Two New Online Resources Illuminate the Path for Artist Files.

Artist Files Revealed: Online Directory
by the ARLIS/NA Artist Files Working Group
http://www.artistfilesrevealed.com/tiki/tiki-index.php

Project Coordinators:
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Alan Berta from Area 37 Project Company
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Artist Files Revealed: Documentation and Access
by the ARLIS/NA Artist Files Working Group
Online Publication, Art Libraries Society of North America
http://www.arlisna.org/pubs/onlinepubs/artists_files_revealed.pdf
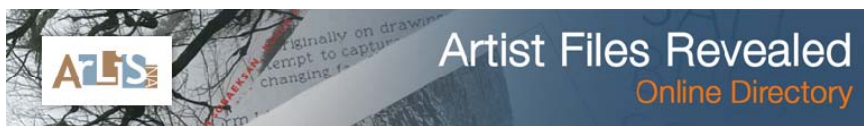
Project Coordinator:
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These two pioneering online resources represent a giant step forward in providing access to one of the most important "hidden" collections in art libraries, the Artist Files. Artist files are among the most valued and heavily used resources in art research facilities, providing critical and often ephemeral documentation about established artists as well as lesser known artists, many of whom are not documented in the literature.

What are artist files? The definition created by the Artist Files Working Group is quite succinct and inclusive: Artist files are collections of small-sized documents relating to the visual arts that are collected and arranged for

the purposes of research. Artist files can include: announcements, architectural drawings, artist statements, artworks, auction catalogs, brochures, checklists, commercial gallery catalogs, clippings, cultural artifacts, diaries, digital files, exhibition catalogs, institutional publications, interviews, invitations, journals, mail art, manifestos, manuscripts, maps, memorabilia, microform, negatives, oral histories, pamphlets, photographs, postcards, posters, press releases, price lists, prints, private view cards, resumes, scripts, serials, slides, and transcripts, to name just a few.

http://www.artistfilesrevealed.com/tiki/tiki-index.php
The Online Directory is an interactive, web-based directory of institutional holdings of artist files that allows for efficient browsing of collection statements and provides links to further artist files resources. The Directory framework was created as a centralized repository for cultural institutions to promote their collections of artist files and for users to discover these resources more readily. The Directory is in a wiki format to facilitate easy access, quick editing, and a straight-forward interface for user-generated input of information.

Link to the wiki and add your holdings information now! As more libraries and institutions add their information to the Directory, the more valuable a resource it will become. The Directory now includes records from a small core group of institutions with artist files holdings but from this point forward, all institutions, regardless of size or geographical location, are encouraged to contribute records.

Users can add a record for their own institution, browse the growing database, search by language, style/period, and type of material, read FAQs and link directly to online documentation that will aid librarians in fully cataloging and providing access to an artist files collection.

This online publication provides much-needed documentation that helps the art librarian catalog, arrange, and provide local, national, and international access to artist files collections. Included are general guidelines for creating MARC records representing artist files, and a plethora of further information that includes links to online collections, conference papers, societies and centers devoted to artist and ephemeral papers, and a full comprehensive bibliography that for the first time brings together the published literature on the topic.

As with all ARLIS/NA Online Publications, *Artist Files Revealed: Documentation and Access* is provided free of charge to members and all interested parties. Please take a look at the ARLIS/NA Publications pages for access to the newest Online and Print Publications.

About the Authors

The Artist File Working Group is a dedicated group of art librarians and visual resources professionals devoted to providing discovery tools and access to artist files collections. The group has been working on the online directory and documentation resources since 2006..

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