Contemporary Art Department Records

Finding aid prepared by Anna J. Clarkson

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit April 30, 2014 Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Archives and Manuscripts Collections, The Baltimore Museum of Art 2013 10 Art Museum Drive Baltimore, MD, 21032 (443) 573-1778 BMAlibrary@artbma.org

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Summary	Information
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Repository	Archives and Manuscripts Collections, The Baltimore Museum of Art
Creator	Baltimore Museum of Art. Contemporary Art Department.
Title	Contemporary Art Department Records
Date [inclusive]	1973-2000
Extent	22.0 Linear feet
Language	English
Abstract	The Contemporary Art Department records reflect the activities of the Department located within The Baltimore Museum of Art. The Department's records total 22 linear feet and date from 1973-2011. The records consist of a variety of materials including correspondence, notes, photographs, and research material. The majority of records are dedicated to exhibitions and the organization Friends of Modern Art (FOMA).

Preferred Citation

Contemporary Art Department Records, Archives and Manuscripts Collections, The Baltimore Museum of Art

Institutional History Note

The Baltimore Museum of Art has been collecting contemporaneous artwork since its inception in 1914. During the first 40 years of the Museum, collections were largely handled by the Museum Directors and Chief Curators of the Museum.

From the 1950s through 1990s, the Museum created individual curatorial departments to care for its growing collections. In 1955 the Decorative Arts Department was formed followed by the Textiles Department (1969), and The Department of Arts of Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Oceania (1981). The Contemporary Art Department was created in 1997 by newly appointed Director Doreen Bolger with the support of the Museum's Board of Trustees.

Helen Molesworth was hired as the first BMA Curator of Contemporary Art in 2000. Under Molesworth's aegis, the Department reinstalled the contemporary art wing, organized the acclaimed exhibitions *Looking Forward / Looking Black, Body Space*, and *Work Ethic*, a travelling exhibition. In addition, Molesworth was instrumental in the BMA acquiring works by David Hammons, Rachel Harrison, Kara Walker, Carrie Mae Weems, Joseph Cornell, Zoe Leonard, and Marcel Duchamp.

Upon Molesworth's departure in late 2002, the BMA appointed Chris Gilbert as the second Curator of Contemporary Art in 2003. While Curator, Gilbert organized a three part series of exhibitions entitled the *Cram Sessions* that used local emerging artists to engage in a dialog of social, political, and economic subjects. Gilbert was responsible for the BMA becoming the first American museum to acquire works by Olafur Eliasson and Renee Green before leaving in 2005.

At that time, Assistant Curator in the Prints, Drawings, and Photographs Department, Darsie Alexander, was promoted to Senior Curator of Contemporary Art. As Curator of the Contemporary Art Department, Alexander was responsible for organizing the first American exhibition of artist Franz West *To Build A House You Start with the Roof: Work 1972-2008*.

In 2009 Kristen Hileman was hired as the fourth BMA Curator of Contemporary Art. Since 2009 Hileman has curated "Seeing Now: Photography Since 1960" and resinstalled artwork in the newly renovated contemporary art galleries.

Prior to the formation of the Contemporary Art Department, a BMA membership group was formed in the Fall of 1973 dedicated to contemporary art known as "Friends of Modern Art" (FOMA). Initially, the group was headed by Deputy Director and Head Curator of the Museum, Brenda Richardson. Upon the formation of the Department of Contemporary Art in 1997, FOMA fell under the direction of the Contemporary Art Department. In 2005 the group's name was changed to Friends of Contemporary and Modern Art (FOMACA).

Scope and Contents

The Contemporary Art Department records reflect the activities of the Department located within The Baltimore Museum of Art. The Department's records total 22 linear feet and date from 1989-2011. The records consist of a variety of materials including correspondence, notes, photographs, and research material. The majority of records are dedicated to exhibitions and the organization Friends of Modern Art (FOMA).

The records are arranged into nine series: 1. Accessions and Deaccessions. 2. Budgets. 3. Correspondence. 4. Exhibitions. 5. Exhibitions, Unrealized. 6. Friends of Modern Art (FOMA). 7. Programs. 8. Research. 9. Renovations and Reinstallations.

The records were created by Contemporary Art Curators Helen Molesworth, Chris Gilbert, Darsie Alexander, and Kristen Hileman.

