

Finding Aid for the Records of SEMVA, 1989-2015

Collection Overview

Title: Records of SEMVA, 1989-2015

Primary Creator: Southeastern Minnesota Visual Artists (SEMVA), Rochester, Minnesota

Other Creators: Olmsted County Historical Society, Rochester, Minnesota

Extent: 1.92 Linear Feet, 3 boxes

Arrangement: The Records of SEMVA are arranged into seven series.

Series 1. Activities: Arranged alphabetically by subject, then chronologically within each subject.

Series 2. Administrative Files: Arranged alphabetically by subject, then chronologically within each subject.

Series 3. Newspaper Clippings: Arranged chronologically.

Series 4. Publications and Promotional Material: Arranged by subject, then chronologically within each subject.

Series 5. Miscellaneous: Arranged by subject, then chronologically within each subject.

Series 6. Photographs: Arranged chronologically.

Series 7. Oversized: Since the records of this series are small in number, they are in no particular order.

Subjects: Art, Visual; Artist-run galleries; Artists

Languages: English

Scope and Contents of the Materials

This collection of records contains material that documents both the administrative and public activities of Southeastern Minnesota Visual Artists (SEMVA) from 1989 to 2015. Meeting minutes, newspaper clippings, and newsletters are especially well represented. Photographs further document SEMVA activities. The bulk of the material is from the 1990s.

Series 1. Activities

This series contains material related to public activities either hosted by SEMVA or attended by SEMVA members, including classes, exhibits, and events. A handful of items date to the 2000s and 2010s, but most of the items date from the mid-1990s.

Series 2. Administrative Files

This series contains material related to the administrative activities of SEMVA. Documents include by-laws, correspondence, legal records, financial material, meeting minutes, organizational structure, and membership. Most of the items date from the early to mid-1990s. Meeting minutes make up the bulk of this series and are comprehensive from 1989 to 2005.

Series 3. Newspaper Clippings

This series contains newspaper and magazine clippings related to SEMVA activities and artists and art in Rochester. Some of the clippings are simply ads for SEMVA that appeared in various publications. The clippings are comprehensive from 1989 to 1998, with heavy concentration in 1992 and 1993. From 2003 onward, clippings are limited.

Series 4. Publications and Promotional Material

This series contains SEMVA publications and material related to promoting the organization. Items include brochures, press releases, and documents regarding promotional agencies and opportunities. Newsletters make up the bulk of this series and are comprehensive from 1990-2008. Most of the other items date from the early to mid-1990s.

Series 5. Miscellaneous

This series contains a variety of material related to SEMVA, most notably certificates and gallery logs.

Series 6. Photographs

This series contains photographs documenting numerous exhibits and events in which SEMVA and its members participated. Most of the photographs date from the 1990s.

Series 7. Oversized

This series contains a limited number of items that are too large to fit elsewhere in the collection, including a photograph and artwork.

Biographical Note

Southeastern Minnesota Visual Artists, an artists' cooperative, formed in Rochester, Minnesota, in 1988 with the mission of assisting and promoting artists from southeastern Minnesota. For the first few years, members met socially as a group and organized art shows to display members' work. SEMVA incorporated in 1991 and in 1992 opened a gallery in a downtown Rochester store fronting on the Peace Plaza. Aside from the gallery, SEMVA and its members displayed art at other locations around Rochester. The gallery at this location existed and thrived for 23 years. All artists took turns working as clerks in the gallery, and members who had special skills in accounting, marketing, maintenance, and administration performed those tasks as unpaid volunteers. In late December 2015, the gallery was forced to close when lease negotiations with the landlord broke down. At that time, there were more than 80 exhibiting members of SEMVA. In February of 2017, SEMVA obtained a new gallery space at 320 South Broadway.

Subject/Index Terms

Art, Visual

Artist-run galleries

Artists

Administrative Information

Repository: Olmsted County Historical Society/History Center of Olmsted County

Accessions: 2016.018

Access Restrictions: There are no access restrictions.

Use Restrictions: Permission to publish, quote, and reproduce must be secured from the copyright holder.

Preferred Citation: Records of SEMVA. Olmsted County Historical Society, Rochester, Minnesota.

Processing Information: Processed by Krista Lewis, March and April 2017.

Finding Aid Revision History: Created by Krista Lewis, April 2017

Box and Folder Listing

Series 1: Activities

Box 1: H.4.f

Folder 1: Activities

Unit 1: Calendars, 1992, 1994

Unit 2: Classes, 1992-1994, 1997, 2008

Unit 3: Exhibits and Events, 1991-1996, 2007-2008, 2012-2013, 2015

Series 2: Administrative Files

Box 1: H.4.f

Folder 2: Administrative Files

Unit 1: Articles of Incorporation, undated

Unit 2: By-Laws, 1993-1994, 2004

Unit 3: Correspondence, undated, 1990-1993

Unit 4: Correspondence/Memoranda (internal), undated, 1992-1994, 2013, 2015

Unit 5: Legal Records, 1991-1992

Unit 6: Rules and Regulations, 1991-1993

Unit 7: Miscellaneous

Folder 3: Administrative Files, Financial Material, 1991-2001, 2010s

Folder 4: Administrative Files, Meeting Minutes, 1989-1991

Folder 5: Administrative Files, Meeting Minutes, 1992-1994

Folder 6: Administrative Files, Meeting Minutes, 1995-2005

Folder 7: Administrative Files, Organization and Membership

Unit 1: Individual Profiles

Unit 2: Members

Unit 3: Organizational Structure – Descriptions, Members Serving

Series 3: Newspaper Clippings

Box 1: H.4.f

Folder 8: Newspaper Clippings, undated, 1989-1991

Folder 9: Newspaper Clippings, 1992-1993

Folder 10: Newspaper Clippings, 1994-1998

Folder 11: Newspaper Clippings, 2003, 2007-2008, 2012-2016

Series 4: Publications and Promotional Material

Box 1: H.4.f

Folder 12: Publications and Promotional Material

Unit 1: Brochures

Unit 2: Press Releases, 1990-1996

Unit 3: Promotional Agencies, undated, 1990-1991, 1994, 1996

Folder 13: Publications and Promotional Material, Newsletters, 1990-1998

Folder 14: Publications and Promotional Material, Newsletters, 1999-2000

Folder 15: Publications and Promotional Material, Newsletters, 2001-2003

Folder 16: Publications and Promotional Material, Newsletters, 2004-2008

Series 5: Miscellaneous

Box 1: H.4.f

Folder 17: Miscellaneous

Folder 18: Miscellaneous, Certificates

Folder 19: Miscellaneous, Gallery Logs, 1992

Series 6: Photographs

Box 2: H.4.f

Folder 1: Photographs, Early SEMVA Days, 1991

Folder 2: Photographs, 1992

Folder 3: Photographs, 1994-1997, 2007-2008, 2012

Folder 4: Slides

Series 7: Oversized Material

Box 3: H.4.f

Item 1: Photograph

Item 2: Artwork: *Peace Plaza* by Ron Hunt, June 15, 2012