
Inventory of the Gloria Anzaldúa Altares Collection

Collection number: MS 308

The University Library
Special Collections and Archives
University of California, Santa Cruz
Santa Cruz, California

Processed by:

Irene Reti

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UCSC OAC Unit

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Gloria Anzaldúa Altares collection

Dates: 1942-2004

Collection number: MS 308

Creator: Anzaldúa, Gloria

Collection Size: 13 cartons, 1 map roll

Repository: University of California, Santa Cruz. University Library. Special Collections and Archives
Santa Cruz, California 95064

Abstract: This collection of figurines, small clay pots, masks, rattles, candles, altar cloths, and other ephemera was used by Gloria Anzaldúa as altar (altares) objects at her home in Santa Cruz, California. These altares were an integral part of her spiritual life and creative process as a writer.

Physical location: Stored offsite at NRLF: Advance notice is required for access to the collection.

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access

This collection is open.

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

Gloria Anzaldúa Altares collection. MS 308. Special Collections and Archives, University Library, University of California, Santa Cruz.

Acquisition Information

Gift of Anzaldúa Family in 2005.

Biography

"I sit here before my computer, Amiguita, my altar on top of the monitor with the Virgen de Coatlatlopeuh candle and copal incense burning. My companion, a wooden serpent staff with feathers, is to my right while I ponder the ways metaphor and symbol concretize the spirit and etherealize the body. The Writing is my whole life, it is my obsession." Gloria E. Anzaldúa from *Borderlands/La Frontera* (Aunt Lute Books,

1999)

Independent scholar and creative writer Gloria E. Anzaldúa was an internationally acclaimed cultural theorist. As the author of *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*, Anzaldúa played a major role in shaping contemporary Chicano/a and lesbian/queer identities. And as editor or co-editor of three multicultural anthologies, she played an equally vital role in developing an inclusionary, multicultural feminist movement. Anzaldúa's writings have been included in over 100 anthologies to date. Her works greatly impacted a wide variety of academic disciplines, including (but not limited to) American studies, Chicano/a studies, composition studies, cultural studies, ethnic studies, feminism and feminist theory, literary studies, queer theory, and women's studies. A versatile author, Anzaldúa published poetry, theoretical essays, short stories, autobiographical narratives, interviews, children's books, and multigenre edited collections. Her published works include *This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color* (1981, co-edited with Cherríe Moraga), a ground-breaking collection of essays and poems widely recognized by scholars in *Women's Studies* as the premiere multicultural feminist text; *Borderlands/La Frontera* (1987), a founding text of Chicano/a Studies and Border Studies, as well as a classic of twentieth-century American literature; *Making Face, Making Soul/Haciendo Caras: Creative and Critical Perspectives by Feminists-of-Color* (1990), a multigenre collection used in many university classrooms; two bilingual children's books "Friends from the Other Side/Amigos del otro lado and *Prietita and the Ghost Woman/Prietita y la Llorona*; *Interviews/Entrevistas* (2000), a memoir-like collection of interviews; *this bridge we call home: radical visions for transformation* (2002, co-edited with AnaLouise Keating), a multigenre collection that examines the current status of feminist/womanist theorizing; and additional stories and essays. Anzaldúa and her works won numerous awards, including a fiction award from the National Endowment of the Arts, the Before Columbus Foundation American Book Award, the Lambda Lesbian Small Book Press Award, the Susan Koppelman Award, the Smithsonian Notable Book Award, and the Americas Honor Award. *Borderlands/La Frontera* was selected as one of the 100 Best Books of the Century both by *Hungry Mind Review* and by *Utne Reader*.

Anzaldúa was born in the Rio Grande Valley of south Texas, the eldest child of Urbano and Amalia Anzaldúa. She received her B.A. from Pan American University, her M.A. from University of Texas, Austin, and her Ph.D. (awarded posthumously) from the University of California, Santa Cruz.

AnaLouise Keating

Scope and Content of Collection

This collection of figurines, small clay pots, masks, rattles, candles, altar cloths, and other ephemera was used by Gloria Anzaldúa as altar (altares) objects at her home in Santa Cruz, California. These altares were an integral part of her spiritual life and creative process as a writer.

Indexing Terms

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

Anzaldúa, Gloria--Archives

Altars

Altarpieces

Idols and images--Worship

Authors, American--California--Santa Cruz County

Mexican American lesbians--Fiction

Mexican American women--Ethnic identity

Women and literature--United States--History--20th century

Other Finding Aids

Gloria Anzaldúa's archive will be available to the public starting in November 2006 - at the Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection, University of Texas.

Separated Material

The following items from MS 308, Gloria Anzaldúa Altares Collection are on loan to the UCSC Women's Center and may be viewed there on display.