Arrangement

Arranged into nine series: 1. Accessions and Deaccessions. 2. Budgets. 3. Correspondence. 4. Exhibitions. 5. Exhibitions, Unrealized. 6. Friends of Modern Art (FOMA). 7. Programs. 8. Research. 9. Renovations and Reinstallations.

Some series have been arranged into subseries at the discretion of the Archivist and noted in the Scope and Contents note for that individual series.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Archives and Manuscripts Collections, The Baltimore Museum of Art 2013

Restrictions on Access

All records are closed to outside researchers for 25 years from the date of creation. The "Accessions and Deaccessions", "Exhibitions", and "FOMA" series contain limited amounts of restricted material and will

not be available to researchers until further processing can be preformed. See Archives Access Policy for more detailed information.

Restrictions on Use

The Contemporary Art Department Records are the physical property of the Archives and Manuscripts Collections, The Baltimore Museum of Art. Copyright, except in cases where material has passed into the public domain, belongs to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult a Library staff member.

Provenance

Transferred from the Contemporary Art Department to the Archives 2005-2011.

Processing Information

Processed by Anna J. Clarkson in 2013. This collection has been processed using the *More Product, Less Process* methodology.

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Baltimore Museum of Art. Friends of Modern and Contemporary Art .
- Baltimore Museum of Art. Friends of Modern Art. .
- Baltimore Museum of Art

Genre(s)

- Articles
- Color slides
- Correspondence
- Lecture notes
- Photographs

Personal Name(s)

- Alexander, M. Darsie
- Gilbert, Chris
- Hileman, Kristen
- Molesworth, Helen Anne
- West, Franz, 1947-

Subject(s)

- Art museums -- Exhibitions
- Clippings
- Drafts (documents)
- Research

Collection Inventory

Accessions and Deaccessions 2001-2007 (Bulk, 2003-2007) [3/4 box]	Box 16
Scope and Contents	
The "Accessions and Deaccessions" series contains 3/4 box of files from 2001, 2003-2007. The files contain inter-Museum correspondence as well as correspondence with artists, donors, scholars and galleries related to accessions and deaccessions of Museum artwork, slides, and research. In addition the files also contain presentations prepared by the Contemporary Art Department and presented to the BMA Accessions Committee. This series contains material of a sensitive nature and will not be available to researchers until further processing can be performed by the Archivist.	
Budgets 2000-2009	Box OS 1
Scope and Contents "Budgets" series contains the following files on departmental and collections budgets: FY09 Departmental; FY09 Collection Maintenance; Contemporary Department Budget: FY 2007; Contemporary Department Budget: FY 2006; Budget - FY 2003 (July 02 - June 03); Budget - FY 2002 (July 01 - June 02); Budget - FY 2001 (July 00 - June 01); Budget - FY 2000 (July 99 - June 00).	
Correspondence 2000-2005 [9 folders]	Box OS 1
Scope and Contents	
The "Correspondence" series is extremely scant and contains the following files: Helen	
Molesworth Correspondence, 2000-2001; General Inquiry - Research Questions; General Inquiry - Donation; General Inquiry - Resources; General Inquiry - Art Review; General	
inquiry - Donation, Ocherar inquiry - Resources, Ocherar inquiry - Art Review, Ocherar	

Inquiry - Exhibition; Donor Correspondence; Research Requests. The files date from 2000-2005 and reflect departmental activities.

Exhibitions and Rotations 1989-2011 13.75 boxes [11 boxes]

Scope and Contents

The "Exhibitions and Rotations" series files date from 1989-2011. The files include object checklists, donor and scholar correspondence, research, essay drafts, and photographs. The series is arranged chronologically by exhibition. Each exhibition is recorded as its own subseries.

Please note, a limited amount of exhibition files contain material of a sensitive nature including personally identifiable information and will not be available to researchers until further processing can be performed by the Archivist.

