

Guide to the Project Inc. Archive MSS.006

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This EAD was derived from the file project_inc.xsl

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

June 24, 2015

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Summary Information

Repository	Center for Curatorial Studies Library & Archives
Creator	McMahon, Paul, 1950-
Creator	Project Inc..
Title	Project Inc. Archive
Date [inclusive]	1972-1976
Extent	2.5 Linear feet in six boxes
Language	English
Abstract	<p>The Project Inc. Archive contains the records for the exhibitions and events organized by Paul McMahon from 1972-1975 at the small community art center of the same name (Project Inc.) in Cambridge, MA. For the most part lasting just one day, the exhibitions and events showcased the work of a range of well-known conceptual artists including: Matt Mullican, Dan Graham, Laurie Anderson, Jack Goldstein, Lawrence Weiner, and Michael Asher, among many others.</p>

Preferred Citation

Published citations should take the following form:

Identification of item, date (if known); Project Inc. Archive; MSS.006; [box number]; [folder number], Center for Curatorial Studies Library and Archives, Bard College.

Historical note:

Project Inc. was founded in 1972 by Paul McMahon, a young conceptual artist who had recently spent time at Pomona College in California where he met a number of contemporary artists interested in conceptual and performance art. Upon returning to Boston, he sought to create a space where people could view conceptual art and to showcase the work of young artists whose work he felt needed to be seen. He convinced Project Inc., a small community art space in Cambridge, MA to let him use the space as a venue for a night or two each month. From 1972 to 1975 he organized one night exhibitions and events that featured conceptual art, performance, films, video, sculpture, photography and painting.

Funded by Paul McMahon on a very limited budget, for each event he printed an invitation on a 4" x 5" card that was sent to a small mailing list across the US, Canada and Europe. The number of attendees ranged anywhere from a few to 60 people. Listings of the exhibitions were posted in local newspapers.

Many of the artists who showed at Project Inc. went on to become well known contemporary artists. Events and exhibitions of note include *Essex (Details of an Imaginary Life from Birth to Death)*, a performance by Matt Mullican held at the Boston Center for Adult Education and *Indian Summer*, a group exhibition where the visual image was given equal importance to the text in conceptual art.

In 2010 the Center for Curatorial Studies at Bard College acquired the archive from Paul McMahon.

Scope and Contents note:

The Project Inc. Archive contains records that document the exhibitions and events organized by Paul McMahon at Project Inc. from 1972 – 1975. This includes exhibition invitations, correspondence between Paul McMahon and the exhibiting artists, artist statements and floor plans. Slides, negatives and contact sheets provide photo documentation of the space, the exhibition, and events. Also included in the archives is a collection of postcards from various artists which were part of the exhibition, *Postcards* (November 10, 1973) which subsequently traveled to Oberlin College, an original piece "Tales from the Vienna Woods" by Laurie Anderson, a wall installation by Matt Mullican for the Indian Summer exhibition, as well as a number of artists' books.

In 2013 an accretion consisting of primarily correspondence related to the coordinating of exhibitions was received, along with additional documentation of select exhibitions and events.

Arrangement note:

The archive has been kept in the order it was in when acquired from Paul McMahon by the Center for Curatorial Studies in 2010. The collection is divided into four series.

Series I: Project Inc. Organizational Files

Series II: Exhibition/Event Documentation , arranged chronologically.

Series III: Material unrelated to Project Inc. exhibitions

Series IV: Artists' Books, arranged alphabetically by artist's last name.

Oversize Series II: Exhibition/Event Documentation

Accretions 2013 Series I: Project Inc. Organizational Files, with correspondence arranged alphabetically by correspondent.

Accretions 2013 Series II: Exhibition/Event Documentation, arranged chronologically.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Center for Curatorial Studies Library & Archives © 2014

Access Restrictions

The collection is open to researchers without restrictions. Appointments are necessary to consult manuscript and archival materials. Access copies for media materials may not be available yet. Please contact the CCS Archivist for further details.

Use Restrictions

Collection use is subject to all copyright laws. Permission to publish materials must be obtained in writing from the Director of the Library & Archives at the Center for Curatorial Studies at Bard College. Please contact ccslib@bard.edu or 845-758-7567 for more information.

Provenance

The Project Inc. Archive was acquired from Paul McMahon, founder of Project Inc, in 2010.

Related Materials

Separated Materials note:

[Click here for a list of separated materials.](#)

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Project Inc..

