

Concordia University Libraries Special Collections

Finding Aid - La Centrale fonds (P128)

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Concordia University Libraries Special Collections

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La Centrale fonds

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Summary information

Repository:	Concordia University Libraries Special Collections
Title:	La Centrale fonds
ID:	P128
Date:	1971-2001 (date of creation)
Physical description:	7.55 m of textual records More than 4,000 photographs ca. 4600 slides 52 audio cassettes 51 videocassettes 2 audio reels
Language:	English
Language:	French
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

In May 1973, a group of 8 professional women artists founded Powerhouse Gallery. It was officially incorporated in 1974, and re-named La Centrale in 1990. Powerhouse Gallery opened to show the works of women artists who could not afford the cost of exhibiting elsewhere. Besides encouraging women to work in their art, Powerhouse Gallery was a place to meet, to discuss ideas, and to share skills with fellow artists. Powerhouse was the first woman's artist-run gallery in Montreal and the first in Canada. From the beginning the gallery published a monthly newsletter to announce exhibitions and events. Powerhouse Gallery was located first at 1210 Green Avenue; it moved to 3738 St. Dominique St. in 1974, to St. Laurent Blvd. in 1987, and later to Ste. Catherine St.

On St. Dominique St., Powerhouse consisted of two exhibition spaces; a studio space for workshops, classes and discussions; a day-care corner for children; a documentation centre, and a slide collection.

Custodial history

The fonds was transferred from Concordia University's Records Management and Archives Department to Concordia University Libraries' Special Collections February 24-25, 2016, March 8, 2016, March 16, 2016, March 24, 2016, April 6, 2016, April 12-13, 2016, April 19-21, 2016, May 5, 2016, May 10-11, 2016 and May 17-18, 2016.

Scope and content

The fonds provides information on the organization and the activities of La Centrale Gallery from its beginnings in 1973 to 2001.

The fonds contains mainly artist and event files, and also administrative records, newsletters, and media coverage files.

The fonds is organized into the following series:

P128/A Organization

P128/B Financing

P128/C Programming

P128/D Communications

P128/E Artists and events

P128/F Publications

P128/G External relations

Notes

Title notes

- **Source of title proper:** Title based on the content of the fonds.

Immediate source of acquisition

Most of the fonds was donated to the Concordia University Archives by La Centrale in 1998, 2002 and 2004. A few documents were later donated by various members of the gallery.

Conditions governing use

Reproduction for research or private study is permitted. Use of material in publications cannot be done without permission of the copyright holder.

Finding aids

Box listing available.

Accruals

Further accruals are expected.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
- **Level of detail:** Partial
- **Status description:** Final

- **Rights:** Copyright belongs to the creator(s).
- **Rights:**

Access points

- Multiple media (documentary form)
- Arts and culture (subject)
- Visual arts (subject)
- Artist run centres (subject)
- Women artists (subject)
- Feminism (subject)

Series descriptions

Series P128/A: Organization

Date: 1973 -1998 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

The series provides information on the establishment and the administrative organization of the gallery.

The series contains gallery early history documents and general meetings minutes (five are also in the form of sound recording), Multi-disciplinary committee minutes, Programming Committee minutes and Publication committee minutes.

The series is organized into the following sub-series:

P128/A1 History and Founding documents

P128/A2 Annual meetings and committees

Physical description: 0.30 m of textual records

8 audio cassettes

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- Sound recording (documentary form)

File / item list

Series P128/B: Financing

Date: 1973-1998 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

The series provides an overview of La Centrale's financial state over the years, how it acquired funds, distributed them and managed them. Of particular interest here is the information being given on grants from government agencies, with which the gallery maintained its operations, and those related to specific programs pertaining to certain cultural activities (performing art, lecture series, for example).

The series consists of accounting records (check registers, balance sheets, etc), financial reports, budgets and related information. Also included in the series are lists of potential donors (corporates and individuals), lists of subscribers and other information on the gallery's annual auction sales and other fundraising activities.

The series is organized into the following sub-series:

P128/B1 Accounting Records

P128/B2 Financial Statements

P128/B3 Taxes

P128/B4 Financing

Physical description: 1.92 m of textual records

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

File / item list

Series P128/C: Programming

Date: 1973-2000 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

The series provides information on the exhibition and event programming at the gallery.

The series contains selection files, correspondence, and annual programming lists.

Physical description: 0.14 m of textual records

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

File / item list

Series P128/D: Communications

Date: 1973-1999 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

The series provides information on the activities of the gallery.

The series contains communiqués, newsletter issues, interviews with artists, expositions and activities lists, and press releases.

The series is organized into the following sub-series:

P128/D1 Publicity and Public Relations

P128/D2 Media Coverage

Physical description: 0.48 m of textual records

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

File / item list**Series P128/E: Artists and events**

Date: 1975-2001 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

The series provides information on artists who exposed at the gallery, and on events organized by the gallery.

The series contains correspondence, brochures, résumés, and photographs. It is organized into three sub-series. The files of the first sub-series are in alphabetical order, and those of the second one are in chronological order. The third sub-series consists of visitor books and the last, of special events organized by the gallery.

The series is organized into the following sub-series:

P128/E1 Artists and Events 1974-1983 (files in alphabetical order)

P128/E2 Artists and Events 1983-1985 (files in chronological order)

P128/E3 Visitor books

P128/E4 Special events

Physical description: 2.79 m of textual records

21 videocassettes

ca. 2400 photographs

1 audio reel

Access points:

- Multiple media (documentary form)

File / item list**Series P128/F: Publications**

Date: 1975-2001 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

The series provides information on the publications produced by the gallery.

The series contains publications and working files (correspondence, programs, reports, and notes).

Physical description: 0.25 m of textual records

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

File / item list**Series P128/G: External relations**

Date: 1971-1983 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

The series provides information on the relations between the gallery and other art organizations and also a variety of aspects of the Quebec and Canadian cultural scene.

The series contains mainly correspondence, reports, brochures, minutes, and documentation.

Physical description: 1.26 m of textual records

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

File / item list