

Finding aid for the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery video collection, 1978-2003, undated 2009.M.4

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Description is in English.

Special Collections

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Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical / Historical	3
Scope and Contents	4
Arrangement	4
Administrative Information	4
Related Materials	5
Controlled Access Headings	6
Collection Inventory	6

Summary Information

- Repository:** Special Collections
- Creator:** Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery
- Title:** Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery video collection
- ID:** 2009.M.4
- Dates:** 1978-2003, undated
- Extent:** 4.918 Linear Feet (6 boxes)
- Request Materials:** Request access to the physical materials described in this inventory through the [catalog record](#) for this collection. Click here for the [access policy](#).
- Language:** English
- Abstract:** The Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery (LAMAG) was established in 1954 under the Department of Cultural Affairs of the City of Los Angeles. The video collection includes artworks that were exhibited at LAMAG, and documentaries screened as part of the programming, and documentation of performances, events, exhibitions. Videotapes in the collection are primarily from the 1980s, and represent a diverse body of programming focused on multiple communities within Los Angeles. Some of the artists whose works are present in the collection include Wendy Clarke, Ulysses Jenkins, Jim Shaw, and Hye Sook.

Preferred Citation

Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery video collection, 1978-2003, undated, The Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles, Accession no. 2009.M.4.

<http://hdl.handle.net/10020/archives2009m4>

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

The Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery (LAMAG) was established in 1954 under the Department of Cultural Affairs of the City of Los Angeles. LAMAG exhibits arts by emerging and underrepresented

artists from Los Angeles and Southern California. Some of the artists who have exhibited at the gallery have become internationally known such as Eleanor Antin, John Baldessari, and Ed Ruscha. In addition to exhibitions, LAMAG also conducts education and public programming as ways of engaging the city's diverse communities in contemporary issues through the arts. Since its founding, LAMAG has extended its reach to include the Junior Arts Center (JAC) Gallery, Teacher Resource Center, and a Slide Registry.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents

The Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery video collection comprises 38 videocassette tapes, one sound track reel, and artist files of those who presented their works at the gallery. Materials in the files include artists' curricula vitae, artist statements, exhibition reviews, program notes, and correspondence. Videocassette tapes in the collection are primarily from the 1980s, and represent a diverse body of programming focused on multiple communities within Los Angeles. Some of the artists whose video works are present in the collection include Wendy Clarke, Ulysses Jenkins, Jim Shaw, and Hye Sook.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

The collection is arranged chronologically with undated materials at the end.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Access

Open for use by qualified researchers. Audiovisual material is unavailable until reformatted. Contact the repository for information regarding access.

Publication Rights

Contact [Library Reproductions and Permissions](#).

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery. Acquired in 2009.

Processing Information

Vladimira Stefura rehoused the collection upon accession in March 2009. In 2020, Kit Messick and Emmabeth Nanol drafted the finding aid and processed a portion of the collection. Jenny Le finalized processing and completed the finding aid in 2023.

Component titles from source materials.

Digitized Material

Selected audiovisual recordings have been digitized: <http://hdl.handle.net/10020/2009m4av>. Access is available only to on-site readers and Getty staff.

Revision Description

2023 September-October

Front matter enhanced and collection inventory description updated by Jenny Le.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials

Barbara T. Smith papers, 1927-2012, bulk 1948-2012, Getty Research Institute, Accession no. 2014.M.14.

Getty Research Institute California Video exhibition project files and oral history recordings, 2006-2008, Institutional Archives, Getty Research Institute, Accession no. IA60004.

High Performance magazine records, 1953-2005, Getty Research Institute, Accession no. 2006.M.8.

The Kitchen videos and records, 1971-2011, bulk 1971-1999, Getty Research Institute, Accession no. 2014.M.6.

Long Beach Museum of Art Video Archive, circa 1970-2000, Getty Research Institute, Accession no. 2006.M.7.

Modern Art in Los Angeles Recordings, 2003-2011, Getty Research Institute, Accession no. IA40018.