Genre(s)

- Black-and-white negatives
- Contact sheets
- Invitations
- Letters (correspondence)
- Photographs
- Postcards
- Promotional materials

Personal Name(s)

- Baldessari, John, 1931-
- Graham, Dan, 1942-
- McMahon, Paul, 1950-
- Morgan, Robert C., 1943-
- Mullican, Matt, 1951-
- Salle, David, 1952-
- Weiner, Lawrence
- Welling, James

Subject(s)

- Conceptual art

Series I: Project Inc. Organizational Files

Collection Inventory

Series I: Project Inc. Organizational Files

		Box	Folder
A. Organizational Files: General	n.d.	1	1
B. Correspondence	1973-1975	1	2
C. Exhibition plans/notes	n.d.	1	3
D. Press	1972-1974	1	4
E. Photo documentation of Project, Inc. and Paul McMahon	n.d.	1	5

Series II: Project Inc. Exhibition/Event Documentation

		Box	Folder
Robert Morgan (11/24/72)	1972-1975	1	6
Photo documentation: Robert Morgan (11/24/72)	1972	1	7
3 Evenings of Non-Studio Art Led by Paul McMahon, 1972	n.d.	1	8
Paul McMahon: Performance Objects (12/8/72)	n.d.	1	9
Dan Graham (12/15/72)	1972	1	10
Photo documentation: Dan Graham (12/15/72)	1972	1	11
Jack Goldstein (12/22/72)	1972	1	12
Photo documentation: Jack Goldstein (12/22/72)	n.d.	1	13
Jay Jaroslav (12/29/72)	1973, n.d.	1	14
Photo documentation: Jay Jaroslav (12/29/72)	n.d.	1	15
Douglas Huebler (1/12/73)	1973, n.d.	1	16
James Welling (1/19/73)	1972-1973, n.d.	1	17
Photo documentation: James Welling (1/19/73)	1972, n.d.	1	18
Donald Burgy (1/26/73)	n.d.	1	19
Photo documentation: Donald Burgy (1/26/73)	n.d.	1	20
Tom Marioni (2/18/73)	1973, n.d.	1	21
Photo documentation: Tom Marioni (2/18/73)	n.d.	1	22
John Knight (2/24/73)	1973-1975, n.d.	1	23

Series II: Project Inc. Exhibition/Event Documentation

Photo documentation: John Knight (2/24/73)	n.d.	1	24
Audrey Adney and Gregory Amenoff (3/3/73)	1973, n.d.	1	25
Photo documentation: Audrey Adney and Gregory Amenoff (3/3/73)	1972, 1975, n.d.	1	25a
Wolfgang Stoerchle (3/29/73) contains review by Robert C. Morgan	1972-1973, n.d.	1	26
Photo documentation: Wolfgang Stoerchle (3/29/73)	1973	1	27
Martha S. Wilson (4/7/73)	1973, n.d.	1	28
Performance documentation: Martha S. Wilson (4/7/73)	n.d.	1	29
Lawrence Weiner (5/12/73)	1970-1973	1	30
David Askevold (5/19/73)	1972-1973, n.d.	1	31
Richards Jarden and Tim Zuck (5/25/73)	1973, n.d.	1	32
Photo documentation: Richards Jarden and Tim Zuck (5/25/73)	n.d.	1	33
Michael Asher (8/18/73)	1973-2005	1	34
Photo documentation: Michael Asher film and James Welling	n.d.	1	35
Dean Nimmer (10/20/73)	n.d.	1	36
Photo documentation: Dean Nimmer (10/20/73)	n.d.	1	37
Postcards (11/10/73)	1973, n.d.	1	38
Photo documentation: Postcards (11/10/73)	n.d.	1	39
Postcards: Sol LeWitt	1973	2	40
Postcards: James Welling	1973	2	41
Postcards: Willoughby Sharp	1973	2	42
Postcards: Carl Andre	1973	2	43
Postcards: Jan Dibbets	1973	2	44
Postcards: Michael Asher	n.d.	2	45
Postcards: Matt Mullican	n.d.	2	46
Postcards: David Salle	1977	2	47
Postcards: Wolfgang Stoerchle	1973	2	48
Postcards: Robert Morgan	1973	2	49
Postcards: Richards Jarden	n.d.	2	50
Postcards: [unknown writing to Lee Lozano]	1971	2	51
Postcards: John Baldessari	1972-1974	2	52