- Gloria's felt hat
- Mousepad with Virgin de Guadalupe
- Handmade face mask

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- Wooden snake on wheels
 - Stone turtle
 - Metal horse
 - Metal mirror
 - Rattle
 - Javelina
 - Clay pot
 - Stone turtle
 - Corn wax candles
 - Sage sachets
 - Mortar and pestle
 - Lizard incense burner
 - Green wooden painted lizard
 - Metal woman
 - Snake pot
 - Virgin candle
 - Yellow jaguar woman
 - Basket with cut ribbons
 - Small basket with shells
 - Skeleton ornament
 - Small face masks
 - Abalone shell
 - Small box with rubber turtles, medicine pouches, incense, crystals
 - Ceramic hummingbird
 - Yemaya candle
 - Dia de los muertos creche
 - Two small stuffed snakes
 - Miscellaneous rocks
 - Frida Kahlo ashtray
 - Button collection
 - Eskimo knife mentioned in Borderlands
 - Serpent staff

- Box 1 **Glass mermaid**

- Box 1 **Fossil tile**

- Box 1 **Fossil rock tile**

- Box 1 **Wooden sea otter**

- Box 1 **Wooden fish**

- Box 1 **Green hanging wooden frog**

- Box 1 **Creche of nun**

- Box 2 **Lizards**

- Box 2 **Snakes, Alligator**

Box 2	Animal figurines
Box 2	Wooden hand with cowboy ornaments
Box 2	Penguin
Box 2	Clay roosters and birds
Box 2	Aztec figure
Box 2	Glass hummingbird and figurines
Box 2	Copper cross
Box 2	Wooden roadrunner
Box 2	Metal monkeyman
Box 2	Ceramic duck
Box 2	Fruit baskets
Box 2	Armadillo
Box 2	Duck box
Box 2	Little figurines
Box 2	Wooden owl
Box 2	Polynesian figures
Box 2	Hen coin box
Box 3	Basket with dangling silver beads
Box 3	Black pot
Box 3	Soapstone pot
Box 3	Colorful ceramic Mexican water jug
Box 3	Plastic virgin plate
Box 3	Clasped wooden figures
Box 3	Wooden Mexican mirror
Box 3	Pots
Box 3	Ceramic tile with steer head on it
Box 4	Jaguar head - wooden mask

Box 4	Owl made of shell
Box 4	Cactus magnet
Box 4	Stone quail, ducks
Box 4	Ceramic hand-painted rattle gift
Box 4	Black face mask
Box 4	Snakes
Box 4	Wooden painted cactus box
Box 4	Red ceramic plate
Box 4	Metal cowgirl boot
Box 4	Box made of orange
Box 4	Armadillo
Box 4	Beaded spider
Box 5	Virgin tapestry
Box 5	Ceramic virgin
Box 5	Small virgin with calla lillies
Box 5	Virgin magnets
Box 5	Aztec twins figure
Box 5	Zebra candle stick
Box 5	Small Mexican flag
Box 5	Silver mirror
Box 5	Virgin wooden plaque
Box 5	Rattles
Box 5	Pots
Box 5	Crystals
Box 5	Metal bell
Box 6	Turtle carrying figures on its back (large, Mexican painted style)
Box 6	Coatlicue stone figure
Box 6	Three small masks

Box 6	Stone owl box
Box 6	Ceramic jaguar hanging ornament
Box 6	Stone quail
Box 6	Blue-glazed metal plate
Box 6	Origami by Kit Quan
Box 6	Stone duck box
Box 6	Obsidian bears
Box 6	Beadwork on safety pin
Box 7	Women writer with beasts small display
Box 7	Wooden horse with broken leg
Box 7	Altar cloths
Box 7	Button collection
Box 7	Large ceramic layered face mask
Box 7	Feather pendant
Box 7	Altar in the bathroom
Box 7	Misc. small altar objects
Box 7	Stone shaman
Box 7	Small green painted wooden easel
Box 7	Human figurine
Box 7	Virgin creche
Box 7	Clay pig
Box 8	Aztec coaster
Box 8	Aztec bookends
Box 8	Ceramic goddess candle
Box 8	Lizard stickers
Box 8	Small altar objects
Box 8	Unframed pictures and cards

Box 8	Framed pictures and cards
Box 9	Round candle and stand
Box 9	Altar cloths
Box 9	Beaded collar
Box 9	Origami by Kit Quan
Box 9	Framed pictures and cards
Box 10	Unframed pictures and cards
Box 10	Anzaldua captions 2006 McHenry library exhibit
Box 10	2006 McHenry Library Exhibit comment book
Box 11	Creche
Box 11	Metal plate
Box 11	Virgin figure
Box 11	Framed pictures and cards
Box 12	Large Virgin tapestry
Box 12	Altar box
Box 12	Virgin candles
Box 12	Finger piano
Box 13	Marbles
Box 13	Mirror
Box 13	Crochet butterfly
Box 13	Medicine pouches
Box 13	Crystals
Box 13	Baskets
Box 14	Goddess figure staff