

Artex: Collection Development Policy

Artex is a publicly accessible documentation centre, with a collection that holds a variety of formats of published documents, as well as critical and theoretical texts on contemporary visual arts.

Artex's mandate is to promote the influence and understanding of contemporary visual arts through activities related to research, interpretation, and dissemination of reliable information sources on contemporary art.

The collection consists of documentation on visual arts practices from 1965 to the present, with a particular focus on practices in Québec and Canada. The collection's holdings include many types of publications on artistic practices in Canada and around the world, as well as printed ephemera, including posters, flyers, invitation cards, press releases, press clippings and visual documentation. These documents reflect an interest in critical approaches to creation, exhibition making, research, and interpretation of visual arts.

Collecting priorities:

Artex seeks to build its collection based on a representation of a plurality of practices and artistic disciplines. We wish to fill current gaps in the collection and to acquire documents on artists, subjects and practices that are historically underrepresented in our collection and elsewhere.

Our collecting priorities evolve along with the needs of researchers. For the collection to be representative of current and emerging art practices, we accord particular attention to **new publications, critical writing and documentation of recent practices**. Nonetheless, older documents (from 1965 and onwards) are also accepted if they correspond to our mandate and are not already in our collection.

Artists, curators, and arts organizations are welcome to submit documentation for a file in our collection on an ongoing basis. For details on submitting a file, we invite you to consult our [submission guidelines](#).

List of priority subjects:

We are particularly interested in publications and printed ephemera focused on the dissemination, artistic practice, and critical writing on the following areas of study :

- Indigenous art practices across the territory known as Canada and around the world.
- Art practices from LGBTQ2S+ artists and communities.
- Art practices from artists who identify as BIPOC
- Art and Disability Studies

- Feminist art practices
- Contemporary dance and live art
- Site-specific practices and furtive actions
- Textile and fibre arts
- Digital art
- Artists' books and book art
- Zines (particularly artzines)
- Artistic activism, social movements and socially engaged art practices
- Avant garde artistic practices and counterculture
- Mural and graffiti art
- Collaborative and pedagogical practices
- Art milieu - artist-run centres
- Art and archives
- Artists' periodicals and magazines
- Art and health (physical and mental)
- Art and science
- Decolonization in the visual arts and institutions
- Art and parenting

Please note that this list is not exhaustive, and we are open to receiving documents that fall outside of these categories.

Language: The collection consists primarily of documents written in English or in French. Documents written in other languages that also include texts in English or in French are also accepted.

Types of documents accepted:

Artex-te's collection is composed of public documents, therefore we do not collect internal or private documents.¹

Publications: Artists' books, zines, exhibition catalogues, exhibition pamphlets, monographs, anthologies, critical and theoretical texts, periodicals.

Audiovisual: Audio cassettes, VHS, DVDs, vinyl records, compact discs, digital files.

Ephemera: Posters, pamphlets, invitation cards, press clippings, press releases, photographic documentation (print and digital), slides, artists texts, artist's CV

Digital publications: Preferred format: PDF or PDF/A

¹ Some exceptions are documents that belong to archival fonds that are located in Artex-te's special collections.

Web archive files: WARC (Web ARChive)

Exclusions (documents not collected by Artexte)

Oversized documents: Because of storage limitations, we cannot accept certain oversized documents. Please contact us if you wish to submit documents or publications that are larger than 20 cm x 36 cm.

Publications by Canadian arts organisations that do not reflect the collecting mandate. Publications by arts organisations that cover art produced before 1965.

Auction catalogues

Publications containing information on a very superficial level or general overview, as well as “coffee table books” written for the general public and are often easily accessible in public libraries.

Manuals are generally not collected unless they are considered reference tools.

Artworks, including paintings, drawings, prints and photographs do not reflect Artexte’s mandate which is focused on the *documentation* of artworks and not on artworks themselves. Photographs that serve as documentation can be acquired as well as films and artists' videos when they are part of a donation.

Duplicates: Due to space limitations, Artexte is not able to collect duplicate copies of publications.

Policy on charitable tax receipts

Artexte can provide charitable tax receipts to individual donors if the total value of their donations is equal to, or greater than 25\$. Documents that are valued at over 1000\$ must be appraised by an external appraiser, in order to determine their fair market value. Tax receipts are sent to donors annually, in February following the year of donation.

Contact

We are always looking to expand our collection and we encourage you to contact us if you have any questions, or if you wish to make a donation to the collection: 514-874-0049 / collections@artexte.ca

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