Series II: Project Inc. Exhibition/Event Documentation

Postcards: Archie James Turrell	1973-1974	2	53
Postcards: Martha S. Wilson	n.d.	2	54
Postcards: Helene Winer	1973-1974, n.d.	2	55
Postcards: Carol Adney	1972-1973	2	56
Postcards: Bruce Andrews	n.d.	2	57
Postcards: Dan Graham	1972-1974, n.d.	2	58
Postcards: Simon Blackwood	1973-1974, n.d.	2	59
Postcards: Robert Kramer	1973	2	60
Postcards: Howard McCaleb	1974	2	61
Postcards: Jody McMahon, Anonymous	1970-1973, n.d.	2	62
Bruce Andrews (11/17/73)	1973-1977, n.d.	2	63
Photo documentation: Bruce Andrews (11/17/73)	n.d.	2	64
Matt Mullican (12/1/73)	1972, n.d.	2	65
Photo documentation: Matt Mullican (12/1/73)	n.d.	1	66
5 Boston Conceptual Artists(1/16/74)	1974, n.d.	2	67
Photo documentation: 5 Boston Conceptual Artists	n.d.	2	68
J. B. Cobb (4/4/74)	1973-1975	2	69
Athena Tacha (5/4/74)	1972-1974	2	70
Photo documentation: Athena Tacha (5/4/74)	n.d.	2	71
Alice Aycock (5/11/74)	n.d.	2	72
Photo documentation: Alice Aycock (5/11/74)	n.d.	2	73
Sol LeWitt (5/24/74)	1973-1974	2	74
Laurie Anderson (7/7/74)	1974, n.d.	2	75
Performance documentation: Laurie Anderson (7/27/74)	1974, n.d.	2	76
Indian Summer (9/9/74)	1974-1975, n.d.	2	77
Photo documentation: Indian Summer (9/9/74)	1974, n.d.	2	78
Matt Mullican work "Horizon Line Sky/Grass" from Indian Summer (9/9/74)	1974	2	78a
Emanuel Kelly (11/16/74)	n.d.	3	79
Alan Sondheim (12/7/74)	1973, n.d.	3	80
Performance documentation: Alan Sondheim (12/7/74)	n.d.	3	81
James Welling: Boatyard (12/17/74)	n.d.	3	82

Series III: Material unrelated to Project Inc. exhibitions

Photo documentation: James Welling: Boatyard (12/17/74)	n.d.	3	83
Charles Simonds (2/75)	1975	3	84
Photo documentation: Charles Simonds (2/75)	n.d.	3	85
An Evening of Artists' Performance and Video Tape at BCAE (2/6/75)	1975	3	86
Matt Mullican 'Essex' text from BCAE performance (2/6/75)	1975	3	86a
David Salle (3/15/75)	1976, n.d.	3	87
Photo documentation: David Salle (3/15/75)	n.d.	3	88
Willoughby Sharp (3/1/75)	1974, n.d.	3	89
Performance documentation: Willoughby Sharp (3/1/75)	n.d.	3	90
Alan Sondheim (4/1/75)	n.d.	3	91
Photo documentation: Alan Sondheim (4/1/75)	n.d.	3	92
Peter Downsbrough (4-5/75)	1973-1975, n.d.	3	93
Photo documentation: Peter Downsbrough (4-5/75)	n.d.	3	94
Ernst Caramelle and Juan Navarro Baldweg (6/27/75)	1974, n.d.	3	95
Robert Morgan and Barbara Hero (7/26/75)	1975, n.d.	3	96

Series III: Material unrelated to Project Inc. exhibitions

		Box	Folder
Photographic documentation of meeting between Chris Burden and Paul McMahon	n.d.	3	97
Photographic documentation of Robert Morgan and Athena Tacha	n.d.	3	98
Scotch Brand C-45 Highlander/Low Noise cassette tape by Robert Morgan "Hit Songs Beginning With 'I Love...'" from Phonolog Reports, [inscribed]	1973	3	99
Postcards from Gutai Bikutsu Kyokai	n.d.	3	100
Re: Postcards Gutai? After 1973 November 10	1973-1974	3	101
Re: Postcards Gutai? After 1973 November 10	1973-1975	3	102
Re: Postcards Gutai? After 1973 November 10	1973-1976	3	103

Series IV: Artists' Books**1973**

		Box	Folder
Bruce Andrews, ed., <i>Toothpick, Lisbon and the Orcas Islands</i> [special issue], 1973	1973	5	108
Bruce Andrews, <i>Appalachia</i> , [inscribed], 1973	1973	5	109

