

AFF003

IMA Contemporary Art Society Records, 1962-2008, n.d. Indianapolis Museum of Art Archives

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Updated by Caitlin Downey, April 2019

Collection Overview

Title: IMA Contemporary Art Society Records, 1962-2008, n.d.

Collection ID: AFF003

Primary Creators: Contemporary Art Society (Indianapolis, Ind.), Indianapolis Museum of Art, John Herron Art Institute

Extent: 3.16 linear feet

Arrangement: This collection was arranged by like material and organized chronologically.

Languages: English

Scope and Contents of the Materials

The Contemporary Art Society (CAS) records document the group's efforts to bring greater awareness and interest to contemporary art since the group's founding in 1962. CAS members were often invited to travel to art museums and galleries across the U.S. and abroad. Member funds were used to procure contemporary art acquisitions. CAS frequently hosts lecturers, artists, and other speakers, as well as arranging local visits to art museums and artist studios.

Due to the small amount of material in this collection it has not been divided into series. Due to privacy concerns, half of the collection is restricted to access by IMA staff and members of the Contemporary Art Society at the discretion of the archivist. The detailed box inventory below indicates which materials are open and which are closed. Instead, like materials were grouped

together and then arranged chronologically. In Box 1 you will find materials related to ephemera, trips, lecture invites and reminders, affiliate orientation manual, and membership materials. Housed in the second box are member lists, directories, dues statements, acquisitions voting, and Resource Committee agendas. You will also find the information, evaluations, or materials CAS created with the help of Trustee Leadership Development in 1999. During that time, CAS re-evaluated their mission statement, mailed out member surveys, and held meetings to decide what they wanted for their organization's future.

This collection includes thirteen binders. The first twelve are the binders of past presidents of CAS and are arranged chronologically by president. Binder 13 includes material related to membership. The binders contain a variety of minutes, correspondence, notes, study group plans, speaker invites, schedule of events, financial records, etc. Also included may be trip planning notes, member lists, or news clippings.

Historical Note

Since 1962, The Contemporary Art Society (CAS) of the Indianapolis Museum of Art has promoted the understanding, appreciation, and collection of contemporary art. Through a dynamic series of social and educational events, CAS members enjoy privileged access to curators, artists, private collections, and travel. CAS members significantly impact the collection of contemporary art at the IMA by contributing to acquisitions and participating in voting to bring selected works into the collection.

CAS regularly hosts lectures featuring nationally and internationally renowned artists. Past artists include: Maria Magdalena Campos-Pons, Dawoud Bey, Alfredo Jaar, Orly Genger, Josephine Meckseper, Tara Donovan, Erwin Wurm, Michelle Grabner, Richard Wentworth and Jacco Olivier. Through their generous support, CAS members continue to help build the Museum's contemporary art collection.

Presidents (Incomplete):

Frank Springer, Jr. 1962-1964

Samuel F. Sherwood 1964-1966

Dr. Louis Nie 1966-1968

Henry DeBoest 1968-1970

Dr. Harris Shumaker 1970-1972

Dr. Robert Rohn 1972-1974

Norbert Neuss 1974-1976

Dr. John Scofield 1976-1978

Jordan Leibman 1978-1980

Dee Garrett 1980-1982

Jim White 1982-1984

M. Bernadine Tabler 1984-1986

Dorit Paul 1986-1988

Kathy Simmons 1988-1990
Steve Dutton 1990-1992
Jo Jacobs 1992-1994
Jan Rubin 1994-1996
Wayne Vincent 1996-1998
Mary Jo Showley 1998-2000
Bernadine Speers 2000-2002

Sources

Material in the collection.

Indianapolis Museum of Art, "Contemporary Art Society," Accessed February 2017,
<http://www.imamuseum.org/give-join/affiliate-memberships/contemporary-art-society>

Subject/Index Terms

Ali, Laylah, 1968-
Art appreciation,
Art museums,
Devlin, Lucinda,
Fund raising,
Rosen, Kay

Forms of Material:

annual reports,
clippings (information artifacts),
correspondence,
financial records,
invitations,
minutes,
notes,
photographs,
printed ephemera,
reports,
yearbooks

Administrative Information

Repository: Indianapolis Museum of Art Archives

Alternate Extent Statement: 2 boxes, five photo folders, 13 binders

Access Restrictions: The first part of this collection are open for research. The second part is open to IMA staff and members of the Contemporary Art Society, and will be made available to non-IMA staff or CAS researchers at the discretion of the archivist.

