

Concordia University Library, Special Collections

Finding Aid - Véhicule Press fonds (P071)

Generated by Access to Memory (AtoM) 2.4.1 Printed: September 30, 2019

Language of description: English

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Véhicule Press fonds

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Summary information

Repository:	Concordia University Library, Special Collections
Title:	Véhicule Press fonds
ID:	P071
Date:	1972-1998 (date of creation)
Physical description:	13.85 m of textual records 242 photographs 27 posters 2 objects
Language:	English
Language:	French
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	Created by the Records Management and Archives Department 2010-09Input by Concordia University Libraries 2015-06-12Revised custodial history 2016-03-22; 2016-04-05; 2016-04-08; 2016-04-12; 2016-04-14; 2016-05-18; 2016-06-08Revised custodial history 2018-11-07

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Véhicule Press began in 1973 on the premises of Véhicule Art Inc. (Montreal), one of Canada's first artist-run galleries. The large space occupied by both the gallery and the press at 61 St. Catherine St. West was once the Café Montmartre, the renowned jazz club of the 1930s.

Guy Lavoie, Annie Nayer, Marshalore, and Vivian Jemelka-White established Véhicule Press.

For printing purposes, they began using equipment inherited from Kenny Hertz's defunct Ingluviv Publications and an ATF Chief 20 printing press originally purchased by artist Tom Dean to print Beaux-Arts magazine. In 1973, Véhicule Press submitted their first Local Initiatives Project (LIP) grant.

In 1975 the press became Coopérative d'Imprimerie Véhicule - Quebec's only cooperatively-owned printing and publishing company. Coopérative d'Imprimerie Véhicule was officially incorporated in 1976.

Members of the coop included Guy Lavoie, Simon Dardick, Marshalore, Léo Vanasse, Vivian White, and Willy Wood. Véhicule Press was the publishing imprint of the coop. In the same year, an editorial board was formed to allow the Press to apply for Canada Council grants. The editorial board was composed of poets Andre Farkas, Artie Gold, and Ken Norris. Véhicule Press was accepted into the lock Grant Programme of the Canada Council in 1979. The editorial board was dissolved in the same year.

In late spring 1977, Véhicule Press moved to 1000 Clark St. in the heart of Chinatown, and in 1980 it moved to an industrial space located on Ontario St. East. In spring 1981, the coop was dissolved and Simon Dardick (who had joined the press in the summer of 1973) and Nancy Marrelli continued Véhicule Press from Roy St. East in the Plateau area of Montreal.

Véhicule Press publishes poetry, fiction, essays, translations, and social history. Simon Dardick and Nancy Marrelli are the publishers and general editors of Véhicule Press; Patrick Goddard is Administrative Assistant; and Maya Assouad is Marketing and Promotions Manager.

Poet Michael Harris was the founding editor of the Véhicule Press Signal Poetry Series, established in 1981. The collaboration has resulted in over 50 books by 35 authors. Additionally, Michael Harris was the editor of *The Signal Anthology: Contemporary Canadian Poetry* (Signal, 1993). Poet, critic, and essayist Carmine Starnino became the editor of Signal Editions in January 200. 123 titles have been published in the Signal Poetry Series since 1981. Carmine Starnino is the editor of *The New Canon: An Anthology of Canadian Poetry* (Signal, 2005).

Author Andrew Steinmetz is the founding editor of Véhicule's fiction imprint, Esplanade Books, established in 2003. Steinmetz was succeeded by author Dimitri Nasrallah, who has worked as the editor of the series since 2013.

Author Brian Busby is the editor of Ricochet Books, a series consisting of vintage noir mysteries, many of them set in Montreal.

Author Derek Webster became a Senior Editor of the press in 2018.

Covers for Signal and Esplanade Books are designed by David Drummond of Salamander Hill Design.

John W. Stewart began designing covers for the press in the 1970s. At present, Stewart designs the Véhicule catalogue cover and occasional non-fiction.

Custodial history

The Véhicule Press fonds was donated to the Concordia University Archives, now the Records Management and Archives Department, by Simon Dardick in 1990. Deposits were made by Simon Dardick in 1992, 1993, 1995, 1999, 2004, 2005, and 2010. Deposits to the fonds were made by Nancy Marrelli in 1994 and 2009.

The Véhicule Press fonds was transferred from the Records Management and Archives Department to the Library's Special Collections on March 17, 2016, March 24, 2016, April 6, 2016, April 12-13, 2016, May 11, 2016, and June 8, 2016.

Scope and content

The fonds provides information on the editing and publishing work of Véhicule Press.

The fonds consists of manuscripts, published and bound books, and publicity materials; production materials including correspondence, pamphlets, layouts and sketches for covers, printing templates, printing quotes, typescripts, page proofs with corrections, editors' and authors' notes, biographies of authors, curricula vitae, pictures of various authors and agendas; and posters and post cards that were printed for the Véhicule Art gallery.

Notes

Title notes

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

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Finding aids

Box listings are available.

Accruals

Further accruals are expected

Other notes

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

Access points

- Textual record (documentary form)
- Graphic material (documentary form)
- Object (documentary form)
- Arts and culture (subject)
- Artist run centres (subject)
- Publishing (subject)
- Communications (discipline) (subject)