Pacific Standard Time: Art in L.A. Recordings, 2008-2012, Getty Research Institute and Getty Foundation, Accession no. IA40011.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

Subjects - Topics

- Art galleries, Commercial -- California -- Los Angeles
- Artists -- 20th century -- Correspondence

Genres and Forms of Materials

- Experimental films -- United States -- 20th century
- Performance art -- 20th century
- Video art -- 20th century
- Videotapes -- United States -- 20th century

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers	
Gene Flores, Sculptor / Santa Cruz, California, 1978, undated		
Dub of edited master, 1978 1 videocassette (U-matic) : sound ; 3/4 in.	Box 3	Item V13
Slide program, second generation, undated 1 videocassette (U-matic) (7 min.) : sound, black and white ; 3/4 in.	Box 3	Item V15
First Biennial Juried Exhibition, 1978-1987		
Newcomers, 1987	Box 1	Folder 2
Ephemera, 1987	Box 2	Folder 1
Ulysses Jenkins, 1978 1 videocassette (U-matic) : sound ; 3/4 in. <i>Scope and Contents:</i> Recorded in 1978, with a 1980 copyright date.	Box 4	Item V26
<hr/>		
<i>The Artist as Social Critic</i> , 1979 <i>Scope and Contents:</i>	Box 1	Folder 8

Includes artists' CVs, artists' statements, copies of correspondence, lists of exhibiting artists, and exhibition inventories.

LA Seen by LA Artists, 1980, 1981 March

Papers, 1980

Box 1

Folder 6

Scope and Contents:

Includes artists' CVs, artists' statements, copies of correspondence, lists of exhibiting artists, and exhibition inventories.

Editorials, 1981 March

Box 2

Folder 2

Scope and Contents:

Contains copies of editorials of the exhibition.

African Storyteller / Jimi Solanke / Studio of Matthew Thomas, 1981

Scope and Contents:

Description on media reads: Producer/director Sheila Ruth. / Funded by a grant from the California Arts Council.

Third generation copy from master, 1981 1 videocassette (U-matic) (19 min., 15 sec.) : mono ; 3/4 in.

Box 3

Item V9

Scope and Contents:

Description on media reads: Produced/directed by Sheila Ruth. / L.B. Museum, Sony 2860A -> Sony 2860A 5/8/81.

Edited, shorter version, 1981 1 videocassette (U-matic) (16 min., 40 sec.) : stereo, color ; 3/4 in.

Box 3

Item V10

Scope and Contents:

Description on media reads: Produced/directed by Sheila Ruth.

Copy for Jimi Solanke, 1981 1 videocassette (U-matic) (19 min., 15 sec.) : mono, color ; 3/4 in.

Box 3

Item V11

Scope and Contents:

Description on media reads: Produced/directed by Sheila Ruth. / Shot on October 13, 1980; edited on May 8, 1981. / Third generation copy 10/16/81, J.A.C. / 2600 -> VO 4800.

Third generation copy, 1981 1 videocassette (U-matic) (19 min., 15 sec.) : stereo, color ; 3/4 in.

Box 3

Item V12

Scope and Contents:

Description on media reads: Produced/directed by Sheila Ruth. / Third generation copy, LBMA Video, 10/13/81, Sony VP 2011 -> JVC 6066 U.

Carlos Almaraz: East Los Artist, 1981 August 11

Box 4

Item V16

Scope and Contents:

Description on media reads: Produced/directed by Sheila Ruth. / Third generation copy, T.B.C. copy, 10/13/91, LBMA Video.