Use Restrictions: Permission to publish, quote, or reproduce must be secured from the repository and the copyright holder. Please contact the Archivist for more information.

Preferred Citation: [Item title], [date], [Container information], IMA Contemporary Art Society Records (AFF003), Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, IN.

Box and Folder Listing

The following material is open for research:

Box 1

- Folder 1: Ephemera, n.d.
- Folder 2: Member application, n.d.
- Folder 3: Stationary samples, n.d.
- Folder 4: Gallery Guides [1985-1989]
- Folder 5: Los Angeles trip, 1987
- Folder 6: Dinner and meeting reminders, 1989-1993
- Folder 7: Art 1995 Chicago at Navy Pier correspondence, 1994
- Folder 8: Museums and Contemporary Art in Hawaii Trip, January 1994
- Folder 9: Dinner and Gallery Talk, February 28, 1994
- Folder 10: Robert Berkshire studio visit and discussion, November 7, 1994
- Folder 11: Trip to San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, February 22-26, 1995
- Folder 12: James Crawford studio visit, September 14, 1998
- Folder 13: *Francesco Clement: Indian Watercolors*, October 1, 1998
- Folder 14: Spain Trip correspondence, February 21-28, 1999
- Folder 15: Frank Springer first CAS President by Dee Garrett interview cassette, 1999
- Folder 16: Sculpture Gala, October 14, 2000
- Folder 17: "A Few Words about a Few Words" lecture by Kay Rosen, ca. 2000s
- Folder 18: London and Scotland trip, April 28-May 4, 2001
- Folder 19: 40th anniversary celebration, February 16, 2002
- Folder 20: Lucinda Devlin lecture, July 20, 2002
- Folder 21: Julie Roberts lecture, November 11, 2002
- Folder 22: Laylah Ali lecture, December 4, 2002
- Folder 23: Visit to artist studios, February 10, 2003
- Folder 24: Lee Marks lecture, March 3, 2003
- Folder 25: A Conversation with Herbert and Dorothy Vogel, April 7, 2003

Folder 26: A visit to the Ball State University College of Architecture and Planning's Indianapolis Center, April 28, 2003

Folder 27: Art study group, collection and studio visits, 2001-2008

Photo Folder 1: Presidents, ca. 1988

Photo Folder 2: Counting ballots, 1993

Photo Folder 3: San Francisco trip, February 22-26, 1995

Photo Folder 4: Spain trip, February 21-28, 1999

Photo Folder 5: Art study group, n.d.

The following material is RESTRICTED to IMA staff and members of the Contemporary Art Society, and will be made available to other researchers at the discretion of the archivist:

Box 1

Folder 28: President binder loose material, 1992-1993

Folder 29: President binder, 2002-2003

Folder 30: Affiliate president binder, 2005

Folder 31: Affiliate/Support Groups orientation manual, 2003

Box 2

Folder 1: Rosie Sinnock orientation manual, 2003

Folder 2: Membership binder loose material, 1962-2000. n.d.

Folder 3: Membership binder, 1988-1989

Folder 4: Member lists, 1986-2000

Folder 5: Member directory, 2002-2003

Folder 6: Member directory, 2003-2004

Folder 7: Member directory, 2005-2006

Folder 8: Member directory, 2007-2008

Folder 9: Dues statement/member application, 1993-1994

Folder 10: Acquisition votes, 1993

Folder 11: Resource Committee meeting agenda, n.d.

Folder 12: Trustee Leadership Development correspondence, 1999, n.d.

Folder 13: Advance survey and responses, 1999

Folder 14: Mission revisions, 1999

Folder 15: History, 1999, n.d.

Folder 16: Member questionnaire, 1999

Folder 17: Assessment, 1999

Folder 18: Advance participation and mailings, 1999

Folder 19: Retreat planning, 1999

Binder 1: President binder and by-laws, 1982-1989, n.d.

Binder 2: Kathy Simmons, 1988-1989
Binder 3: Stephen Dutton, 1990
Binder 4: Stephen Dutton, 1991-1992
Binder 5: Jo Jacobs, 1992-1993
Binder 6: Jan Rubin, 1994-1995
Binder 7: Wayne Vincent, 1996-1997
Binder 8: Wayne Vincent, 1997-1998
Binder 9: Mary Jo Showley, 1998-1999
Binder 10: Mary Jo Showley, 1999-2000
Binder 11: Bernadine Speers, 2000-2001
Binder 12: Bernadine Speers, 2001-2002
Binder 13: Membership, 1962-1999, n.d.