

THE DREAM OF AMERICA / EL SUENO DE AMERICA COLLECTION

OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS

Repository:	Crandall Public Library. Folklife Center Glens Falls, NY.
Creator:	Lisa Catalfamo – Flores, Guest Curator
Title:	The Dream of America/El Sueno de America
Dates:	January – August 2016
Abstract:	A selection of the Folk Art and objects collected by Lisa Catalfamo-Flores for the exhibit “The Dream of America/El Sueno de America” at the Folklife Center in 2016, along with some test photographs for the exhibit.
Quantity:	ca. 6 cf
Identification:	Folk Art

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Lisa Catalfamo – Flores, the guest curator of the exhibit, is the photographer, the author of the text, and collector of the objects. The following is part of the introduction she wrote for the exhibit:

After two years of photographing workers on local farms I traveled to Coyula [Guadalajara, Mexico, the village from which the workers came] to share these photographs with family members. Welcomed with tears and open arms, these visits are powerful testaments to the weight and toll long separations have on loved ones, both here and abroad. Most dramatic, a prevailing sadness over the disconnection from the daily lives and experiences between workers and their separated family members. In sharing stories with loved ones, a fuller picture of the worker comes into focus. . . .

The symbols of art and culture represented throughout the exhibit are tangible examples, and an integral part of life in Coyula. The intersection of family, faith, celebration, artistic expression, and food, are central themes that inform and enrich lives on both sides of the border.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The core of the exhibit was the combination of Catalfamo-Flores’ photographs of Mexican men working on dairy farms in Washington County, NY, and her photographs

of the men's families in Mexico reacting to those photos. The cultural context of their lives was further illustrated by the Mexican folk art and craft objects, and photographs of those objects being made.

The photos and objects in this collection were part of the exhibit, but are not the complete set.

INDEX TERMS

Places: Washington County, NY
Coyula, Guadalajara, Mexico

Subjects: Farm workers
Foreign workers
Folk art
Photography
Mexican crafts
Mexican ceramics

Important People: Catalfamo – Flores, Lisa

Form/Genre: Folklife Exhibit

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation: The Dream of America/El Sueno de America
The Folklife Center at
Crandall Public Library, Glens Falls, NY.

Accession Information: Photographs and text by Lisa Catalfamo-Flores, and objects collected by Lisa Catalfamo-Flores

Processing Information: Arranged and described by Erica Gonyea, June 2019

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Photographs:

Washington County, NY

Five oversize photos of farm workers: 24 inches wide x 32 – 40 inches high

Eight 5" x 7' photos of a girl's Quinceanero, to accompany the qinceanero dress in this collection. These photos are in the box with the dress.

Coyula, Guadalajara, Mexico:

Family members holding photographs of family members in Washington County: 50 inches wide x 24 inches high.

Five photos of village life and craftsmen: 19 inches x 13 inches.

Five oversize photos of village life: 37 ½ inches wide x 24 inches high.

Box 1

Quinceanero dress: lilac strapless gown with lace overskirt and lace bolero jacket. Both the gown and the bolero are beaded.

Box 2

5 Pieces of Mexican crochet or embroidery handiwork.

Box 3

Mexican craft items: glass, aluminum, paper mache, leather.

Box 4

Mexican ceramic pieces.

Box 5

Mariachi costumes, one male, one female.

Box 6

Stand for ceramics, stone mortar, plastic streamers .

Box 7

Photographs (listed above) and 2 posters for the exhibit.

Oversize Items

The sign for the exhibit, 96 inches x 18 inches

Our Lady of Guadalupe image, pastels on paper, gold embellishments. Very large, wrapped in blue paper and tied.

2 Pinatas: 1 large female figure wearing tiara, 1 starburst.