<i>Why We Need Each Other / The Animal's Peace Day / Carlos Almaraz drawings, circa 1981</i> 1 videocassette (U-matic) : sound, color ; 3/4 in.	Box 4	Item V17
Ulysses Jenkins, 1981-1987		
Programs I and II papers, 1981-1987	Box 1	Folder 9
Program I, 1981, 1983 1 videocassette (U-matic) (51 min., 40 sec.) : sound ; 3/4 in.	Box 4	Item V24
<p><i>Scope and Contents:</i> Content: 1. Inconsequential Doggereal (1981) (15 min.) / 2. Dream City: The Videotape (1983) (5 min.) / 3. Dream City: The ritual-video-performance (1983) (30 min.).</p> <p>Description from program notes: <i>Inconsequential Doggereal</i>, the vertigo presents contradictions which question issues surrounding compatability, poetic lyricism and traditional intonations associated with normal television consumption. / <i>Dream City: The ritual-video-performance</i>, originally recorded and performed in September 1981 at Rachel Rosenthal's ESPACE DBD, this thirty minute presentation reinterprets the concerns of the eighteen hour performance by giving each of the illusions performed by the attending artists more exposure.</p>		
Program II, 1983-1987 1 videocassette (U-matic) (56 min., 57 sec.) : sound ; 3/4 in.	Box 4	Item V25
<p><u>Digital Object:</u> Program II (digitized version available on-site only): [1983-1987]</p> <p><i>Scope and Contents:</i> Content: 1. ZGRASS (1983) (3 min.) / 2. Without Your Representation (1984) (13 min.) / 3. Peace and Anwar Sadat (1986) (21 min.) / 4. Ever 4 Us (1987) (17 min.).</p> <p>Description from program notes: ZGRASS, computer generated images designed with an electronic paint program entitled ZGRASS. / <i>Without Your Representation</i>, this videotape is a video-performance from a live performance in the downtown L.A. area near the L.A. River at an alternative art gallery which was called "The Art Dock." / Peace and Anwar Sadat, this video-performance pays tribute to one of the world's most formidable peace activists: ANWAR SADAT OF EGYPT. / Ever4Us, this videotape is conceived in sonata form; in terms of the sonic poetic interplay.</p>		
<i>About T.V.: Appropriation and Parody in Contemporary Video Art, 1986-1989</i>		
Papers, 1989	Box 1	Folder 5
<p><i>Scope and Contents:</i> Includes program notes, and copies of editorials of the exhibition.</p>		
Program 3: Burning Monk by Hye Sook, 1987 1 videocassette (U-matic) (60 min.) : sound, black and white ; 3/4 in.	Box 4	Item V18
<p><i>Scope and Contents:</i> Content warning: This videotape contains graphic images of a Buddhist monk's self-immolation.</p> <p>Description from program notes: Hye Sook appropriated the original footage of the Buddhist monk, Thich Quang Duc's self-immolation in June, 1963.</p>		

<p>Program 5: <i>Bambo Samba</i> by Jane Cantillon / <i>Vote Nihilism '88</i> by Elisha Shapiro, 1988 1 videocassette (U-matic) : sound ; 3/4 in.</p>	<p>Box 4</p>	<p>Item V19</p>
<p><i>Scope and Contents:</i> Content: 1. <i>Bambo Samba</i> by Jane Cantillon (3 min.) / 2. <i>Vote Nihilism '88</i> (14 min., 30 sec.).</p> <p>Description from program notes: A humorous parody of rock videos featuring a Carmen Miranda-like [figure] sambaing with a bevy of bambos.</p>		
<p>Works by Jim Shaw, Chris Innes, and Michael Parker, approximately 1987-1989, circa 1987 1 videocassette (U-matic) : 3/4 in.</p>	<p>Box 4</p>	<p>Item V21</p>
<p><u>Digital Object:</u> Works by Jim Shaw, Chris Innes, and Michael Parker (digitized version available on-site only): [approximately 1987-1989]</p> <p><i>Scope and Contents:</i> Content: <i>Bullet</i> (6 min.) / <i>The Andersons</i> / <i>True/False Mirror</i> / <i>Billy Goes to a Party</i> (30 min.) / <i>What's Happening</i> (10 min., 3 sec.).</p> <p>Description from program notes: <i>Bullet</i> investigates a correlation between television and hypnotism. Scan lines mesmerize the viewer as a text instructs one on the how-to's of hypnotism. / <i>The Andersons</i> is an animated parody of a familiar cartoon studio tells the tale of young boy's daydreams while in church. / <i>True/False Mirror</i> is an experimental video using a familiar television logo and surreal film references. / <i>Billy Goes to a Party</i> is a contemporary portrayal of Billy's experiences at a 60's type party. / <i>What's Happening</i> is Jim Shaw's latest edition to his previous trilogy, it features the Obedient Christian lecturing on the ills of television.</p> <p>Original media reads: Program 6: <i>Bullet</i> / <i>The Andersons</i> / <i>True/False Mirror</i> / <i>Billy Goes to a Party</i> / <i>What's Happening</i>.</p>		
<p>Program 6: <i>"Out" Takes</i> by John C. Goss / <i>Spin Off</i> by Kathy Tanney, 1987, 1989 1 videocassette (U-matic) : sound ; 3/4 in.</p>	<p>Box 4</p>	<p>Item V20</p>
<p><i>Scope and Contents:</i> Content: 1. <i>"Out" Takes</i> by John C. Goss (1989) (13 min.) / 2. <i>Spin Off</i> by Kathy Tanney (1987) (13 min.).</p> <p>Description on media reads: Audio Channel 1 and 2.</p> <p>Description from program notes: In <i>"Out" Takes</i>, gay sensibility, homophobia and gender roles on broadcast television are outlined by juxtaposing scenes from two popular children's shows from the United States and Japan intertwined with an outraged critic's campy critique. / <i>Spin Off</i> is a love story of visual pleasure and blind devotion. Mary Richards and J. R. Ewing meet and romance each other's projections of a viewer's imagination.</p>		
<p>Program 8: <i>Television Believers</i> by Aron Ranen / <i>Herb Schiller Reads Trash T.V.</i>, Paper Tiger Southwest, 1986 1 videocassette (U-matic) : sound ; 3/4 in.</p>	<p>Box 4</p>	<p>Item V22</p>
<p><i>Scope and Contents:</i> Content: 1. <i>Television Believers</i> (27 min., 30 sec.) / 2. <i>Herb Schiller</i> (28 min.).</p>		

