 |
| Chico, 1987-2000                              | box 1 |
| Dragon, 1992-1994                             | box 1 |
| Frank Fischetti, undated                      | box 1 |
| Kingbee and Hector Gund, 1993                 | box 1 |
| Sien, 1994                                    | box 1 |
| Vonce, undated                                | box 1 |
| Sammy, 1992                                   | box 1 |
| Paco, 1993                                    | box 1 |
| Per + Nomad, 1993-1995                        | box 1 |
| TATS CRU, 1993-2001                           | box 1 |
| Tracy, 1992-1994                              | box 1 |
| Saint Peter's in the Bronx/Moondog, 1989-1993 | box 1 |
| Jenny & Evelyn, 1988                          | box 1 |
| Jeff Herman, 1989                             | box 1 |
| Yosef Hawkins Wall, 1991                      | box 1 |
| All Saints Church Photo Center, 1993          | box 1 |

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Happy Land -- Death Marker, 1991-1992          | box 1 |
| Memorials in the News: The Albanian Boys, 1992 | box 1 |
| Angur & Hell's Angels, 1990-1994               | box 1 |
| Memorials in the News: "Dinky", 1991-1992      | box 1 |
| Livoti/Baez, 1995                              | box 1 |
| Memorabilia in the News: Jessica, 1990-1994    | box 1 |
| Belmont Killing, 1992                          | box 1 |
| Memorials in the News: Hughie.1990             | box 1 |
| Memorials in the News: Jose Garcia, 1992       | box 1 |
| Memorials in the News: Brian Watkins, 1990     | box 1 |
| Memorial Walls: Folklife Annual, 1990-1991     | box 1 |
| Memorial Wall: Book, 1991-1992                 | box 1 |
| Memorial Grounds, 1997                         | box 1 |
| Memorial Walls Expo, 1992                      | box 1 |
| Video Funding, 1994-1995                       | box 1 |
| Bronx Museum, 1992-1994                        | box 1 |
| RIP Publicity, 1994-1995                       | box 1 |

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## Series II: General Research Notes, 1907-2006

### Scope and Contents

Series II contains general research for Sciorra's academic and community work on Puerto Rican life in New York including newspaper clippings, architectural floor plans and elevations, photographs, journal articles, correspondence, and field notes. Research topics include the Social Club, Puerto Rican casitas, land use, and Rincon Criolla.

| Title/Description                                | Instances |
|--|-----------|
| Newspaper Clippings, 2002-2006                   | box 2     |
| Social Club Bill, 1990                           | box 2     |
| Social Club Articles, 1960-1993                  | box 2     |
| Puerto Rican Folk and Popular Culture, 1980-1990 | box 2     |
| Queries Rico Food, 1988-1994                     | box 2     |
| Social Club Commission Meeting, 1991             | box 2     |



|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Miscellaneous Articles on Puerto Rico & Puerto Rican Culture, 1975-1985                | box 2 |
| A. Laura -- Respeto & Relajo, 1964 1969, 1964, 1969                                    | box 2 |
| A. Quintero Rivera, Rural-Urban Dichotomy in Puerto Rico's Cultural Identity,, undated | box 2 |
| Mintz, Folk-Urban Continuum and the Rural Proletarian Community, 1953                  | box 2 |
| Creolization Article Dell-Hymes, 1971  | box 2 |
| Oscar Vazquez Images of the Jibaro, undated  | box 2 |
| Reviews of Pais de y Pisos, 1984 1986, 1984, 1986                                      | box 2 |
| Puerto Ricans in NYC, 1978-1985  | box 2 |
| The Airbus -- Luis Rafael Sanchez, 1984 1985, 1984, 1985                               | box 2 |
| La Carreta Made a U-Turn, 1976 1981, 1976, 1981  | box 2 |
| La Noche Que Volvimos a Ser Gente -- Jose Luis Ganzalez, 1972                          | box 2 |
| Puerto Ricans in U.S. Films, 1987  | box 2 |
| Casitas -- Puerto Rico, 1986-1992  | box 2 |
| Puerto Rican Painting, 1983-1987   | box 2 |
| Bohios, 1907-1992  | box 2 |
| Batey + Garden Articles, 1960-1973   | box 2 |
| Bronx Newspaper Clipping, 2002   | box 2 |
| Binghamton Casitas Correspondence, 1991-1996   | box 2 |
| Floor Plans, undated   | box 2 |
| Casita Project, 1988-1991  | box 2 |
| Casita Articles -- Queries & Correspondences, 1988-1993                                | box 2 |
| Casita Exhibition, 1990-1992   | box 2 |
| Casita Conference Papers & Correspondences, 1989-1991                                  | box 2 |
| Betti-Sue's Quotes, 1989 and undated, 1989, undated                                    | box 2 |
| Casitas, 1989  | box 2 |
| Casitas Newspaper, 1990  | box 2 |
| Articles on NYC Casitas, 1985-2006   | box 2 |
| Casitas -- The Neighborhoods, 1986-1996  | box 2 |
| Casita Fieldnotes, 1988-1991   | box 2 |
| Casita Stuff Miscellaneous, undated  | box 2 |

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|---|-------|
| Casita Simulations, 1989 and undated, 1989, undated           | box 2 |
| Greenthumb Plans for Open-Aired Structure, 1989-1991          | box 2 |
| New Uses for Vacant Urban Land, 1982-1994                     | box 2 |
| Greenthumb Casitas, 1986-2001                                 | box 2 |
| Open-Air Material, 1991-1992                                  | box 2 |
| Shanties, 1989-1996   | box 2 |
| El Balcon Boricia, 1991                                       | box 2 |
| Villa El Gato -- Puerto Rican Village/Wards Island, 1987-1994 | box 2 |
| Villa Puerto Rico, 1980-1995                                  | box 2 |
| Rincon Criolla, 1978-2001                                     | box 2 |
| Capias (Greek-American Versions), 1977                        | box 2 |
| Rincon Criollo, 1988-1994                                     | box 2 |
| Guiro y Maraca, 2006  | box 2 |
| Rincon Article, 1988-1991                                     | box 2 |
| Rincon Rewrite, 1994-1995                                     | box 2 |
| The Bronx, 1989-1990  | box 2 |

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### Series III. Audiocassette Tapes, 1988-1999

#### Scope and Contents

Series III contains audio recordings and interviews related to his research, as well as examples of popular music in the 1990s.

| Title/Description | Instances |
|-------------------|-----------|
| 1988-1999         | box 1     |

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