



CoCA Archives Wiki Project

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Sponsored by Anna Hurwitz, Project Director at the Seattle Center On Contemporary Art

The **CoCA Archives Wiki Project** was originally an idea thought up by Anna Hurwitz, Project Director at CoCA Seattle and an MLIS Candidate at the University of Washington; Anna also helped launch the CoCA Digital Archive in 2013 to preserve and make CoCA's collections accessible to the public.

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Purpose

The primary goal of the CoCA Wiki project is to increase CoCA Seattle's online presence by serving as the first stop for online visitors to learn of the existence of the contents of the CoCA Archives.

A complete Wikipedia site will also serve as outreach, to connect and build dialogue between CoCA Seattle and past, present, and future artists, curators, students, researchers, and the general public.

The Work

- Working from a combination of a giant spreadsheet documenting old CoCA Seattle events and exhibits and the CoCA Seattle exhibitions pages on the main site, I pulled and uploaded names and details about past exhibitions from 2000-2017 to the CoCA Seattle Wikipedia page to make them more visible to anyone who might be casually visiting the CoCA Seattle page to learn more about the gallery in general.
- I added citations for exhibitions from 1995 onwards, linking primarily to the CoCA website itself, sites featuring arts events, and news articles that mention these exhibitions and/or artists' works.

Discoveries/Lessons Learned

- Finding references to one-time art events anywhere other than the gallery site itself is oftentimes very difficult.
- Many times, I had to debate between linking to what was essentially an online advertisement in an arts blog or trying to cite properly using something from the collection itself that wouldn't be accessible to the public.
- Many of the pages that were sources for pre-existing citations on the Wiki page now no longer work and those citations will have to be redone.
- Wikipedia pages themselves are on-going works-in-progress and will have to continue to be updated in order to stay relevant.

An On-Going Project

- Through the struggle to cite past exhibitions, I realized that sometimes, the only references to a particular exhibition or event were the ones on the artists' webpages or CVs themselves, but there would be five or six different artists referencing the same exhibition that they were a part of. This can open the door to future collaboration efforts between members of the Seattle Arts community (and beyond) and detail-oriented amateur Wiki editors who don't necessarily have to know much about art to further improve and beef up the CoCA Seattle Wiki page and make it more relevant.
- Once work on the CoCA Digital Archive is finished, the Wiki can be edited to reflect those contents, improving the accuracy of the latter.

The CoCA Archives Wiki Project



CoCA Archives Gallery page as of May 2017

Background Information

- The Center on Contemporary Art (CoCA) Digital Archives project is an on-going effort to digitize and catalog the gallery's collection of photographs, recordings, and promotional materials for exhibitions/events held by CoCA since its opening in 1980
- A grant from 4Culture has made it possible for the Digital Archive to be expanded, with a large chunk of content in the process of being added in 2017.
- The CoCA Wiki Archives Wiki Project is meant to both supplement the CoCA Digital Archive and help make the art community more aware of its contents.

1995 [edit source]

- *Northwest Annual* - juror: Laura Trippi; artists: Martha Parrish^[57], etc.
- *Kunstkabinett*^[58] - curator: Sean Eldwood; artists: Portia Munson, Connie Catch, Jeffrey I
- *Home Remedies and Magnificent Obsessions*^[59] - curator: Susan Purves; artists: Thor
- *Folie a Deux* - curator: Susan Purves; 86 artists from around the nation
- *They Shoot Painters, Don't They? (3rd)*^[60] - Lisa Buchanan, Lauri Chambers, Shawn Fe Park, Doug Parry, Colin Schutz, Jason Starkie, Friese Undine
- *Folie Fini Soiree*
- *The Garden of Virtue and Vice*^[61] - artist: Timothy Siciliano
- *CoCA Museum Store*

1996 [edit source]

- *Voice of the Machine*^[62] - artist: Warner Blake
- *Alt.com.expo*^[63] - artists/presenters: Dame Darcy, Dr. Vaginal Creme Davis, Krist Novose
- *Japan-O-Rama*^[64] - curator: Clarke Fletcher; performers: Seagull Screaming, Kiss Her K
- *Gender, Fucked*^[65] - exhibition of artworks by lesbian artists; curators: Catherine Lord - Machine (DAM), Nicole Eisenman, Donna Evans, Fierce Pussy, Claire Garoutte, Maria Eler Nicole Tyson, Linn Underhill; video by Joyan Saunders, Tran T. Kim-Trang, Mary Patten, E
- *Firewater Follies (installation)*^[66] - artists: Friese Undine, Curtis Taylor
- *They Shoot Painters, Don't They? (4th)* - artists: Alex O. Baker, David Christensen, Billy I Jason Starkie, Friese Undine

A screenshot of the exhibitions/events as listed on the CoCA Wiki page