

Guide to the California Institute of the Arts School of Art Collection CalArts.2012.006

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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03/12/2012
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Summary Information

Repository	California Institute of the Arts Institute Archive
Creator	California Institute of the Arts. School of Art.
Creator	California Institute of the Arts.
Title	School of Art collection
Date [bulk]	Bulk, 1970-1972
Date [inclusive]	(1969-1976; 1984-1991)
Extent	0.5 Linear feet
Language	English
Abstract	<p>The California Institute of the Arts' School of Art was established in 1970 and existed until 1976, when it merged with the California Institute of the Arts' School of Design to become the School of Art and Design, a merger that lasted until 1984. In 1984, the School of Art and Design became the School of Art. Collection consists of administrative, curricular, exhibition and event materials, black-and-white portrait photographs, and newspaper clippings related to the School of Art.</p>

Preferred Citation note

Courtesy of the California Institute of the Arts Institute Archive. California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, California.

Biographical/Historical note

The California Institute of the Arts, commonly known as CalArts, is located in Valencia, California, and grants degrees in the visual and performing arts. Incorporated on September 1, 1961, it was the first degree-granting institution of higher learning in the United States created specifically for students of both the visual and the performing arts. It was the dream and vision of Walt Disney to create such an institute and he provided funding for it in his will. Initially formed through the merger of the Chouinard Art Institute (founded 1921) and the Los Angeles Conservatory of Music (founded 1883), it opened at its present campus in Valencia, California, in November 1971.

The California Institute of the Arts' School of Art was established in 1970 and existed until 1976, when it merged with the California Institute of the Arts' School of Design to become the School of Art and Design, a merger that lasted until 1984. In 1984, the School of Art and Design became the School of Art.

The School of Art (1970-1976) awarded BFA and MFA degrees as well as certificates (begun ca. 1974) and offered young artists the opportunity to work in a wide range of media and approaches under the guidance of practicing professional artists. Learning experiences extended from courses such as drawing and draftsmanship, painting techniques, and introductory work in sculpture and graphics to independent study and advanced individual and group projects. Individual programs of courses and projects were arranged by consultation between a student and his or her faculty mentor. The mentor guided a student's professional development, which depended upon open and continuous communication about the student's work and experiences. An emphasis was placed on individual personal development. Faculty, facilities, and equipment provided resources for study in the following areas: painting; drawing; sculpture in wood, metal, plastics, kinetics and environments; graphics, stressing silk-screen and photo silk-screen, both as independent media and in coordination with printed material; projects in conceptual and post-studio art; video projects including video tape and video synthesizer; happenings and related events; and art history, which stressed the artists' relationship to society with an emphasis on modern and contemporary art.

The School of Art also housed the Feminist Art Program (FAP), co-founded by artists and faculty members Judy Chicago and Miriam Schapiro and was aimed at the development of subject matter, history, and criticism of art rooted in feminist identity. It was one of the first programs in the country to offer team taught courses on female art history taught exclusively by women for women only.

Paul Brach, an American painter, was dean of the School of Art from 1970-1976.

The School of Art (1984-1991) was committed to the contemporary and the individual and worked with students to create an individual program of study that not only exposed the student to unfamiliar techniques and ideas, but also pushed them to define their own particular vision. The school sought out highly motivated people and gave them room to move in whatever medium suited their ideas - from painting to video, from photography to performance, from typographic design to sculpture, and from writing to sound installations. A strong emphasis on the visiting artist program allowed a quick response to contemporary issues and production.

Between 1984 and 1991 the school was composed of three programs: Art, Photography, and Visual Communication. The Program in Art provided instruction in drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking,

and photography, and also encouraged exploration of post-studio disciplines. Major aspects of the program were film, sound, and video; critical writing; as well as conceptual, performance, environmental, and installation art.

The Program in Photography emphasized a wide-ranging exploration of the medium and its cultural implications. A series of critique situations focused on the problems and questions generated by individual student work. The faculty reviewed each student's work annually. The program provided instruction in darkroom and studio problems, critical theory, and history.

