

# Concordia University Libraries Special Collections

## Finding Aid - Margaret Griffin and Clara Gutsche collection (C011)

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Concordia University Libraries Special Collections

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# Margaret Griffin and Clara Gutsche collection

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## Summary information

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**Repository:** Concordia University Libraries Special Collections  
**Title:** Margaret Griffin and Clara Gutsche collection  
**ID:** C011  
**Date:** 1972-2014, predominant 1972-1974 (date of creation)  
**Date:** 1972-2014, predominant 1972-1974 (date of creation)

**Physical description:** 4 cm of textual records  
26 slides  
2 negatives  
5 objects  
2 drawings  
1 painting

**Language:** English

**Dates of creation,  
revision and deletion:**

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## Administrative history / Biographical sketch

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### Note

Margaret Griffin, artist and photographer, was born in the United States, and lives and works in Montreal. Griffin was a founding member of Powerhouse Gallery (now La Centrale Galerie Powerhouse) and participated in the gallery's first exhibition, *Windows: From the inside out: Painting, photography, ceramic and sculpture* (1973). She was also involved in the activities of The Flaming Apron craft store, where she participated in consciousness-raising groups.

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## Administrative history / Biographical sketch

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### Note

Clara Gutsche, a photographer, educator, and critic, was born in St. Louis, Missouri, on April 20, 1949, and has lived and worked in Montreal since 1970. Gutsche studied visual arts at Concordia University and obtained her Masters of Arts in photography. Gutsche is a part-time faculty member teaching photography in the Studio Arts Department at Concordia University. Gutsche was a founding member of Powerhouse Gallery and participated in the gallery's first exhibition, *Windows: From the inside out: Painting,*

photography, ceramic and sculpture (1973). She was also involved in the activities of The Flaming Apron craft store.

## Custodial history

Documents were collected by Margaret Griffin and Clara Gutsche and donated to Concordia University Libraries in 2014.

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## Scope and content

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Collection consists of materials accumulated by Margaret Griffin and Clara Gutsche, mostly relating to the founding and first exhibition of Powerhouse Gallery, now La Centrale Galerie Powerhouse. Items also document The Flaming Apron craft store, and various exhibitions held at La Centrale Galerie Powerhouse. This collection contains items created by Margaret Griffin, Leslie Busch, Billie-Joe Mericle, and Stansje Plantenga, founding members of Powerhouse Gallery. Materials in this collection are primarily dated 1972-1974, with select documents dated 2001 and 2004. Some documents were annotated by Margaret Griffin and Clara Gutsche in 2014.

Materials documenting the establishment and history of Powerhouse Gallery include: correspondence, newspaper clippings, proposals, descriptions, timelines, publications, posters, slides, negatives, a leaflet, a drawing, a paintings, and clothing. These materials primarily concern the Gallery's first exhibition, *Windows: From the Inside Out: Painting, Photography, Ceramic and Sculpture* (1973), presented at 1210 Greene Avenue in Westmount, Quebec. Items also document various exhibitions held at Powerhouse Gallery and La Centrale Galerie Powerhouse, including: *Codpieces: Phallic Paraphernalia* (1974), *The Past to the Present* (2001), and *Powerhouse: Where are we now?* (2001). Materials concerning the activities of The Flaming Apron, a craft store in Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, include: clothing, ceramics, and a newsletter. This collection also contains La Centrale Galerie Powerhouse publications, including *Women's Bookworks* (1979) and *Les Centrelles* (2004), as well as items related to art and artist run centers in Canada.

Collection is divided into 3 series:

C011/A. Powerhouse Gallery/La Centrale Galerie Powerhouse

C011/B. The Flaming Apron

C011/C. Art in Canada

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## Notes

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### Title notes

- **Source of title proper:** Title based on the provenance of the collection.

### Physical condition

Good

**Immediate source of acquisition**

Margaret Griffin and Clara Gutsche

**Arrangement**

Unless otherwise indicated, material has been arranged in the order of receipt.

**Conditions governing use**

Reproduction for scholarly purposes is permitted.