	Box
The Collector's Eye: Masterpieces from the Museum's Dalsheimer Photographs (September 17 – November 19, 1989) [1 folder]	5
Nadar/Warhol: Paris/NewYork (March 12 – May 28, 2000) [1 folder]	5
James Welling: Photographs 1974-1999 (September 10 – December 10, 2000) [1 folder]	5
Minimalism (Nov. 22, 2000 - ?) [1 folder]	5
Robert Rauschenberg Combines: Painting + Sculpture (December 6, 2000 – May 20, 2001)	5
BodySpace (February 18 – May 27, 2001) [25 folders]	5

European Abstraction from the Collection, 1912-1948 (February 28 – December 3, 2001) [1 folder]	5
Looking Forward / Looking Black (February 6 – May 6, 2002) [15 folders]	6
Haunting Visions of Poe: Illustrations by Manet, Matisse & Gauguin (September 17, 2003 – January 11, 2004) [1 folder]	6
Work Ethic (October 12, 2003 – January 4, 2004) [17 folders]	6
Cram Sessions: 01 Collective Effort (March 3 – 28, 2004) [10 folders]	6
Kerry James Marshall: One True Thing, Meditations on Black Aesthetics (June 20 – September 5, 2004) [2 folders]	6
Cram Sessions: 02 Dark Matter (November 3 – 28, 2004)	7-9
The Liam Gillick Project (February 2 – June 12, 2005) [3 folders]	10
SlideShow (February 27 – May 15, 2005) [1 box]	11
Cram Sessions: 03 Sound Politics (April 6 – May 1, 2005) [3 folders]	10
Artscape at the BMA: Observation Deck (June 19 – July 31, 2005) [2 folders]	11
Cram Sessions: 04 Counter–Campus (November 2 – 27, 2005) [2 folders]	10
Robert Motherwell: Meanings of Abstraction (May 20 – July 30, 2006) [8 folders]	10

Select Views: Drawings from the BMA's Benesch Collection (May 20 – July 30, 2006) [1 folder]	10
Front Room: Dan Steinhilber (October 1, 2006 – February 18, 2007) [2 folders]	10
siteMaryland: Governor's Arts Initiative 2006 (October 1 – November 5, 2006) [2 folders]	10
Front Room: Luisa Lambri (March 7 – May 20, 2007) [1 folder]	10
Front Room: Ripple Effect (May 30 – September 2, 2007) [1 folder]	10
Front Room: Ellsworth Kelly (November 14, 2007 – February 17, 2008) [2 folders]	10
Front Room: Notes on Monumentality (February 27 – May 25, 2008) [1 folder]	10
The Janet & Walter Sondheim Prize Finalists: Artscape at the BMA (June 21 – August 3, 2008) [1 folder]	10
Franz West, To Build a House You Start with the Roof: Work, 1972-2008 (October 12, 2008 – January 4, 2009) [8 folders]	12-14
Hank Willis Thomas (July 29 – November 29, 2009) [1 folder]	15
Front Room: Guyton/Walker (September 22, 2010 – January 16, 2011) [5 folders]	15
Seeing Now: Photography 1960 – Today (February 20 – May 15, 2011) [33 folders]	15

Andy Warhol: The Last Decade (October 17, 2010 – January 9, 2011) [18 folders]	15
Exhibitions and Rotations, Unrealized 1999-2007 0.4 Linear feet [1 box]	Box OS 2
Scope and Contents	
The "Exhibitions and Rotations, Unrealized" series date from 1999-2007. The files include correspondence, research, essays, and images. The series is arranged chronologically. Each unrealized exhibition is recorded as its own subseries.	
Cycle III: Photography (unrealized, circa 1999) [2 folders]	
Proposed Black History Month Exhibition (unrealized?, 2000-2013)	
Vernacular African American Photography (unrealized, circa 2003) [1 folder]	
Already Made (unrealized, May - July 2003) [1 folder]	
Major exhibitions concepts (unrealized, circa 2005) [1 folder]	
AMBI: Avant-Garde and Museum (unrealized, Jan Dec. 2007) [3 folders]	
Friends of Modern and Contemporary Art (FOMA) 1973-2007 [4 boxes]	Box 1-4
Scope and Contents	
"Friends of Modern and Contemporary Art" series covers a period of time from 1979 until 2007 and consists of four boxes. The series contains records for the BMA membership group Friends of Modern Art (FOMA), later known as Friends of Modern and	

Contemporary Art (FOMACA).

The series is arranged chronologically and contains correspondence, bylaws, minutes, essay drafts, clippings, financial information, and membership lists. The majority of material relates to the group FOMA and covers the years 1981-2005. There series contains very limited information on FOMACA.

Of particular interest is the file "Friends of Modern Art 1980-1981" which contains background information on the formation of the group. A January 22, 1980 memorandum from Brenda Richardson to Arnonld Lehman details the status of the group during its early years.

Please note, this series contains limited amounts of material of a sensitive nature and is restricted to researchers until further processing can be performed by the Archivist.

