



Policy Number	Library Policy
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Policy Officer	Vanessa Kam
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ARTISTS' BOOKS COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY

ENABLING LEGISLATION + LINKED POLICIES

All related ECU policies:

- *Collection Development Policy*
- *Library Donation Guidelines*
- *Archives and Special Collections Policy*
- *Artists' Books Access Policy*

SCOPE + APPLICATION

The Library + Archives recognizes the value and significance of its artists' book collection and is committed to the further development of this unique collection area. The collection represents an effort to maintain an ongoing conversation between contemporary practice and key figures of the international avant-garde art movements of Fluxus, Conceptual and Performance Art. The library is committed to supporting local, Indigenous, Canadian and global creators, . The collection acknowledges informal networks between structure, form and conceptualization, and upholds the tactile, interactive nature of printed books

The aim of collection development for Artists' Books is not to develop a comprehensive archive of the works of few select artist(s) but rather collect broadly from many artists and/or collectives work, with a commitment to collecting work by IBPOC, 2SLGBTQIA+, neurodivergent creators and artists with disabilities.

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT CRITERIA

- Correlation to the existing collection: Priority will be given to materials that relate to historical and current practices of democratic multiple artists' books, while addressing gaps in artist representation. Place of Publication: Collection development is international in scope but with special consideration for local and Indigenous works that contribute to the fabric of local art scenes.
- Chronological coverage: Emphasis on collecting contemporary materials in response to emerging fields of study and contemporary art movements. Retrospective purchasing (1960's onwards) only occurs on special occasions in consideration of budget limitations, or through donations.

- Format: Emphasis is on collecting democratic multiples (works of art that are accessible to produce and inexpensive to purchase), and artist publishing, with special consideration of form, structure and conceptualization; and books that demonstrate a variety of printing and binding techniques.
- Language: English and multi-language/biscriptual materials are collected.

Exclusions: Formats not currently collected include virtual artists' books, which can be found in subscription databases; one-of-a-kind book works; and limited edition, fine-printing or binding. Books must be in editions of 50 or more to be considered for acquisition.

SELECTION

The Collections Librarian is the primary selector for the Artists' book collection. We welcome suggestions from the Emily Carr community, such as faculty, staff and students.

ACQUISITIONS

Books are purchased from a variety of sources including artists' book vendors, individual presses, publishers, galleries, and often directly from the artist(s).

DONATIONS

Donations are evaluated for addition to the collection applying the same criteria used to purchase artists' books. We welcome submissions that enhance the diversity of artists in the collection.