



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

Museum of Temporary Art records

Archives of American Art  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Museum of Temporary Art records
<b>Date:</b>	1974-1982
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.museofta
<b>Creator:</b>	Museum of Temporary Art
<b>Extent:</b>	9.6 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Donated 1995 by Janet Bell Schmuckal, former director of MOTA and in 2021 by Deborah Velders, a former volunteer for MOTA.

### 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. Researchers interested in accessing audiovisual recordings and born-digital records in this collection must use access copies. Contact References Services for more information.

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## Biographical / Historical

Museum of Temporary Art (MOTA), an artist-run alternative space founded in Washington, D.C. in 1974, aimed to foster contemporary art, and focused on the melding of literary and visual art and thrived on its connection to an international network of correspondence artists and other alternative spaces. It was located first at 716 11th Street, NW, and from 1981 until its closing in 1982, at 1206 G Street NW. Its executive director was Janet Bell Schmuckal.

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## Scope and Contents

The Museum of Temporary Art records measure 9.6 linear feet and 39 digital images and date from circa 1974 to 1982. Included are administrative files; MOTA's archive of correspondence art; printed material including

artists' books and other small-press art publications and publications of MOTA including catalogs, MOTA's newsletter "Art Ink," "MOTA" (Museum of Temporary Art Magazine), and two posters; photographs and slides of exhibitions, events and people; and audio recordings.

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Subjects:

- Artists' books
- Mail art

### Types of Materials:

- Sound recordings

### Names:

- Museum of Temporary Art
- Schmuckal, Janet Bell, 1928-

### Occupations:

- Artists -- Washington (D.C.)

### Preferred Titles:

- Art ink*