Box List

	Box
Friends of Modern Art 1973-1979	1
FOMA Questionnaires, May 1977	1
Friends of Modern Art, 1973-1979	1
FOMA Membership, 1980-91	1
Friends of Modern Art, 1980-1981	1
Friends of Modern Art, 1981-1982	1
Friends of Modern Art, 1982-1983	1

Friends of Modern Art, 1983-1984	1
FOMA New York City Trip, Fall 1984	1
Friends of Modern Art, Fall 1984	1
Friends of Modern Art, Spring 1985 1985	1
FOMA Chicago, April 18-20, 1985	1
FOMA General, 1985-1986	1
FOMA Membership, 1985-1986	1
FOMA Calendar 1985-1986 (2 folders)	1
FOMA General 1986-1987	1
FOMA Calendar, 1986-1987	1
FOMA Travel and Hotel Chicago, 4/18 - 4/20/1986	1
FOMA Hirshorn Trip, 3/16/1986	1
FOMA General, 1987-1988	1
FOMA Membership, 1987-1988	1

FOMA New York City Trip, 4/25/1987	1
FOMA Membership, 1986-1987	1
FOMA Calendar, 1987-1988	1
FOMA General, 1988-1989	1
FOMA Membership, 1988-1989	1
FOMA Membership, 1989-1991	2
FOMA Programs, 1988-1989	2
New York Day Trip, April 29, 1989	2
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FOMA Ideas, 1988-1989	2
FOMA Baltimore/Local, 1988-1989	2
FOMA Calendar Ideas, 1988-1989	2
FOMA Collectors Circle, 1989-1990	2
Collectors Circle NYC, October 26, 1989	2

Dinner for Baltimore Collects: P & S, 1960, 1989-1990	2
FOMA 1990-1991	2
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FOMA, 1991-1992 (two folders)	2
FOMA Program Information, 1992-1993	2
Accounts / P.O.s, 1992-1993	2
Membership Renewals, 1992-1993	2
Washington Trip, March 13, 1993	2
FOMA, 1992-1993	2
FOMA Programs, 1992-1993	2
FOMA Board Business, 1993-1994	2
FOMA Programs, 1993-1994	2
FOMA Accoutns, 1993-1994	2

FOMA Membership Renewals, 1993	2
FOMA Programs, 1994-1995	3
FOMA Board Business, 1994-1995	3
FOMA Membership, 1994-1995	3
FOMA Accounts, 1994-1995	3
FOMA Programs, 1995-1996	3
FOMA Membership, 1995-1996	3
FOMA Trip to Pittsburgh, November 10-12, 1995	3
FOMA Programs, 1995-1996	3
FOMA Accounts, 1995-1996	3
FOMA Board Business, 1995-1996	3
FOMA Membership, 1995-1996	3
FOMA Program Prospects, 1995-1996	3
FOMA - FY 1997	3

FOMA and Collectors Circle Programming 1997-1998	3
FOMA 1997-1998	3
FOMA 1997-1998 Financial	3
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FOMA 1995-1997	3
FOMA Board Meetings	3
FOMA 1998-1999 General	3
FOMA 1998-1999 Financial	3
FOMA 1998-1999 Membership	3
FOMA Final [newsletter]	3
Upcoming newsletter material	3
FOMA Commemorative Cards	3

FOMA 1998-1999 Events	3
FOMA Minutes from Ginny Adams, 3/1998 - 7/2000	3
FOMA 1999-2000 Membership	3
FOMA	3
FOMA Minutes 2000	4
FOMA - Ginny	4
FOMA Events	4
FOMA Membership vs. BMA Membership	4
FOMA 1999-2000 Board Meetings	4
FOMA 1999-2000 Events	4
FOMA Financials - FY01	4
FOMA (FY01) Board	4
FOMA (FY01) Budget	4
FOMA (FY01) Events	4

FOMA (FY01) Members	4
FOMA (FY00) Budget	4
FOMA (FY00) Members	4
FOMA (FY00) Newsletter	4
FOMA (FY00) Events	4
FOMA (FY00) Board	4
FOMA (FY99) Budget	4
FOMA (FY95) Mailing	4
FOMA [General]	4
FOMA Newsletter 2002	3
FOMA Notices - FY02	3
FOMA Dues Forms	3
FOMA Board Minutes FY02	3
FOMA Financials FY02	3

