



Art Gallery of Ontario
Musée des beaux-arts de l'Ontario

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**Description & Finding Aid:
Gallery 940 fonds
LA.SC184**

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Reference Desk: Library.Archives@ago.ca

Art Gallery of Ontario: Gallery 940 fonds

Dates of creation:

1982-1987

Extent:

36cm textual materials

330 transparencies : col. ; 35mm, mounted

Administrative history:

Founded in 1982 at 940 Queen Street East, Gallery 940 was a grassroots alternative art space in Toronto dedicated to showcasing feminist, lesbian, and women's art. Initially called Nine Forty, it was run by a collective of artists: Phyllis Waugh, Gina Stephaniuk, Linda Cotman, Sarah Denison, and Dianne Barbarash. Phyllis Waugh, Sarah Denison, and Michele Rosano served as full-time volunteer coordinators.

Every month, Gallery 940 presented a solo or two-person exhibition and a group exhibition every four months. It also offered artists practical support through grant-writing assistance, exhibition guidance, and networking opportunities. Actively participating in Toronto's growing network of feminist and artist-run cultural organizations during the mid-1980s, it collaborated with groups such as A Space and the Women's Art Resource Centre, conducted joint membership mailings with the Women's Art Resource Centre, and planned collaborative publications to strengthen community connections. It also sponsored and supported numerous projects centred on women artists, including Alter Eros, the British/Canadian Video Exchange, Black History Month programming, Gay Gaze, the Older Women's Exhibition, and Fem Fest.

Fem Fest '85 was one of Gallery 940's most significant initiatives. A multidisciplinary festival of feminist and lesbian art, it built upon precedents established by the Women's Cultural Building, the Women's Perspective 1983 festival, and the Alter Eros festival of 1984. Fem Fest showcased painting, drawing, sculpture, multimedia, photography, video, film, poetry, performance, music, dance, and theatre. It featured three exhibitions involving more than sixty women artists, a series of lectures, panels, and workshops, two evenings of performances, and a published catalogue. The festival took place at four locations: Pauline McGibbon Cultural Centre, Black Perspectives, Gallery 940, and Pages Bookstore.

In 1984, Gallery 940 launched a dedicated program of monthly film screenings. However, during the British/Canadian Video Exchange in 1985, censorship officials from the Ontario Theatres Branch raided the space and seized video equipment. Despite such conflicts, the Gallery's commitment to intersectional and anti-racist programming continued into its final year. In early 1986, Gallery 940 hosted the seminal Visions of Black Women exhibition, which created a critical platform for Black women artists within Toronto's predominantly white arts and culture community.

Gallery 940's primary sources of funding were the Canada Council and the Ontario Arts Council, but many of the grants it received were awarded on a one-time basis and thus failed to provide long-term operational stability. Its rejection to a Canada Council grant in 1985 led to a membership mailing campaign, wherein members were encouraged to write to the Canada Council in response to their statement that "while the assessors were sympathetic to the amount of energy and effort that Gallery 940 is putting into planning, they felt the programming was not up to the standard of other submissions."

Ultimately, these financial pressures could not be overcome. Gallery 940 announced through

newsletters and membership mailings that it would cease operations on May 1, 1986. Artists were directed to alternative community resources, including the Women's Art Resource Centre, where the gallery donated its materials to ensure that these resources remained accessible to the community after its closure.

Custodial History:

Materials were transferred to the Women's Art Resource Centre for storage and access upon Gallery 940's closing in May 1986. Materials remained in their custody until the WARC fonds was transferred directly from their storage at 401 Richmond Street West to the Art Gallery of Ontario in July 2015.

Scope and content:

Fonds consists of materials related to the activities of Gallery 940 from their establishment in 1982 to their closing in 1986. Materials are primarily financial records, employment and volunteer records, applications for grant funding, correspondence, photographs of exhibitions, and membership mailing materials. Fonds also contains reference materials related to various women artists.

Notes:

Immediate Source of Acquisition or Transfer:

Gift of the Women's Art Resource Centre, 2015.

Arrangement:

Records showed no discernible original order, and it is unclear whether the Women's Art Resource Centre rearranged any materials upon receipt from Gallery 940. Records were rearranged into a primarily chronological order by date by the processing archivist.

Restrictions on access:

Open. Access to the AGO Archives is by appointment only. Please contact the reference desk for more information.

Terms governing use and reproduction / publication:

Permission of the Art Gallery of Ontario is required for publication.

Accruals:

No further accruals are expected.

Related records:

For documentation of the Women's Art Resource Centre, see the Women's Art Resource Centre fonds. Also see records related to the Women's Cultural Building (also maintained by WARC) in the Women's Cultural Building fonds.