The Program in Visual Communication centered on a series of studio experiences which were augmented by courses in typography, photography, electronic image processing, graphic techniques, publication design, and history and theory of graphic design. Emphasis was also placed on moving graphics and the application of design ideas to information technology. Special attention was given to individually assigned projects, the mentoring process, and annual reviews of student work.

In the fall of 1991, the school was composed of three programs: Art, Photography, and Graphic Design. The Program in Art was a combination of independent study, group critiques, and seminars which provided an ongoing forum for a consideration of the issues involved in artistic practice. The program offered instruction in painting, sculpture, drawing and printmaking, photography, video, film, writing, performance, installation, and computer graphics.

The Program in Photography was committed to the education of independent photographers with courses designed to crack open conventional notions of photographic practices and pose questions of photography's position within contemporary culture. The program encouraged debate and experiment, and the curriculum offered a mix of courses: a series of specific problems of photographic practice, photographic history, visual semeiotics, critiques and technical workshops, as well as independent studies.

The Program in Graphic Design emphasized practical and conceptual skills stressing the role of the designer as the originator of ideas for projects, who could combine imagination, theory and a command of visual language with an entrepreneurial attitude toward the design potential of new technologies. Courses offered included information design, motion graphics, design history, advanced typography, and studio projects combined with issues of design methodology, history, and critical theory.

Sources: California Institute of the Arts: Admissions Bulletin 1973-1974, 1991-1993; Admissions Brochures 1985-1986, 1986-1987

Scope and Contents note

The California Institute of the Arts School of Art Collection documents the activities, events, and academics of the School of Art and comprises administrative and curricular materials; a performance program; black-and-white photographs; handbooks; posters; a report on faculty and student professional activities; newspaper clippings pertaining to faculty, students and events; the poem, "House of Dust" as

well as a memoranda and photographs related to the poetry drop of “House of Dust” by artist and faculty member, Alison Knowles.

Arrangement note

This collection has been arranged by the institute archivist into the following five series: Series 1. Administrative correspondence, memoranda, and other material 1969-1975. Series 2. Course descriptions and schedules, handbooks, and other material 1970-1985. Series 3. Exhibition and event announcements, poetry, and other material 1971-1991. Series 4. Photographs, undated. Series 5. Clippings, 1986-1990.

Files are arranged alphabetically by name, subject, or title within each series.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

California Institute of the Arts Institute Archive 03/12/2012

Revision Description

8/24/12

Conditions Governing Access note

Open for research. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact the institute archivist to make an appointment to view materials.

Conditions Governing Use note

Permission to publish, quote or reproduce must be secured from the Institute Archive and any copyright holders.

Custodial History note

Collected by the California Institute of the Arts as part of the California Institute of the Arts Institute Archive.

Accruals note

Further accruals are expected.

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

California Institute of the Arts School of Art and Design Collection. California Institute of the Arts Feminist Art Materials Collection.

Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)

- Black-and-white-photographs
- Correspondence
- Handbooks, manuals, etc.
- Memoranda
- Poetry

Personal Name(s)

- Brach, Paul Henry, 1924-2007 -- Correspondence
- Kaprow, Allan, 1927-2006
- Knowles, Alison, 1933-

Subject(s)

- California Institute of the Arts--History--Sources
- California Institute of the Arts. School of Art--Archives
- Clippings (Books, newspapers, etc.)

- Education-Curricula

Administrative correspondence, memoranda, and photograph

Collection Inventory

**Series 1 Administrative correspondence, memoranda, and photograph (1969-1975)
(Bulk, 1969-1971)**
**Box
1**
Scope and Contents note

This series comprises correspondence; assorted memoranda about facilities, professional activities of faculty and students, faculty teaching loads; and a photograph of Paul Brach.

Arranged alphabetically by name within the series and by subject within each folder.

Brach, Paul Henry (1969-1975)

	Box	Folder
Text	1	1

Scope and Contents note

This file contains incoming and outgoing correspondence; memoranda about teaching assistantships, faculty appointments, maintenance of classrooms, professional activities of faculty and students, faculty teaching loads, a "state of the school union" report, and a portrait photograph of Paul Brach during his tenure as dean of the School of Art.

