

**Finding Aid to
UN Conference on Women: Global Focus
(Beijing)
1995
Archives of Women Artists**

Finding Aid Prepared by: Emily Moore (April, 2020)
Collection Processed by: Rebecca Quon (2014)

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Overview

Repository Information:

National Museum of Women in the Arts,
Betty Boyd Dettre Library & Research Center
1250 New York Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20005
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Title:

UN Conference on Women: Global Focus

Provenance:

This vast collection of material comprising the Global Focus Collection was donated to the the Library and Research Center (LRC) of the National Museum of Women in the Arts (NMWA) in 1997 by the Global Focus project directors Nancy Cusick and Mal Johnson.

Collection Dates:

Inclusive Dates: 1989-1995
Bulk Dates: 1995

Physical Description:

52 boxes (approx. 37 linear feet)

Summary:

Global Focus was a project founded by artist and project director Nancy Cusick. It gave women artists the opportunity to participate in the dialogue of the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women and the NGO (Non-Governmental Organizations) Forum from August 30 to September 12, 1995 in Beijing, China.

Administrative Information

Access Information:

Unrestricted

Preferred Citation:

Item, Date, Series, UN Conference on Women: Global Focus, Archives of Women Artists, National Museum of Women in the Arts, Betty Boyd Dettre Library & Research Center.

Publication and Photocopies Note:

Permission from the National Museum of Women in the Arts required for publication and reproduction of original materials. Photocopies of original materials can be made for a fee and at the discretion of the library director.

Related Materials Note:

Betty Boyd Dettre Library and Research Center (LRC) Collection

Archival collections:

UN Conference on Women: International Festival of Women Artists, 1979-1981
(Copenhagen, Denmark)

UN Conference on Women: Focus International Festival, 1984-1986 (Nairobi, Kenya)

Online Resources

<https://www.beijingjournal.online/> - Created by Maureen Burns-Bowie, Director, UN Program of Women's Caucus for Art, this online journal is a compilation of diary-like recollections of conference attendees.

Processed by:

Mary Oliver Humke (1994)

Rebecca Quon (2014)

Processing Note:

The Copenhagen and Nairobi finding aids were prepared and collection processed by Mary Oliver Humke in 1994. The Beijing finding aid was prepared and collection processed in

1998. The collections were further processed and finding aids updated in 2014 by Rebecca Quon. Subsequent LRC support provided in 2017 to create an overarching finding aid under the title UN World Conferences on Women which would have served as the umbrella finding aid to the three collection series. Series 1: International Festival of Women Artists (Copenhagen, Denmark). Series 2: Focus International (Nairobi, Kenya). Series 3: Global Focus (Beijing, China). It is unclear why an overarching finding aid was never created. A re-evaluation of the collections and their inventories lead to the 2020 decision to keep the collections separate in order to maintain proper records of provenance and ensure usability for researchers. To this end, a new set of finding aids was created by Emily Moore in April of 2020.

Two unprocessed boxes (boxes 53 and 54) was discovered in spring of 2020. Neither are listed in the inventory, but box 53 consists of Series 1: Administrative Papers. Box 54 appears to be similar, with added materials regarding the exhibition at NMWA. Both should be fully processed, with rehousing and description, and added to this finding aid.

Historical Note

Global Focus: Women in Art and Culture was a project founded by artist and project director Nancy Cusick. It gave women artists the opportunity to participate in the dialogue of the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women and the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) Forum from August 30 to September 12, 1995 in Beijing, China. Women artists from around the world were invited to use their chosen media as a vehicle to produce works of art that evoked the universal issues paramount to women, their lives, and their position within the framework of society. Co-sponsored by NMWA, and financially supported by both the National Women's Conference Committee and the contributions of participating artists, Global Focus presented an art exhibition, a video festival, slide presentations, performance pieces, and workshops that showed the artistic accomplishments and creativity of women. Most of the 880 artworks, produced by women artists from 27 countries, were displayed at the World Trade Center in Beijing, China. A smaller group of works were also exhibited in Hairou, China. These artworks formed a visual landscape of powerful images that immortalized the women's issues and themes which encompassed the conference—Equality, Development, and Peace.