FOMA (FY02) Board	3
FOMA (FY02) Events	3
FOMA (FY02) Members	3
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FOMA (FY02) Events / LA Trip	3
FOMA (FY02) Members	3
FOMA (FY02) Membership Letters	3
FOMA (FY02) Events	3
Art Basel MB 2002 - Mailings	3
Art Basel MB - Speakers / Guests	3
Art Basel Sites	3
Art Basel MB 2002 - Transportation	3
Art Basel MB 2002 - Hotel	3

Art Basel MB 2002 - Cost	3
Art Basel MB 2002 - Misc.	3
Art Basel MB 2002 - Art Basel Information	3
Art Basel MB 2002 - FOMA registration	3
Art Basel MB 2002 - Meals	3
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FOMA 02-03 Board Meetings	4
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FOMA FY03 Budget	4
FOMA 02-03 Events / DC Tour	4
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FOMA 02-03 Events / Baltimore Collects	4
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FOMA 02-03 Members	4

FOMA 02-03 Events / Post-Black	4
General Friends Group Information	4
FOMA Newsletter	4
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FOMA Newsletter Vol. 1, No. 2	4
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FOMA Newsletter Vol. 2, No. 2	4
FOMA Newsletter Vol. 4, No. 1	4
FOMA Membership - Forms	4
FOMA - from "the pile"	4
FOMA 2001 programming	4
FOMA Invoices (2003)	4
FOMA Programming, 2002-2003	4
FOMA Membership, 2002-2003	4

FOMA FY04 Gift and Membership deposits	4
FOMA Event Finances, 2003-2004	4
FOMA Event Information, 2003-2004	4
FY05 FOMA Board Minutes	4
FY05 Deposits and Gift Correspondence	4
FOMA FY05 Event Finances / Confirmations	4
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FOMACA: 2007 Financial Records Research	4
	D
Programs 2007-2007 [2 folders]	Box OS 1
Programs 2007-2007 [2 folders] Scope and Contents	
Scope and Contents The "Programs" series contains two folders relating to scholar Michael Fried's lectures at	
Scope and Contents The "Programs" series contains two folders relating to scholar Michael Fried's lectures at the BMA in the Spring of 2007. The files contain correspondence and research.	OS 1 Box
Scope and Contents The "Programs" series contains two folders relating to scholar Michael Fried's lectures at the BMA in the Spring of 2007. The files contain correspondence and research. Michael Fried Lectures, Spring 2007 [2 folders]	OS 1

The "Research" series contains 1 1/2 boxes of material dating from 1997-2005. The research is organized into two subseries; "Subject Files" and "Artist Files".

The "Artist Files" subseries is arranged alphabetically by artist's last name and contains copies of articles, research notes, images, and correspondence. The "Subject Files" subseries is arranged alphabetically by subject name.

Please note, this series contains restricted material and will not be available to researchers until further processing can be performed by the Archivist.

Subject Files	
Box List	
	Box
Acquisitions	17
Alberta DuPont Bonsal Fund	17
African American	17
	Box
African American Artists in BMA Collection Compiled 1997 (Partial)	17
	Box
African American Collectors Group (two folders)	17
John Bankston	17
Hancock, Trenton Doyle	17

Art Basel	17
BMA Permanent Collection	17
	Box
New Media / Photography Issues - Presentation Duplication	17
Photography into Printmaking	17
African American Artists in BMA Collection	17
Video Film Talk, Art Seminar 06	17
Notes: Stieglitz and Modern Art	17
Photography: Terms and techniqques	17
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	Box
California / Contempoary Curators	17
Cartier-Bresson: The Early Work	17
Chamberlain	17
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College Labels for Mailings	17
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Sonnabend	17
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Ezawa, Kota	18
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Miller, Tom	18
Morris, Robert	18
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Sansal, Wilhelm	18
Sillman, Amy	18
Snelling, Tracey	18
Stettheimer, Florine	18
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Truitt, Anne	18
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Various Artists (Claudia Matzko, Robert Gober, Do-Ho Suh, Josiah McElheny, Sowon	18
Various Artists, Darsie Alexander	18
Renovations and Reinstallations 2006-2008 [2 folders]	Box OS 1

Scope and Contents

The "Renovations and Reinstallations" series contains two folders: West Wing Reinstallation 2006; West Wing Reinstallation 2008. The files contain checklists, diagrams, and correspondence.