



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the A.I.R. Gallery Records, 1972-1979, in the Archives of American Art

Christopher DeMairo

The processing of this collection received Federal support from the Smithsonian Collections Care and Preservation Fund, administered by the National Collections Program and the Smithsonian Collections Advisory Committee.

2021 June 29

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	A.I.R. Gallery records
Date:	1972-1979
Identifier:	AAA.artiin
Creator:	A.I.R. Gallery (New York, N.Y.)
Extent:	0.4 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The A.I.R. Gallery records measure 0.4 linear feet and date from 1972 to 1979. The collection sheds light on the early years of the cooperative through gallery by-laws, artist biographies and resumes, the gallery's original building lease, notes from administrative meetings, an A.I.R. Gallery poster, writings on the gallery, exhibition records, and printed material.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated in 1979 and 1980 by representatives of A.I.R. Gallery.

Processing Information

The collection was processed and finding aid prepared by Christopher DeMairo in 2021. At the time of processing the collection title was updated from Artists in Residence Gallery, Inc. records to A.I.R. Gallery records.

Preferred Citation

A.I.R. Gallery records, 1972-1979. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

This collection is open for research. Access to original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center.

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Biographical / Historical

A.I.R. Gallery (Artists in Residence Gallery, Inc.) was established in 1972 in New York City, as the first not-for-profit, artist-directed and maintained gallery for women artists in the United States.

The concept for the gallery was first developed by Barbara Zucker and Susan Williams who, along with co-founders Dotty Attie, Maude Boltz, Mary Grigoriadis, and Nancy Spero, sought out 14 more female artists in New York to become members of the cooperative. The initial group included Rachel bas-Cohain, Judith Bernstein, Blythe Bohnen, Agnes Denes, Daria Dorosh, Loretta Dunkelman, Harmony Hammond, Laurace James, Nancy Kitchell, Louise Kramer, Anne Healy, Rosemary Mayer, Patsy Norvell, and Howardena Pindell. At the original meeting to form the gallery on March 17, 1972, artist Howardena Pindell suggested the name 'EYRE Gallery' for Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre*. The artists decided on 'A.I.R. Gallery', with A.I.R. shortened from "Artists in Residence".

The group incorporated A.I.R. Gallery as a not-for-profit organization. In addition to exhibitions installed and curated by its members, A.I.R. Gallery also held lectures and workshops, and developed a videotape program to highlight the work of its artists. In 1976, Nancy Shapiro coordinated the gallery's first international exhibition, *Combative Acts, Profiles, and Voices*, curated by French critic Aline Dallie and comprised entirely of French female artists.

Scope and Contents

The A.I.R. Gallery records measure 0.4 linear feet and date from 1972 to 1979. The collection sheds light on the early years of the cooperative through gallery by-laws, artist biographies and resumes, the gallery's original building lease, notes from administrative meetings, an A.I.R. Gallery poster, writings on the gallery, exhibition records, and printed material.

Arrangement

Due to the small size of this collection, the records are arranged as one series.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Women artists

Names:

Attie, Dotty, 1938-
Denes, Agnes
Hammond, Harmony
Spero, Nancy, 1926-2009
Zucker, Barbara M., 1940-

Functions:

Artist-run galleries -- New York (State) -- New York

Container Listing

Series 1: A.I.R. Gallery Records, 1972-1979

0.4 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Found here are gallery by-laws, artist biographies and resumes, the gallery's original building lease, notes from administrative meetings, an A.I.R. Gallery poster, and two writings on the gallery. Exhibition material includes a loan form for artwork by Japanese artist Mariyo Yagi; and papers related to the gallery's exhibition, *Combative Acts, Profiles and Voices* (1976), including correspondence, the exhibition catalog and announcement, published reviews, a photograph, inventories, shipping information, and price lists.

Membership papers consist of directions for membership duties, stock letters, schedules, contact lists, and a membership questionnaire. Financial papers include scant receipts and budget information; and files related to grants contain proposals, correspondence, and various budgeting details.

Printed material includes newspaper reviews of A.I.R. Gallery shows and artists, and several articles concerning women's art. Exhibition catalogs and announcements are primarily from A.I.R. Gallery shows except for one at Vassar College Art Gallery which was sponsored by the A.I.R. Gallery.

Box 1, Folder 1	Artist Biographies and Resumes, 1970s
Box 1, Folder 2	Building Lease, 1972
Box 1, Folder 3	By-Laws, A.I.R. Gallery, 1972
Box 1, Folder 4	Correspondence, 1972-1975
Box 1, Folder 5	Exhibition, <i>Combative Acts, Profiles, and Voices</i> (1976), Papers, 1975-1976
Box 1, Folder 6	Exhibition, Mariyo Yagi Loan Form, 1978
Box 1, Folder 7	Financial Papers, Volunteer Urban Consulting Group, 1978
Box 1, Folder 8	Financial Papers, 1972-1976
Box 1, Folder 9	Grants, National Endowment for the Arts, 1973-1977
Box 1, Folder 10	Grants, Mixed Papers, 1972-1979
Box 1, Folder 11	Meeting Notes, 1978-1979, undated
Box 1, Folder 12	Membership Lists and Papers, 1972-1979
Box 1, Folder 13	Press Releases and Schedule Announcements, 1972-1979
Box 1, Folder 14	Printed Material, Gallery Announcements, 1974-1978

Box 1, Folder 15 Printed Material, Clippings, 1973-1976

Box 1, Folder 16 Printed Material, Exhibition Catalogs, 1976-1979

Box 1, Folder 17 Printed Material, Poster, undated

Box 1, Folder 18 Writings on A.I.R. Gallery, undated

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