

PROVIDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY
Special Collections
Collection #073-02
CitiArt Collection
1973-1980

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Number: 073-02

Title: CitiArt Collection

Creator: CitiArt

Dates: 1973-1980

Quantity: 1 oversized box (total 2 linear feet)

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition: Gift of Andrea Hollis, Ken Orenstein, & Alfred Quinn, 2018

Accruals: No accruals are expected.

Custodial history: Material was acquired from the creators.

Processed by: The collection was processed by Jessica Rogers-Cerrato in 2022.

Conservation: DVD material converted to MP4 file for long-term digital storage.

Language: Materials are in English.

RIGHTS AND ACCESS

Access: This collection is open under the rules and regulations of the Providence Public Library, Special Collections department.

Preferred Citation: Researchers are requested to use the following citation format: [item number], [item title], CitiArt Collection, Special Collections, Providence Public Library, Providence, R.I.

Property Rights: Providence Public Library owns the property rights to this collection. Consideration of the copyrights is the responsibility of the researcher.

INFORMATION FOR RESEARCHERS

Separated material None.

Published description	Not applicable.
Location of originals	Not applicable.
Location of copies	Not applicable.
Publication note	Not applicable.
Subject headings	<p>LCSH:</p> <p>Alternative spaces (Arts facilities)</p> <p>Artists</p> <p>Artist-run galleries</p> <p>Economic surveys</p> <p>Free circulation newspapers and periodicals</p> <p>Fund raising</p> <p>Nonprofit organizations</p> <p>Providence (R.I.)</p> <p>AAT:</p> <p>artists' collectives</p> <p>artists' periodicals</p> <p>black-and-white photographs</p> <p>bylaws (administrative records)</p> <p>DVDs</p> <p>newspapers</p> <p>slides (photographs)</p> <p>surveys (documents)</p>

SEE ALSO

- AS220 Collection, Rhode Island Collection, Providence Public Library, Providence, R.I.

HISTORICAL NOTE

In the mid-1970s, a group of Providence-based artists and arts professionals coalesced around efforts to create a nonprofit advocacy organization for local artists. In October of 1976, CitiArt: The Union of Rhode Island Artists was chartered. CitiArt was an incorporated organization with a structure which sought to allow the membership to determine the functions of the group as a whole. According to a statement included in the first issue of *Citiartnews*, a free periodical produced by the organization beginning in 1977, "CITIART [was] designed to help the individual artists who are economically and professionally isolated from their communities and have few outlets for visibility." The aims of CitiArt were manifold and included advocating for artists rights and fair practices, as well as for more gallery and performance spaces in the downtown area. In addition, the group worked to connect artists with professional legal and tax information, supplied

job listings, and provided members with access to a group health insurance plan. Most ambitiously, the group hoped to develop a community space encompassing an entire building, with artists studios, offices, exhibit rooms, and a performance venue, called the CitiArt Center Downtown. Though this enterprising community space did not come to fruition, a great deal of CitiArt's activities were centered around Gallery 383, a building where many local artists had studio spaces. In about 1981, CitiArt's charter expired and was not renewed.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION

The CitiArt Collection is composed of photographs, minimal documents, video, and most substantially a series of newspapers, all of which are related to or created by the nonprofit organization CitiArt. The photographs are largely in the form of photographic slides, while the documents include by-laws, surveys, and some promotional materials. An event that entailed the painting of a mural directly onto Westminster Street in Providence, R.I., is well documented here through photographs and video. Also of note is a ten issue set of *Citiartnews*, a free newspaper published by the group.

ORGANIZATION OF THE COLLECTION

The items in this collection have been organized into four series based on format. Within each series, items are arranged in chronological order. The sequence of the series is as follows:

1. Photographs (photographs & photographic slides)
2. Video
3. Documents (bylaws, correspondence, event & promotional materials)
4. Newspapers (*Citiartsnews*)

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION**Series 1: Photographs**

Item	Title	Date	Box	Folder
1-24	Gallery 383 Westminster Street Painting, photographic slides	1975	1.1	small box
25-48	Gallery 383 Westminster Street Painting, photographic slides	1975	1.2	small box
49	Westminster Street Painting photograph Note: Includes separate page listing individuals in photo Dimensions: 14 x 11 inches	1975	1	1

Series 2: Video

Item	Title	Date	Box	Folder
50	Providence '73-'78, DVD Duration: 39.22 minutes	1973-1978	1	envelope

Series 3: Documents

Item	Title	Date	Box	Folder
51	By-laws of CITIART, The Union of R.I. Artists	c.1975	1	2
52	Art Center event flier	1976	1	2
53	Artist Questionnaire (cover letter only)	1976	1	2
54	"CitiArt project's objective to serve as center for the arts," John E. Mulligan, <i>Providence Journal</i> (clipping)	1976	1	2
55	Economic Survey of Rhode Island Artists	c.1976	1	2
56	Open Studios event poster (oversized)	1976	1	3
57	Promotional brochure	c.1978	1	2
58-59	Correspondence (2 photocopied letters)	1980	1	2

Series 4: Newspapers

Item	Title	Date	Box	Folder
60	<i>Citiartnews</i> , volume 1, number 1	1977-01	1	4

61	<i>Citiartnews</i> , volume 1, number 2	1977-04	1	4
62	<i>Citiartnews</i> , volume 1, number 3	1977-07	1	4
63	<i>Citiartnews</i> , volume 1, number 4	1977-10	1	4
64	<i>Citiartnews</i> , volume 1, number 5	1977-12	1	4
65	<i>Citiartnews</i> , volume 2, number 1	1978-05	1	4
66	<i>Citiartnews</i> , volume 3, number 1	1979-04	1	4
67	<i>Citiartnews</i> , volume 3, number 2	1979	1	4
68	<i>Citiartnews</i> , volume 4, number 1	1980	1	4
69	<i>Citiartnews</i> , volume 4, number 2	1980	1	4