

Concordia University Libraries Special Collections

Finding Aid - Optica Art Gallery fonds (P056)

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Language of description: English

Concordia University Libraries Special Collections

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Optica Art Gallery fonds

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Summary information

Repository:	Concordia University Libraries Special Collections
Title:	Optica Art Gallery fonds
ID:	P056
Date:	1972-1992 (date of creation)
Physical description:	9.33 m of textual documents ca. 100 posters ca. 3,300 photographs 15 moving image documents 1 microfilm
Language:	English
Language:	French
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Optica Art Gallery was officially founded in January 1972 by William E. Ewing in response to pressure from artists who convinced him of the need for a centre for the public exhibition of photography. The gallery was initially called les Galeries photographiques du Centaur; it was housed in the Centaur Theatre in Old Montreal. Its mandate was the exhibition of contemporary art.

After renovations in 1974, the gallery changed its name to Optica. Although the gallery originally featured only photographic exhibitions, it was not long before the gallery welcomed, with the Camerart exhibition (December 1974-January 1975), other forms of art. It would now consecrate half of its activities to photography, and the other half to other currents in art.

During the 1976-1977 season, internal policy changes meant that the gallery opened its doors to conceptual art, performance, painting, and sculpture. In 1977, the gallery added to its name A Centre for Contemporary Art. At the same time, its programming was modified and an experimental cinema section was added.

The centre is managed by a board of directors, most of whose 15 members come from the cultural milieu. They are encouraged to take an active part in the gallery's activities and to get involved in the associations to which the gallery belongs, including the Regroupement des centres d'artistes autogérés du Québec and la Société des Musées Québécois.

The gallery is subsidized by the Canada Council, the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, and le Conseil des arts de Montréal.

Custodial history

The fonds was transferred from Concordia University's Records Management and Archives Department to Concordia University Libraries' Special Collections February 18, 2016, February 23-24, 2016, March 24, 2016, April 6, 2016, April 12, 2016, April 19, 2016, April 26-27, 2016, May 10, 2016, and May 18, 2016.

Scope and content

The fonds provides information on the administration and activities of the Optica Gallery from its beginning in 1972 to 1992.

The fonds contains such documents as exhibition programs, artists' curricula vitae and portfolios, audiovisual works from exhibitions, personnel and financial records, grants applications, and correspondence.

The fonds is organized according to the following series :

P056/1 Finances

P056/2 Organization

P056/3 Human resources

P056/4 Programming

P056/5 Exhibitions and activities

Notes

Title notes

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

Immediate source of acquisition

Materials deposited with Concordia University by Optica.

Restrictions on access

Series 3 is not available for consultation

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 listings available.

Accruals

Further accruals are expected.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
- **Level of detail:** Full
- **Status description:** Final
- **Rights:** Copyright belongs to the creator(s).

Access points

- Textual record (documentary form)
- Graphic material (documentary form)
- Moving images (documentary form)
- Arts and culture (subject)
- Artist run centres (subject)

Series descriptions

Series P056/1: Financial records

Date: 1972-1992 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

The series provides information on the financial administration of Optica.

The series contains account books, bank books, cheque stubs, cheques, and grant reports. The series is organized into the following sub-series :

P056/1A Accounting records

P056/1B Financial statements

P056/1C Grant applications

P056/1D Special events and fund-raising

Physical description: 0.61 m of textual records

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

File / item list

Series P056/2: Administration

Date: 1973-1992 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

The series gives information on the administration of the Optica Gallery.

The series contains the charter, a historical sketch, the organization chart, leases, insurance contracts, and correspondence.

The series is organized into the following four sub-series :

P056/2A Incorporation

P056/2B Physical facilities

P056/2C External relations

P056/2D Reports of activity, schedules

Physical description: 0.90 m of textual documents

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

File / item list

Series P056/3: Human resources

Date: 1976-1990 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

The series relates to Optica Gallery's personnel management.

The series contains payroll books, job offers, members' and directors' lists, employee files, financial statements, and correspondence.

Physical description: 0.15 m of textual documents

Language of the material:

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

Restrictions on access:

This series is not available for consultation.

File / item list

Series P056/4: Programming records

Date: 1972-1992 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

The series provides information on various aspects of the gallery's program.

The series contains correspondence, artists' portfolios, event calendars, permits, and mailing lists.

The series is divided into the following sub-series :

P056/4A Exhibition requests
 P056/4B Event organization

Physical description: 0.68 m of textual documents

147 photographs : 7 b&w prints, 20 col. prints, 2 b&w contact sheets (10 images), 11 col. contact sheets (41 images), 22 b&w slides, 42 col. slides, 3 b&w negatives (2 strips), 40 col. negatives (24 strips)

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- Graphic material (documentary form)

File / item list

Series P056/5: Exhibitions and activities

Date: 1972-1992 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

The series documents exhibitions and other activities that took place at the Optica Gallery or with the gallery's collaboration.

The series includes documents concerning each one of the exhibitions and activities that took place over the years, including : posters, photographs, audio tapes, exhibition and artist files, exhibition catalogues, and visitors' registers.

The series is organized into the following two sub-series :

P056/5A Exhibitions

P056/5B Activities

Physical description: 7 m of textual documents and other materials.

Language of the material:

Access points:

- Multiple media (documentary form)

File / item list