Following the exhibition of the Global Focus artworks in Beijing, China, the corpus of works traveled to various international locations. Immediately after the close of the Beijing exhibit, a selection of 53 American paintings were displayed at the Elite Gallery in Moscow from October to November 1995. Subsequently, in November 1995, a selection of 200 works adorned the walls of the art gallery at the United States Department of Health and

Human Services in Washington D.C. Simultaneously, another group of artworks from the collection were exhibited at the United States Information Agency also in Washington D.C. On March 20, 1996, the first public showing of the collection in the United States opened at NMWA in Washington D.C. with a day-long celebration revisiting and reflecting upon the experiences in Beijing. This exhibition, titled *Look at the World Through Women's Eyes*, was on display through April 21, 1996. On September 28, 1996, the collection was exhibited at George Washington University in Washington D.C. during the National Women's Satellite Conference hosted by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton. From April to June 1997, a selection of 300 works from the collection were exhibited at the Peace Museum in Detroit. The last public display of the Global Focus exhibit was shown during the 20th Anniversary Celebration of the 1977 Spirit of Houston Conference in Washington D.C. After this final showing, the large group of artworks ended its journey, and the entire collection was presented by the project co-directors Nancy Cusick and Mal Johnson to the archives of the National Museum of Women in the Arts.

The significance of the Global Focus Collection lies in the fact that it consists of a diverse array of art that visually documents the universality of issues that confront women. Now, as it rests within the Archives on Women Artists, this collection has become an important historical record of the artistic contributions that women continue to give to the world.

Scope and Content Note

The Global Focus Collection consists of administrative papers and artworks with accompanying slides that were displayed and presented during the Global Focus exhibition in Beijing, China. The administrative papers of the collection date from 1994 to 1996. The artworks and slides range in date from 1989.

The Administrative Papers series are a diverse group of documents, including signed application forms submitted by participating artists, a collection of articles announcing and describing the exhibit and its objectives, as well as letters and forms documenting artists' comments pertaining to the future of the Global Focus Collection. In addition, official business correspondence on Global Focus letterhead sent to participants and other important individuals are also included. The series also contains a contact list of organizations and individuals, proposals submitted as ideas for the interpretive performance activities at the exhibit, materials describing the video festival section of the exhibit, lists for discussion sessions during Global Focus workshops, participant lists, and photographs showing samples of displayed artworks. Lastly, a variety of publications such

as broadsides, brochures, a catalogue, invitations, programs, registration forms, and a newsletter are in the administrative papers.

Artworks in the collection are in a variety of media, styles and forms. Painting, sculpture, collages, black & white and color photographs, etchings, computer art/digital photography, wood engravings, drawings, silk screen prints, calligraphy, lithographs and works produced in mixed media are all represented within the Global Focus Collection. The artworks embrace and depict a number of issues and themes, and the styles are international, individualistic and creative. Most of the participating artists two works. The majority of the works are signed and dated, and some are accompanied by interpretive comments written by the artists.

The slides in the collection are those submitted by participating artists for presentation in the slide show during the exhibit. The slides depict original works created by the artists. There is also a collection of artists' videos.

Organization and Arrangement Information

Arrangement Note:

5 legal size document boxes
46 artifact boxes
1 oversized box

Series 1: Administrative Papers

Series 2: Artworks

Series 3: Slides

Series 4: Video Recordings

Container Inventory

Series #1: Administrative Papers

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
1	1	Applications: A - AL
1	2	Applications: AM - AZ
1	3	Applications: B - BEL
1	4	Applications: BEN - BL
1	5	Applications: BO - BY
1	6	Applications: C - CL

1	7	Applications: CO - CU
1	8	Applications: D - DI
1	9	Applications: DO - DU
1	10	Applications: E
1	11	Applications: F
1	12	Applications: G - GO
1	13	Applications: GR - GU
1	14	Applications: H - HAW
1	15	Applications: HAY - HI
1	16	Applications: HO - HU
1	17	Applications: I
1	18	Applications: J
1	19	Applications: K
1	20	Applications: L - LEE
1	21	Applications: LEM - LY
1	22	Applications: M - MA
1	23	Applications: MC - ME
1	24	Applications: MI - MY
1	25	Applications: O
1	26	Applications: N
1	27	Applications: P - PI
1	28	Applications: PL - PU
2	29	Applications: Q
2	30	Applications: R - ROL
2	31	Applications: ROS - RU
2	32	Applications: S - SEG
2	33	Applications: SER - SK
2	34	Applications: SM - SW
2	35	Applications: T
2	36	Applications: U
2	37	Applications: V
2	38	Applications: W - WE
2	39	Applications: WH - WO
2	40	Applications: X
2	41	Applications: Y
2	42	Applications: Z
3	43	Articles
3	44	Artists' Comments: A - W
3	45	Correspondence - Artists: A - BO
3	46	Correspondence - Artists: BR - C (1994 - 1996)
3	47	Correspondence - Artists: D - HA (1994 - 1996)
3	48	Correspondence - Artists: HE - KI (1994 - 1996)
3	49	Correspondence - Artists: KO - L (1994 - 1996)

