

CENTER ON CONTEMPORARY ART

ARCHIVES DIGITIZATION

COCA WHAT?

- ▶ Center on Contemporary Arts 501-C-3 nonprofit
- ▶ Origins: working PNW artist coalition est. 1980
- ▶ International & local artist network, gallery space (Pioneer Square, Seattle WA), & archives
- ▶ CoCA Archives founded & serendipitously generated, 2013
- ▶ Artists comprise at least 25% of the board of trustees
- ▶ Funding: seasonal grants, largely from donors & 4Culture
- ▶ Anna Hurwitz (another MLIS online student) coordinates CoCA special projects, grants, archives, & volunteers/interns

INVENTORY & ASSESSMENT

- ▶ Inventory: collaborated with fellow MLIS CoCA intern -- Megan Mitchell
- ▶ Over 120+ initial items in VHS, 8mm, audio cassette, U-matic formats
- ▶ Megan guided the research into what we should include, not process (repatriate), and prioritize in digitization ~ 75 items

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

CoCA Center on Contemporary Art
Anna Hurwitz
Megan Mitchell
John Vallier and the UW Media Arcade

>>> DIGITIZATION >>>

- ▶ Work with UW Media Arcade to digitize
- ▶ Troubleshoot issues that arose
- ▶ Document all metadata possible

INVENTORY

- ▶ Determining what we had & was worth digitizing with limited resources and time

WHERE

- did these tapes come from?
- ▶ Stored in a CoCA gallery attic/poor conditions for an unknown amount of time; over 45 cubic feet!
- ▶ Contains prospective/CoCA artist submissions & exhibited media

NEXT STEPS

- ▶ Preparation for relocation of archive
- ▶ Cataloging this digitized media internally with our provided metadata
- ▶ Streamline holdings, including deaccession & repatriation of items to artists (submissions that CoCA didn't use)
- ▶ Promotion/development of public (preferably Internet) access to materials & archive social media presence
- ▶ Expansion of CoCA online digital archive

PRESERVATION, ART AND THE FUTURE?

- ▶ Need for a Preservation Plan that takes into account both best practices & the limitations of the organization.
- ▶ Art and arts orgs will continue to evolve, as will technology
- ▶ Public access, online hosting/viewing
- ▶ Future merging/host institution merge & public ed/engagement programming

CHALLENGES

- ▶ Identification of materials & background research -- title, if shown at CoCA, artist, copyright requirements sometimes unclear
- ▶ Customizing approach based on CoCA's unique vision, resources & needs
- ▶ Typical non-profit funding (or lack thereof)
- ▶ Warping of tapes & other physical preservation challenges
- ▶ Archives break-in/security issues

OUR REVIEW

- ▶ Need for further cataloging, metadata, & long-term preservation solutions
- ▶ Importance of collaboration, esp with the inventory
- ▶ Being deliberate with our preservation plan fitting into CoCA's organization plan & resources
- ▶ Benefits of explicit scope, limiting our work for quality & sustainability reasons
- ▶ CoCA could utilize student efforts & help future UW MLIS, Museology students deepen their learning!

STORAGE SHORT TERM

- ▶ Storage on various HDs during digitization process
- ▶ Keep the originals, onsite dry storage (for now)

STORAGE Long term + Preservation Plan

- ▶ Store digitized items in more than one location