Oversize Series II: Exhibition/Event Material

Bruce Andrews, <i>Edge</i> [inscribed], 1973	1973	5	110
Bruce Andrews, <i>Corona</i> , 1973	1973	5	111
Bruce Andrews, <i>Acappella, Ghost Dance, No. 17</i> [inscribed], 1973	1973	5	112
Robert C. Morgan, <i>Learning to swim</i> , 1976	1976	5	113
Robert C. Morgan, <i>Learning to swim (le style francais)</i> , 1976	1976	5	114
Robert C. Morgan, <i>Wherever you go, wherever you are consider this</i> , 1982 and <i>A manual for painters : (strophic variations on a text)</i> [inscribed], 1980	1980, 1982, 1986	5	115
Robert C. Morgan, <i>Curving</i> [inscribed], 1975	1975	5	116
Robert C. Morgan, <i>Points</i> [inscribed], 1975	1975	5	117
Robert Morgan, <i>Winged Victor</i> [inscribed], 1976	1976	5	118
Robert C. Morgan <i>Waterfields, 1974</i> [inscribed]	1974	5	119
Lawrence Weiner, <i>Flowed</i> , undated	n.d.	5	120
Lawrence Weiner, <i>art & project</i> , 1971 January	1971	5	121
Lawrence Weiner, <i>And/or: green as well as blue as well as red</i> , 1972	1972	5	122
Lawrence Weiner, <i>Relative to hanging</i> , 1975	1975	5	123

Oversize Series II: Exhibition/Event Material

		Box	Folder
Laurie Anderson work "Tales from the Vienna Woods"	1974	4	104
Matt Mullican's wall installation from Indian Summer	n.d.	4	105
Photo documentation: David Salle's work from Indian Summer, black and white print	n.d.	4	106
Newspaper element for Matt Mullican's wall installation from Indian Summer	1974	4	107

Accretions 2013: Series I: Project Inc. Organizational Files

		Box	Folder
A. Organizational Files: General	1973-1974	6	124
B. Correspondence			
		Box	Folder
A-402, California Institute of the Arts	1973	6	125
Adney, Carol (Audrey)	1972-1974	6	126
Andrews, Bruce	1973	6	127

B. Correspondence

Artists for Democracy	1974	6	128
Asher, Michael		6	129
Askevold, David	1973	6	130
Aycock, Alice	1973-1974	6	131
Baldessari, John	1973	6	132
Buren, Daniel	1974	6	133
Cobb, J. B.	1973, n.d.	6	134
Croft, Remy	1974	6	135
Downsbrough, Peter	1974, n.d.	6	136
Ferguson, Jerry	1973	6	137
Glicksman, Hal	1974	6	138
Goldstein, Jack	1973	6	139
Graham, Dan	1974-1975, n.d.	6	140
Horton, Lyn	1974	6	141
Horvitz, Robert	n.d.	6	142
Hovagimyan, Gerry (Gerard)	n.d.	6	143
Jarden, Richards	n.d.	6	144
Konig, Kasper	1973	6	145
Leavitt, Bill	1973	6	146
McCafferty, Jay. D.	n.d.	6	147
Morgan, Robert	1974-1975	6	148
Mullican, Matt	c. 1973-1975	6	149
Murray, Ian	1973-1974	6	150
Reise, Barbara	n.d.	6	151
Salle, David	1974	6	152
Sharp, Willoughby	1974	6	153
Sivin, Carole	1974	6	154
Tacha, Athena	1974	6	155
Weiner, Lawrence	1974	6	156
Welling, James	c. 1973 - 1974	6	157
Zuck, Tim	1973	6	158

Accretions 2013: Series II: Project Inc. Exhibition/Event documentation

Accretions 2013: Series II: Project Inc. Exhibition/Event documentation			
		Box	Folder
Photo documentation: Dan Graham (12/15/72)	1972	6	159
Dan Graham (12/15/72), Arts Magazine April 1973 "Intention, Intentionality, Sequence"	1973	6	160
Photo documentation: Jack Goldstein (12/22/72)	1972	6	161
Photo documentation: James Welling (1/19/73)	1973	6	162
Photo documentation: Martha S. Wilson (4/7/73)	1973	6	163
Photo documentation: Matt Mullican (12/1/73)	1973	6	164
Videotapes and Performance at Boston Center for Adult Education (2/6/74)	c. 1974	6	165
Photo documentation: Videotapes and Performance at Boston Center for Adult Education (2/6/74)	1974	6	166
Photo documentation: Indian Summer (9/9-15/74)	1974	6	167
Photo of Salle, Welling, McMahon, Morgan - Indian Summer (9/9-15/74)	1976	6	168
Photo documentation: Matt Mullican at MassArt (2/16/75)	1975	6	169
Photo documentation: David Salle (3/15/75)	1975	6	170