FILE LIST:

Title	Extent	Scope and Content	Dates of Creation	Box-folde r
1982-1983 Invoices/Receipts	1 folder textual materials	File contains invoices and receipts for Gallery 940 in December 1982 and throughout 1983.	1982-1983	1-1
1983-1984 Invoices/Receipts	1 folder textual materials	File contains invoices, receipts, and bank account statements for Gallery 940 from August to December 1983 and January to December 1984.	1983-1984	1-2
Gallery 940 Guestbook	1 folder textual materials	File contains pages from the guestbook used by Gallery 940 for various exhibitions, all from or likely from 1983. Exact exhibitions mentioned in the guestbook are not fully clear.	1983	1-3
1984 Petty Cash Vouchers	1 folder textual materials	File contains petty cash vouchers for June, July, August, September, October, November, and December in 1984 for Gallery 940.	1984	1-4
1984 Invoices Paid/Entered	1 folder textual materials	File contains invoices, receipts, and notes related to expenses that were paid for and entered into Gallery 940's cash journal in 1984.	1984	1-5
1985 Invoices Paid/Entered	1 folder textual materials	File contains invoices and receipts for Gallery 940 in January, February, March, April, and June 1985. These receipts and invoices were paid and entered into Gallery 940's cash journal.	1985	1-6
Gallery 940 Insurance Policy	1 folder textual materials	File contains research notes related to insurance for Gallery 940 upon their founding, correspondence related to the closing of Gallery 940 and the cancellation of their insurance policy in 1986, receipts for the cancellation of their insurance policy, and the original insurance plan package.	1984-1986	1-7
Taxation Records	1 folder textual materials	File contains taxation records of Gallery 940 in 1985, and a 1985 Employer's and Trustee's Guide for Filing of T4-T4A and T4F returns. File also contains correspondence between Gallery 940 and the Women's Art Resource Centre	1985	1-8

		regarding slides of Gallery 940's banners from the International Women's Day March.		
Gallery 940 T4A 1985 Summary	1 folder textual materials	File contains a T4A summary for Gallery 940 in 1985, handwritten notes related to finances, and related correspondence.	1985-1986	1-9
Revenue Canada Information (1985)	1 folder textual materials	File contains invoices, cheques, and receipts for May, July, September, October, November, and December 1985, as well as bank account statements and information booklets received from Revenue Canada Taxation used as reference material by Gallery 940 when filing taxes.	1985-1987	1-10
Loren Williams - Employment/Tax Records	1 folder textual materials	File contains employment and tax records for Loren Williams in relation to Gallery 940.	1985	1-11
Beverly Bratty - Employment/Tax Records	1 folder textual materials	File contains employment and tax records for Beverly Bratty in relation to Gallery 940, as well as bank account statements for Gallery 940 in 1985.	1985	1-12
Petty Cash Receipts (May-July)	1 folder textual materials	File contains receipts for petty cash used by Gallery 940 in May to July 1985 for various reasons, including Fem Fest '85, public discussions, xerox/photocopies, and office supplies.	1985	1-13
Petty Cash Receipts (Sept-Oct)	1 folder textual materials	File contains receipts for petty cash used by Gallery 940 in September and October 1985 for various reasons, including public discussions, xerox/photocopies, and office supplies.	1985	1-14
Invoices TBA to Cash Journal	1 folder textual materials	File contains invoices and receipts for general gallery operations and activities, and invoices and receipts for Fem Fest '85 (including notes written on the back of a poster for Fem Fest '85). Original folder title was "Invoices - to be entered in cash journal."	1985	1-15
Gallery 940 Cashbook	1 folder textual materials	File contains a cashbook for Gallery 940, used from 1982 to 1985. Expenses for 1985 to 1986 are also recorded in loose pages (likely from a	1982-1986	1-16