Description from program notes: In *Television Believers*, a TV faith healer is uncovered as a huckster as his source of "divine inspiration" is revealed. / In *Herb Schiller Reads Trash T.V.*, the contemporary phenomenon of Trash TV is critiqued by Herb Schiller.

<i>Television Believers</i> by Aron Ranen, 1986 December 2 1 videocassette (U-matic) (26 min.) : sound, black and white ; 3/4 in.	Box 4	Item V28
Frank Munns Performance at MUNI, 1987 May 9		
Edited master, 1987 May 9 1 videocassette (U-matic) : sound ; 3/4 in. <i>Scope and Contents:</i> Description on media reads: Audio Channel 1.	Box 3	Item V1
Tape 1, original master, 1987 May 9 1 videocassette (U-matic) : sound ; 3/4 in.	Box 3	Item V2
Tape 2, original master, 1987 May 9 1 videocassette (U-matic) : sound ; 3/4 in.	Box 3	Item V3
Tape 3, original master, 1987 May 9 1 videocassette (U-matic) : sound ; 3/4 in.	Box 3	Item V4
<i>Other Gods: Containers of Belief</i> , 1987 April-May, undated		
Artists / Reviews for <i>Other Gods...</i> , 1987 April-May <i>Scope and Contents:</i> Includes exhibition checklist, installations list, list of artists' addresses, and copies of exhibition reviews.	Box 1	Folder 4
Video documentation of exhibit, undated 1 videocassette (U-matic) : sound ; 3/4 in.	Box 3	Item V5
<i>Bambo Samba</i> by Jane Cantillon, 1988 1 videocassette (U-matic) : sound ; 3/4 in.	Box 3	Item V8
<i>Bullet</i> , Chris Innis with Michael Parker, 1988 1 videocassette (U-matic) (6 min.) : sound ; 3/4 in. <i>Scope and Contents:</i> Possible duplicate of <i>About T.V.: Appropriation and Parody in Contemporary Video Art</i> program. See item V21. Description on media reads: Made at CalArts.	Box 3	Item V6
<i>Forced Out</i> , 1989 1 videocassette (U-matic) (6 min.) : sound ; 3/4 in. <i>Scope and Contents:</i> Description on media reads: California State University, Dominguez Hills.	Box 3	Item V14
Paper Tiger Television, <i>Herb Schiller on Trash T.V. Desperately Seeking Reality</i> , 1989 1 videocassette (U-matic) (28 min.) : sound, color ; 3/4 in. <i>Scope and Contents:</i> Description on media reads: Audio 1 and 2.	Box 4	Item V23
Constance E. O'Meara / JAC/MAG, 1991 1 videocassette (U-matic) : sound ; 3/4 in.	Box 3	Item V7
Roland Reiss, 1991		
Papers, 1991 December 7-26	Box 1	Folder 7