Use of material in a publication may only be done with permission of the copyright owner.

**Finding aids**

Box listings available.

**Related material**

Records relating to La Centrale Galerie Powerhouse can be found in the La Centrale fonds (P128) and those relating to Corridart dans la rue Sherbrooke can be found in the Corridart collection (P119), at the Records Management & Archives Department at Concordia University.

**Accruals**

Further accruals may be expected.

**Other notes**

- **Publication status:** Published
- **Level of detail:** Full
- **Status description:** Draft
- **Conservation:** Documents were placed in acid-free file folders and archival quality boxes. Oversized materials were flattened and placed in large-size archival folders.
- **Rights:** Copyright held by the creator(s).

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**Access points**

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

## Series descriptions

### Series C011/A: Powerhouse Gallery/La Centrale Galerie Powerhouse

Date: 1972-2004 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series contains documents concerning the history, exhibitions, and publications of Powerhouse Gallery, now La Centrale Galerie Powerhouse. Documents mainly concern the Galley's first exhibition Windows: From the Inside Out: Painting, Photography, Ceramic and Sculpture (1973).

Physical description: 20 textual records

26 slides

2 negatives

1 painting

2 drawings

1 object

Language of the material:

English

Access points:

- Multiple media (documentary form)
- Artist run centres (subject)
- Women artists (subject)

#### File / item list

### Subseries C011/A1: Textual records

Date: 1973-2014, predominantly 1973 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Sub-series contains documents concerning the foundation of Powerhouse Gallery, and various exhibitions at La Centrale Galerie Powerhouse. Materials predominantly concern the Gallery's first exhibition Windows: From the Inside Out: Painting, Photography, Ceramic and Sculpture (1973). Other exhibitions documented in this sub-series include Codpieces: Phallic Paraphernalia (1974), The Past to the Present (2001), and Powerhouse: Where Are We Now? (2001). This subseries also contains La Centrale Galerie Powerhouse publications, including Women's Bookworks (1979) and Les Centrelles (2004).

Physical description: 20 textual records

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

Arrangement:

Oversized items were unfolded and moved from original folders to map cabinet.

**File / item list****Subseries C011/A2: Photographic materials**

Date: 1973 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Subseries contains photographic materials documenting Windows: From the Inside Out: Painting, Photography, Ceramic and Sculpture. This series is composed of slides of the exhibition taken by Margaret Griffin documenting the artworks and their placement in the Gallery.

Physical description: 26 slides

2 negatives

Access points:

- Graphic material (documentary form)

**File / item list****Subseries C011/A3: Art Work and Objects**

Date: 1972-1973 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Subseries contains 2 original artworks from the exhibition Windows: From the Inside Out: Painting, Photography, Ceramic and Sculpture (1973), and a t-shirt with a photograph of the founding members of Powerhouse Gallery.

Physical description: 2 drawings

1 painting

1 object

Access points:

- Graphic material (documentary form)
- Object (documentary form)

**File / item list****Series C011/B: The Flaming Apron**

Date: [ca. 1973] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series contains documents concerning The Flaming Apron craft store. This series includes documents concerning the closing of this craft store, as well as items created for sale at The Flaming Apron. These items, created or collected by Margaret Griffin, include a jean skirt by Billie-Joe Mericle purchased by Griffin at The Flaming Apron, a crochet sweater by Griffin made during the period of the Flaming Apron, and 2 basalt clay pots by Griffin made for sale at the craft store.

Physical description: 1 textual record  
5 objects

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- Object (documentary form)

**File / item list**

**Series C011/C: Art in Canada**

Date: 1972-1976 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series contains miscellaneous documents concerning the Canadian art scene in the 1970s. Documents include a pamphlet for Corridart dans la Rue Sherbrooke, an exhibition put on in conjunction with the 1976 Olympic Games in Montreal, and Vehicle: Handbook of Toronto Cultural Resources (1972) edited by Isobel Harry and Marlene Sober.

Physical description: 2 textual records

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

**File / item list**