Related Archival Materials note

Archival materials found outside of CalArts related to Paul Brach:

University of Washington Libraries Special Collections. Virginia Banks Papers, 1881-1980. <http://nwda-db.wsulibs.wsu.edu/findaid/ark:/80444/xv85170>

Course descriptions and schedules, handbooks, and other material

Metropolitan Museum of Art. Paul Brach: Miscellaneous ephemeral material

Archives of American Art. Paul Henry Brach interview [ca. 1971].

Paul Brach interview by Barry Schwartz in Valencia, California. <http://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/interviews/paul-henry-brach-interview-11865%20#transcript>

Series 2 Course descriptions and schedules, handbooks, and other material (1970-1985)

Box
1

Scope and Contents note

This series comprises a promotional poster and brochure; two Graphics Lab handbooks; course descriptions and schedules, which include faculty biographies; and photographs.

Arranged alphabetically by subject within the series and by subject within each folder.

Brochure (undated)

	Box	Folder
Text	1	2

Course descriptions (1971-1972)

	Box	Folder
Text	1	2

Faculty list (1970)

Exhibition and event announcements, poetry, and other material

	Box	Folder
Text	1	2

Graphics Lab handbooks (1984-1985; undated)

	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	1	2

Posters (undated)

	Box	Folder
Graphic materials	1	3

Series 3 Exhibition and event announcements, poetry, and other material (1971; 1983-1991)

Box
1

Scope and Contents note

This series comprises two exhibition announcements, a program for a video and performance event, and notably the poem, "House of Dust," by Alison Knowles. Also included are memoranda and photographs documenting Knowles' "poetry drop" of her poem "House of Dust" by helicopter over Knowles' sculpture which is also titled "House of Dust," which was located on the CalArts campus in Burbank in 1971.

Emergency Escape Only - New Work 83 (1983)

	Box	Folder
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Exhibition and event announcements, poetry, and other material

Graphic materials	1	4
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Scope and Contents note

Announcement for an exhibit by Tony Adbachi.

Exhibition announcement (1991)

	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	1	4

Scope and Contents note

Invitation to an exhibition by students in the program of Graphic Design.

House of Dust (13, 20 May 1971)

	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	1	5

Scope and Contents note

This file consists of a copy of the poem, "House of Dust," as well as a memorandum about, and black and white photographs documenting, the 1,000 foot poetry drop by helicopter of the poem "House of Dust," by Alison Knowles over her sculpture, also titled, "House of Dust."

Related Archival Materials note

Photographs

Archival materials found outside of CalArts related to Alison Knowles:

Getty Research Institute Special Collections Inventory of the Dick Higgins Papers (1960-1994) <http://www.oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/tf1d5n981n/>

UC San Diego Mandeville Special Collections Library Ken Friedman Collection <http://www.oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/tf6b69p0tq/>

Online resources: <http://www.aknowles.com/>

Series 4 Photographs (no date)

Box
1

Scope and Contents note

This series consists of black-and-white photographs of faculty and students of the School of Art.

Arrangement note

This series is arranged alphabetically by last name of person.

Kaprow, Allan (no date)

	Box	Folder
Graphic materials	1	6

Scope and Contents note

A small number of portrait photographs of Allan Kaprow as well as one photograph of Kaprow and unidentified child standing among a large number of tires.

Unidentified (no date)

Clippings

	Box	Folder
Graphic materials	1	6

Scope and Contents note

One black and white photograph of what appears to be an art student, at work.

Series 5 Clippings (1986-1990) (Bulk, 1987-1988)

Box
1

Scope and Contents note

This series comprises newspaper and magazine clippings pertaining to faculty, students, and events of the School of Art.

Newspaper and magazine clippings (1986-1990)

	Box	Folder
Text	1	7

Scope and Contents note

A small number of clippings from various newspapers and several magazines.

Arrangement is chronological.