

The Museum of Modern Art

Museum Archives Mission Statement

The Museum of Modern Art Archives was established in 1989 by resolution of the Board of Trustees, under the authority of the General Counsel, to preserve and make accessible the Museum's historical records to Museum staff, outside scholars, and researchers, and to create and direct the Museum's Records Management Program. Additionally, the Museum Archives is the custodian of primary source material and other historical documentation related to twentieth-century art.

- Purpose:** The purpose of The Museum of Modern Art Archives is to organize, preserve and make accessible records not in current use and to collect documentation relevant to the work of the institution, including: a) records relevant to the Museum's history (minutes, committee reports, departmental papers, photographs, sound recordings and videotapes); b) personal papers of curators and directors when relevant to Museum interests or history; c) papers of individuals related to Museum interests, such as Trustees and former staff; d) oral histories; e) twentieth-century primary resource material, including papers, manuscripts and photographs; f) a photographic archive comprised of tens of thousands of images. The Museum Archives provides necessary research support in order to enrich and enhance the Museum's curatorial and educational missions.
- Structure:** The Museum Archives exists under the authority of the Museum's Senior Deputy Director for Curatorial Affairs and is directed by a professional archivist who is also responsible for the Museum's Records Management Program. Sensitive data is protected, evidentiary values and provenance are observed, and copyright and privacy issues are respected; basic conservation methods are employed.
- Access:** The Archives serves outside researchers as well as Museum staff. Users are informed of the Museum's archival resources through finding aids available on the Museum Archives website at: <http://www.moma.org/research/archives.html>. Certain archival records have been microfilmed by the Archives of American Art which makes them available internationally through inter-library loan.
- Staff:** The Museum Archives staff includes a full-time professional Museum Archivist, Associate Archivist, Archives Specialist, Records Manager and part-time Assistant. Additional staff consists of grant-funded project staff and interns.