



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Bowery Gallery Records, 1969-2008, in the Archives of American Art

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Bowery Gallery records
Date:	1969-2008
Identifier:	AAA.bowegall
Creator:	Bowery Gallery (New York, N.Y.)
Extent:	3.1 Linear feet 0.684 Gigabytes
Language:	English .
Summary:	The records of the Bowery Gallery, a non-profit, artist-run, cooperative gallery, measure 3.1 linear feet and 0.684 GB and date from 1969-2008. Business records, letters, exhibition files, guest registers, printed and digital material and photographs document the gallery's activities and artists.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated 2003 and 2008 by the Bowery Gallery via Barbara Grossman, and Lynda Caspe, founding members of the Bowery Gallery, and Marylou Schuck. Grossman maintained the Gallery records.

Processing Information

The records were processed to a minimal level by Justin Brancato in July 2005.

The Archives of American Art has implemented minimal processing tactics when possible in order to increase access to more of our collections. Minimal processing included arrangement to the series and folder levels. Generally, items within folders were simply verified with folder titles and dates, but not arranged further. The collection was rehoused in archival containers and folders. Staples and other fasteners were not removed, but materials were removed from binders or damaged bindings.

Born-digital materials were processed by Kirsi Ritosalmi-Kisner in 2019 with funding provided by Smithsonian Collection Care and Preservation Fund.

Preferred Citation

Bowery Gallery records, 1969-2008. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions on Access

Use of original records requires an appointment. Use of audiovisual recordings with no duplicate access copy requires advance notice.

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Accruals

An additional 0.4 linear feet of Bowery Gallery records dated circa 2002-2008 were accessioned in 2008 and remain unprocessed except for a digital copy of an audiovisual recording of the gallery's inaugural exhibition, which is included in Series 3.

Historical Note

In 1969, eighteen artists founded the Bowery Gallery as a non-profit, artist-run cooperative gallery in New York City. The gallery's original mission was to promote contemporary art and artists during a time when abstract art and pop art dominated. In 1991, Bowery Gallery began sponsoring an annual national competition and juried show for artists working in two-dimensional media.

Scope and Content Note

The records of the Bowery Gallery, a non-profit, artist-run cooperative gallery in New York City, measure 3.1 linear feet and 0.684 GB date from 1969-2008. Business records, letters, exhibition files, guest registers, printed material and photographs document the gallery's activities and artists.

An additional 0.4 linear feet of Bowery Gallery records dated circa 2002-2008 were accessioned in 2008 and remain unprocessed except for a digital copy of an audiovisual recording of the gallery's inaugural exhibition (October 31, 1969), which is included in Series 3. This accretion contains minutes and other business records, exhibition schedules, exhibition announcements, and Bowery Artists Tribute, Volume 1 (2008).

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 6 series:

- Series 1: Business Records, 1969-2002 (Box 1; 0.6 linear feet)
- Series 2: Letters, 1974-1997 (Box 1; 3 folders)
- Series 3: Exhibition Files, 1983-1994 (Box 1; 4 folders, ER01; 0.684 GB)
- Series 4: Guest Registers, 1976-2001 (Boxes 1-2; 1.0 linear feet)
- Series 5: Printed Material, 1969-2001 (Boxes 2-4; 0.9 linear feet)
- Series 6: Photographic Materials, 1997-1999 (Box 3; 0.1 linear feet)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Types of Materials:

Photographs
Video recordings
Visitors' books

Functions:

Artist-run galleries -- New York (State)

Container Listing

Series 1: Business Records, 1969-2002

0.6 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Record book contains first treasurer's records and artists' accounts. Incorporation documents include the Gallery's bylaws.

Box 1, Folder 1	Curriculum Vitae of Artists, Armstrong-Virgil, undated
Box 1, Folder 2-3	Incorporation of Gallery, 1985-1993, undated 2 Folders
Box 1, Folder 4	Lease Information
Box 1, Folder 5	Members' Lists, 1970-2002
Box 1, Folder 6-9	Minutes of Meetings, 1977-2000 4 Folders
Box 1, Folder 10	Press Releases and Price Lists, 1969, 1983-1988, undated
Box 1, Folder 11	Record Book, circa 1969, 1983, undated 1 Volume Notes: removed from binder
Box 1, Folder 12	Rules and Regulations, Fact Sheet, 2002

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Series 2: Letters, 1974-1997

3 Folders (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Letters concern Gallery activities and business matters.

Box 1, Folder 13-15	Letters, 1974-1997, undated 3 Folders
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Series 3: Exhibition Files, 1983-1994

4 Folders (Box 1)

0.684 Gigabytes (ER01)

Scope and Contents: Documentation of the "25th Anniversary Exhibition" includes letters and photographs. Also included is a digital copy of an audiovisual recording of the gallery's inaugural exhibition.

Box 1, Folder 16	"Bowery on the Bowery," 1983, 1984
Box 1, Folder 17-19	"25th Anniversary Exhibition," 1994 3 Folders
Folder ER01	Inaugural Exhibition (October 31, 1969), Digital Video Recording, 2019 0.684 Gigabytes (One computer file; See the READ ME file to access contents.)

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Series 4: Guest Registers, 1976-2001

1 Linear foot (Boxes 1-2)

Scope and Contents: 11 volumes record names, addresses, and comments of visitors to the Gallery's exhibitions.

Box 1, Folder 20	Volume 1:, 1973-1993 1 Volume
Box 2, Folder 1-10	Volumes 2-10:., 1993-2001 10 Volumes

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Series 5: Printed Material, 1969-2001

0.9 Linear feet (Boxes 2-4)

Scope and Contents: Printed material documents Bowery Gallery's exhibitions and artists.

Box 2, Folder 11	Exhibition Catalogues, 1995, 1992
Box 2, Folder 12-25	Gallery Announcements, 1971-1992 4 Folders
Box 3, Folder 1-5	Gallery Announcements, 1992-2000, undated 5 Folders Notes: Oversized material housed in Box 4
Box 3, Folder 6	National Competition Forms, 1992-2001
Box 3, Folder 7	Newsletter, "News from Bowery Gallery," 1986-2000
Box 3, Folder 8	Newspaper Clippings, 2000, 1977-1986, 1971
Box 3	Poster, 1974 Notes: oversized material housed in Box 4
Box 4	Oversized Printed Material, 1969-1997, undated Notes: from Box 3, folders 1-5

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Series 6: Photographic Materials, 1997-1999

0.1 Linear feet (Box 3)

Scope and Contents: Photographs and negative record Bowery Gallery exhibition installations, and there are photographs and 35-mm color slides of artwork.

Additional photographs are found with the exhibition files (Series 3).

Box 3, Folder 9	Installation Views, 1997-1999 Notes: photographs, negatives
Box 3, Folder 10	Artwork, undated Notes: photographs, 35-mm color slides

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