Scope and Contents:

Includes Roland Reiss' CV, copies of exhibition reviews for *Roland Reiss: A Seventeen Year Survey*, and program notes.

Video recording, 1991 1 videocassette (U-matic) (8 min., 30 sec.) : sound ; 3/4 in.	Box 4	Item V27
<i>Scope and Contents:</i> Description on media reads: Exhibition reel repeats 7 times. / Produced and directed by Joe Leonardi.		
AMEN by Wendy Clarke, 1992 1 videocassette (VHS) (60 min.) : mono, color ; 1/2 in.	Box 5	Item V34
<u>Digital Object:</u> Amen (digitized version available on-site only): [1992]		
LA Freewaves Video Festival, <i>Fast Focus: Southern California Youth Speak Out</i> , 1992 1 videocassette (VHS) (60 min.) : sound, color ; 1/2 in.	Box 5	Item V31
<i>Scope and Contents:</i> Description on media reads: Cable program 4. / Curated by Martha Chono-Helsley, Gina Lamb and Quito Hernandez. / Works featured in this cable program were also featured in <i>Discovery of a Different Kind: Youth Look at Past, Present, and Future</i> , Tuesday, October 13, 1992 at Barnsdall Municipal Art Gallery and Theater.		
Excerpts / Mehmet Sander Dance Company, circa 1994 1 videocassette (VHS) : sound, color ; 1/2 in.	Box 5	Item V37
<u>Digital Object:</u> Excerpts / Mehmet Sander Dance Company (digitized version available on-site only): [undated]		
<i>Graffiti Verite</i> , Bob Bryan Productions, 1995 1 videocassette (VHS) : sound, color ; 1/2 in.	Box 5	Item V36
<i>Scope and Contents:</i> Description on media reads: Bootleg.		
Habib Kheradyar, Untitled, 1996 June 24 1 videocassette (VHS) (45 min.) : sound, color ; 1/2 in.	Box 5	Item V35
<u>Digital Object:</u> The Climb / Habib Kheradyar (digitized version available on-site only): 1996		
<i>Scope and Contents:</i> Description on media reads: Performance, <i>The Climb</i> , 6/24/96, actual time, 45 mins; edited video, 10 mins. / Exhibition <i>Investigations</i> .		
<i>Head Space</i> , Jessica Newman-Skrentny, circa 1996 1 videocassette (VHS) : sound, color ; 1/2 in.	Box 5	Item V33
<i>Skin and Bones</i> , 1996-1997	Box 1	Folder 3
<i>Scope and Contents:</i> Includes artists' CVs, program notes, and copies of exhibition reviews.		
<i>Tomfoolery: Sounds, Songs & Stories</i> by Tom Jenkins, 1982-2000 February 9		
Papers, 1982	Box 1	Folder 1
<i>Scope and Contents:</i> Includes artist's CV, artist's statement, and copies of exhibition reviews.		

Videotapes, 2000 February 9 2 videocassettes of 2 (VHS) (33 min.) : sound, color ; 1/2 in.	Box 5	Item V30A-V30B
LA ATRSMIX #11, 2003 March 3 1 videocassette (VHS) (28 min.) : sound, color ; 1/2 in.	Box 5	Item V32
The Central Meridian, undated 1 videocassette (U-matic) (11 min.) : sound, black and white ; 3/4 in.	Box 4	Item V29
[Untitled reel], undated	Box 6	Item R1
<i>Scope and Contents:</i>		
1 audiotape reel : analog, 7 1/2 ips, 4 tracks, stereo. ; 7 in., 1/2 in. tape.		