CCS Bard Archives Center for Curatorial Studies Bard College Annandale-on-Hudson, NY 12504 Phone: 845.758.7567 Fax: 845.758.2442 Email: ccslib@bard.edu

Guide to the Edith C. Blum Art Institute Archives MSS.001

Finding aid prepared by Lydia Aikenhead, 2011; Polly Giragosian, 2012.

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit
August 22, 2014
Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Summary Information

Repository Center for Curatorial Studies Library & Archives

Creator Edith C. Blum Art Institute

Title Edith C. Blum Art Institute Archives

Date [inclusive] 1981-1992

Extent 8.0 Linear feet (9 boxes)

Language English

Summary The Edith C. Blum Art Institute Archives contains materials related to

the exhibitions, administration, educational programs and exhibition publications of the Edith C. Blum Art Institute. Located on the Bard College campus, the Institute served as an educational resource for the visual arts in the mid-Hudson Valley from 1981-1992. During this time the Institute organized a wide range of programs, including original, scholarly exhibitions of historical and modern art, educational programs,

and exhibition publications.

Preferred Citation

Published citations should take the following form:

Identification of item, date (if known); Edith C. Blum Art Institute Archives; MSS.001; [box number]; [folder number], Center for Curatorial Studies Library and Archives, Bard College.

Historical note

Established on October 14, 1978 by trustees of Bard College, the Edith C. Blum Art Institute opened its doors on May 30, 1981 with an inaugural exhibition of the work of Milton Avery. Housed in the then newly constructed Milton and Sally Avery Center for the Arts, the Institute consisted of teaching, exhibition, workshop and storage areas. Its mission was to serve as an educational facility for the arts and culture for Bard College students, the Hudson Valley community, as well as for the national and international arts communities.

In 1982, Linda Weintraub was hired as the curator of the Edith C. Blum Art Institute and in 1984 she was appointed the director - a position she held until the Institute's close in 1992. Under her leadership, the Institute organized with the assistance of guest curators, approximately 60 original and scholarly exhibitions. The topics of the exhibitions ranged widely and included shows of little known regional artists such as *Ornament and Glory: Theme & Theory in the Work of Karl Knaths* to exhibitions of the little known work of well known artists such as *Archipenko: Drawings, Reliefs & Constructions*. All exhibits strove to contribute new scholarship to the field of art history. Many exhibits toured to other venues and included an impressive range of works on loan from institutions and individuals from the United States and abroad. *Art What Thou Eat: Images of Food in American Art* included work on loan from over 80 institutions and individuals. While not a collecting institution, the Institute did hold the Bard College Collection which included a large donation of prints from the 1960s and 1970s, some of which were included in the exhibition, *Sixties Graphics: Culture & Counterculture*.

Education was a key component of the Institute and its exhibitions. Programs such as educational symposia, lectures, gallery tours, concerts, films and events helped to increase understanding of the visual arts in an historical and cultural context. Over 1,000 children from local schools participated in the Institute's educational events. The Institute also organized educational events on public policies in the arts and how the arts relate to other fields, including the Aesthetic Evaluation Project (1986-1990) which carried out research on the impact of aesthetic education on children.

Funding for the Institute came from a wide variety of private and public sources, including the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts, the Milton Avery Trust and the Edith C. Blum Foundation, as well as from private individuals, corporations, businesses. In 1986, a membership fund was established and in the early 1990s, the Board of Overseers sought to create an endowment fund.

In 1991 the Institute revised its operating procedures to organize more exhibitions of Bard College student and faculty work with only one original exhibit of national importance to be mounted each year. More effort would be placed on publishing scholarly books that focused on unexplored issues in the arts. On December 6, 1992, the Edith C. Blum Art Institute closed its doors.

Scope and Contents note

The Edith C. Blum Art Institute Archives includes materials that document the exhibitions, exhibition publications and the administrative life of the Institute during its tenure from 1981 to 1992.

The bulk of the archive is comprised of documents related to the Institute's exhibitions including invitations, budgets, exhibition checklists, loan agreements, rights and reproduction agreements, correspondence between Institute staff and lenders, press clippings and curricula for exhibition related educational events. Photographic prints, slides and transparencies document the work in the exhibits, views of the installations, as well as educational events. The administrative life of the Institute is reflected in the Board of Overseers' meeting minutes, agendas and correspondence between the Institute staff, Bard College staff and the Board. Correspondence between Institute staff and funders, lists of grants and funding sources, budgets, mission statements, by-laws, attendance records and a full set of press clippings on Institute activities further reflect the administrative life of the Institute. The museum education department's activities are documented through correspondence between the Institute staff, grantors and school officials, grant proposals, attendance reports, educational curricula, press clippings, photographic prints and slides of events, as well as slides used for teaching. The archive includes a full set of exhibition catalogs.

Arrangement note

The archive is organized into three series. This arrangement was established by the former archives staff of the Center for Curatorial Studies and has, for the most part, been kept intact.

Series I: Exhibition History Files is organized chronologically by exhibition date.

Series II: Administrative Files is divided into three subseries.

Subseries A: Board of Overseers is organized chronologically by meeting date.

Subseries B: Operations, Funding and Publicity and Subseries C: Museum Education are organized by topic.

Series III: Exhibition Publications is organized chronologically by publication date.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

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Access Restrictions

The collection is open to researchers without restrictions. Appointments are necessary to consult manuscript and archival materials. Access copies for media materials may not be available yet. Please contact the CCS Archivist for further details.

Use Restrictions

Collection use is subject to all copyright laws. Permission to publish materials must be obtained in writing from the Director of the Library & Archives at the Center for Curatorial Studies at Bard College. Please contact ccslib@bard.edu or 845-758-7567 for more information.

Provenance

The Edith C. Blum Art Institute Archives was tranferred to CCS Bard following the Institute's closing in 1992.

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

Edith C. Blum Art Institute

Genre(s)

- Administrative records
- Clippings (information artifacts)
- Color transparencies
- Exhibition catalogs
- Invitations
- Photographs
- · Promotional materials
- Slides (photographs)

Personal Name(s)

- Archipenko, Alexander, 1887-1964
- Avery, Milton, 1885-1965
- Benton, Thomas Hart, 1889-1975
- Bielutin, Ely, 1925-
- Bishop, Isabel, 1902-1988
- Brown, Joan

- Cramer, Konrad, 1888-1963
- Curtis, Edward, S., 1868-1952
- De Kooning, Elaine
- Evergood, Philip, 1901-1973
- Fuller, R. Buckminster (Richard Buckminster), 1895-1983
- Greene, Stephen, 1918-1999
- Hartigan, Grace
- Klee, Paul, 1879-1940
- Knaths, Karl, 1891-1971
- Kuniyoshi, Yasuo, 1889-1953
- · Landsman, Stanley, 1930-
- Leger, Fernand, 1881-1955
- Lichtenstein, Roy, 1923-1997
- McNeil, George, 1908-1995
- Miro, Joan, 1893-1983
- Neel, Alice, 1900-1984
- Strand, Paul, 1890-1976
- Sugarman, George, 1912-1999
- · Weintraub, Linda
- Yllanes, Alejandro Mario

Collection Inventory

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