		different cashbook) and are found slotted in the beginning of the bound cashbook. Cashbook pages list expenses for exhibition openings, programs such as artist discussions, and other general expenses. File also contains notes and guidelines for recording information in the cashbook, as written by Gallery 940.		
Benefit Expenses and Income	1 folder textual materials	File contains receipts and notes of expenses and income made from Gallery 940's benefit event in December 1985.	1985	2-1
General Petty Cash Receipts	1 folder textual materials	File contains receipts for petty cash used by Gallery 940 from 1984 to 1987, primarily for artist fee payments or equipment rentals and loans.	1984-1987	2-2
Public Discussions at Gallery 940	108 transparencies : col. ; 35mm, mounted	File contains photographs from public discussion events (some of which were co-sponsored by WARC) held by Gallery 940, including Taylor Green's "Pornography and Identity" (Jan. 24, 1985), Carla Murray's "Love's Protest" (Nov. 2, 1985); Sheena Gurlay (Nov. 1984); Kim Fullerton's "Visions of Black Women" (March 1985); "Sight Specific: Lesbians and Representation" (1987); Stella Kyriakakis' "The First Time I Saw Johnny" (1985); Sandra Meigs; and "The Gay Gaze" (June/July 1985).	1985	2-3
"Women 50 Years & Over" Exhibition	1 folder textual materials	File contains materials related to Gallery 940's exhibition "Women 50 Years & Over" (Nov. 6-23, 1985), including a call for submissions, news releases, photocopies of newspaper articles, newspaper clippings, artist biographies, artist statements, invitations, and samples of a handmade book called "Votes for Women/Exercises for the Growing Girl" by Sarah Jackson with a note stating that the book can be ordered from Gallery 940.	1985	2-4
Fem Fest '85 OAC Application	1 folder textual materials	File contains materials related to Gallery 940's application to the Ontario Arts Council for assistance with the	1985	2-5

		organizing of Fem Fest' 85. Materials in file include the application, budget, a list of confirmed artists, copies of proposals from artists, list of slides of artists' works which were submitted as supporting material for the application, letters of support, and photocopies of press releases and newspaper articles about previous Gallery 940 exhibitions.		
Fem Fest '85 Artist Fee Receipts	1 folder textual materials	File contains receipts for artist fees during Fem Fest '85.	1985	2-6
Petty Cash Receipts (Mailing/Openings)	1 folder textual materials	File contains receipts and vouchers for petty cash used by Gallery 940 in 1985 and 1986, primarily related to exhibition openings and mailing of newsletters.	1985-1986	2-7
Payment Receipts (Rentals)	1 folder textual materials	File contains receipts for Gallery 940's payments primarily related to building rental, artist fees, and mailing materials.	1985-1986	2-8
1985 Bank Statements	1 folder textual materials	File contains cheques written for artist fees, rent, equipment, and loans for exhibitions, as well as bank account statements in 1985 for Gallery 940.	1984-1985	2-9
1986 Bank Statements	1 folder textual materials	File contains cheques written for salaries, rent, equipment, and loans for exhibitions, as well as bank account statements in 1986 for Gallery 940.	1986-1987	2-10
Closing of Gallery 940 - Press Conference Notes	1 folder textual materials	File contains correspondence written to The Canada Council by various organizations and individuals protesting the rejection of Gallery 940's application for operations funding, notes written by Gallery 940 analyzing the potential reasons for their application rejection, and planning notes written for a press conference regarding the rejection.	1986	2-11
CCA Rejection Letters to Gallery 940	1 folder textual materials	File contains letters from the Canada Council regarding the rejection of Gallery 940's funding application, leading to their subsequent closing in 1986.	1986	2-12
Closing Letters Sent to	1 folder textual materials	File contains a letter sent to members of Gallery 940, which contained a photocopy of the Canada Council's	1986	2-13

Artists/Members

rejection of Gallery 940's funding application to encourage members to write to the Canada Council to protest this decision, a sample letter sent to members regarding the closing of Gallery 940 and other possible options for artists, a news release related to their closing, and a floorplan of Gallery 940.

File contains photographic slides of works and installations of women artists. It is unclear whether installation took place in Gallery 940 or if these slides were used by Gallery 940 as references. Artists in file include: Mirjam Castelijm, Sonia Pearl, Pam Patterson, Heather Rigby, Anne Hansen, Tracey Bowen, Nell Tenhaaf, Nancy Wood, Ruta Gravljejs, Susanne Kelly, Sandra Gregson, Janice Gurney, Irene Beauregard, Leena Raudvee, Karen Trask, Cherie Moses, Jeanine Ferguson, Anna Banana, Carol Williams, Anne McMillian, Naomi McCormack, Lorraine Weideman, Janet Moore, Judy Young, Claire Carew, Carole Conde, Karl Beveridge, Deborah Hughes, Jill Glessing, Pamela Harris, Sylvia Wagner, Jane Evans, Sharon Zenith, Cathy Daley, Paige Prichard Kennedy, and Alison Conway.

Gallery 940 Artist
Slides

222
transparencies :
col. ; 35mm,
mounted

[198-]

2-14

Gallery 940
Volunteer Index
Cards

1 folder textual
materials

File contains index cards listing individuals who contacted Gallery 940 because they were interested in volunteering. Index cards include names, home addresses, phone numbers, information about skills and interests, and availability.

[198-]

2-15