3	50	Correspondence - Artists: M - N (1994 - 1995)
3	51	Correspondence - Artists: O - STA (1994 - 1996)
3	52	Correspondence - Artists: STO - Z (1994 - 1996)
3	53	Correspondence - Business: (Jul. 14, 1994 - Dec. 1997)
3	54	Database Printouts: File No. 1 - 19
3	55	Database Printouts: File No. 20 - 37
3	55a	Database Printouts: File No. 2 - 31
3	56	Financial Papers: Deposit Statements (Jan. 31, 1995 - Apr. 25, 1995)
3	57	Financial Papers: Deposit Statements (May 18, 1995 - Aug. 3, 1995)
3	58	Financial Papers: Miscellaneous:
3	59	Miscellaneous: Filing Instructions
3	60	Miscellaneous: Partial Contact List: A - L
3	61	Miscellaneous: Performance Proposals
3	62	Miscellaneous: Video Festival
3	62a	Miscellaneous: Video Festival: Video Information
3	62b	Miscellaneous: Video Festival: Video Information
3	63	Miscellaneous: Workshop Ideas
3	64	Participants: Beijing, China Exhibit
3	65	Participants: Beijing, China Exhibit
3	66	Participants: George Washington University Exhibit
3	67	Participants: Hairou, China Works
3	68	Participants: International Entries
3	69	Participants: Moscow Exhibit - Elite Gallery
3	70	Participants: United States Department of Health and Human Services Exhibit
3	71	Participants: United States Information Agency Exhibit
3	72	Photographs
3	72a	Proposal: Participation (Jun. 13, 1984)
3	73	Publications: Acknowledgments
3	74	Publications: Applications Blank
3	75	Publications: Broadside: Global Focus: Women in the Art and Culture: A Project of NMWA
3	76	Publication: Women Artists Invited To Exhibit At Beijing Conference
3	77	Publications: Brochure: First U.S. Showing "Look At The World Through Women's Eyes"
3	78-80	Publications: Brochures: Guidelines and Application For Participation
3	81	Publications: Catalogue: "Look At The World Through Women's Eyes"
3	82	Publications: Fact Sheet

3	83	Publications: Invitation: "Look At The World Through Women's Eyes"
3	84	Publications: Newsletter: "A Report From The Fourth World Conference On Women"
3	85	Publications: Preliminary Program
3	86	Publications: Program: "Look At The World Through Women's Eyes"
3	87	Publications: Registration Forms

Series #2: Artworks

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
4	88-115	ABO - ARN
5	116-135	ARR - BAY
6	136-166	BEG - BLO
7	167-197	BOH - BYE
8	198-220	CAB - CHI
9	221-236	CLA - COP
10	237-256	COR - DAN
11	257-271	DAR - DEU
12	272-286	DEU - DRA
13	287-308	DUN - ERI
14	309-337	FAL - GAR
15	33-8-345	GAU - GOL
16	346-364	GOO - GRU
17	365-390	GUT - HAY
18	391-419	HEE - HOW
19	420-456	HUG - KAT
20	457-487	KAU - KUZ
21	488-508	LAF - LEC
22	509-535	LED - LUS
23	536-554	MAC - MAZ
24	555-574	MCB - MEN
25	575-596	MEN - MOO
26	597-623	MOR - NIL
27	624-654	NIX - OST
28	655-683	PAR - PIA
29	684-697	PIC - BUR
30	698-713	PTA - REI
31	714-736	REZ - STE
32	737-754	ROSS - SAN

33	755-757	SAN - SAU
34	758-779	SCH - SHA
35	780-788	SHA - SHE
36	789-814	SIB - SOR
37	815-827	SPA - STE
38	828-855	STO - TUR
39	856-861	UND - UY
40	862-891	VAR - WEI
41	892-908	WEI - WIS
42	909-937	WOG - ZWI
43	938-942	NOV - OTT
44	943	MEN

Series #3: Slides

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
OVR45	944	Slide Inventory: Slide box 1: A-CH Slide box 2: CHI-GAN Slide box 3: GAR-KUJ Slide box 4: KUO-NOR Slide box 5: NOV-RO Slide box 6: RU-WEINB After box 6: WEINT-WH, WI-ZA, ZH-ZW

Series #4: Video Recordings

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
46	945-954	Ten VHS
47	955-964	Ten VHS
48	965-974	Ten VHS
49	975-984	Ten VHS
50	985-987	Three VHS
51	988-990	Three VHS
52	991-993	Three VHS

Unprocessed

Box #
53
54

