Archives and Special Collections
Overview

The University’s Archives & Special Collections offer a rare and unique insight into the often forgotten and undocumented, offering a rich range of original primary sources which promote learning, teaching and research practice in the creative arts, as well as enriching the student experience.

The University’s holdings are diverse, and include: original letters, artists’ papers, sketchbooks, reels and artwork, with particular strengths in arts activism, animation and photography. Materials include the works of Oscar winning animator Bob Godfrey, and photographer Tessa Boffin, as well as the University’s institutional records, celebrating 150 years of its significant creative and cultural contribution to arts education in the UK.

The collections transcend traditional disciplinary and subject areas, and enable the exploration of creative practice from different perspectives and offer new and exciting research opportunities and initiatives.

Useful links

▶ The UCA Archives blog is full of useful content and interesting articles
▶ UCA Library Instagram
▶ Any enquiries? Email us at archives@uca.ac.uk

Images

Front cover: Diagram Visual Information Ltd, c1990
Opposite: Candyland Zoo, Herbert Read Gallery, 2003

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Canterbury archive collections

Institutional Archive
Canterbury School of Art, which includes:
- A wide range of prospectuses; many from the 1970s with one dated at 1949
- College publications including in house productions from the College of Art Press
- Student produced journals dating back to 1948
- Exhibition catalogues from student shows and the Herbert Read Gallery
- Press cuttings and visitors' books

Al Kailani Collection
Al Kailani was an alumnus who graduated from Canterbury School of Architecture in 1975. His designs were influenced by Islamic art and architecture, religion and philosophy. The collection consists of photographs, architectural drawings and plans, providing a fascinating insight into the development of his architectural projects.

The Drew Gallery Projects
Serves as evidence of the earliest developments in East Kent of the role of public art and regeneration, a forerunner to initiatives such as Stour Valley Arts, Whitstable Biennale and the Folkestone Triennial. Between the 1980s and 90s, Sandra Drew curated temporary art and sculpture exhibitions alongside the Canterbury Festival. The archive comprises of a range of archive material such as posters, reviews and photographic documentation.

Stour Valley Arts
An arts organisation which engaged the public through commissioned art projects in the context of King's Wood, Ashford, Kent. The collection exemplifies the continuing development of public art in East Kent from 1994 to 2015. It contains information regarding the commissioning of these projects in the form of visitor books, funding bids, minutes, business plans, photographs, publicity and educational material.

Herbert Read Gallery Archive
This collection consists of administrative papers, publicity material, flyers, press releases and photographs generated by the gallery from 1983 to 2007. The Herbert Read Gallery is the campus exhibition space at UCA Canterbury, founded in 1984 and rebuilt in 2001. It hosts exhibitions and events on architecture, fine arts, design and fashion. Artists who have shown at the gallery include Yoko Ono, Jeremy Deller, Mark Titchner, Mike Nelson, Hans Haacke, Fischli & Weiss, Atelier van Lieshout, Adam Chodzko and Susan Hiller. The gallery has also displayed outstanding projects by UCA students, and the annual BA and MA Graduation shows.

Image: Billy Childish: 25 Years of Being Childish, George Rodger Gallery, 2002

Canterbury special book collections

Artists' Books
The artists' books are either fine art or illustrative in concept demonstrating different forms of narrative and graphic expression. The collection also contains zines by artists and students.

Herbert Read Book Collection
Sir Herbert Read (1893 – 1968) was a British art historian, poet, literary critic and philosopher, best known for numerous books on art. The collection consists of books on poetry, sculpture, drawing, art history and theory, and psychology.

How to access:
- myLibrary via myUCA
- ask Gateway staff for access to specific items
- T: +44 (0)1227 817 314
- E: gatewaycanterbury@uca.ac.uk
- E: archives@uca.ac.uk

Image: Billy Childish: 25 Years of Being Childish, George Rodger Gallery, 2002
Epsom archive collections

Institutional Archive
Epsom School of Art & Design, which includes:

- Minutes of the Academic Board and Governors meetings from 1943 to the present day
- A selection of prospectuses and course timetables from 1896 – 1990
- Building information including blueprints and plans of the original and current sites
- Exhibition catalogues and publications covering the entire history of the Epsom campus
- A collection of marketing and publicity material including copies of newspapers and periodicals showing advertisements and press. There is also a large collection of press cuttings

The Diagram Group 1960s - 2000s
The Diagram Group was founded in 1960 by Bob Chapman and Bruce Robertson: a cooperative group of graphic designers, writers, artists and editors producing high quality graphic and text content, including diagrams, charts, tables, maps and illustrations. Diagram Visual Information was developed as a supplier to publishers of visualised information in Britain. Our collection consists of original manuscripts and published books which were catalogued on the library catalogue.

Typographic Circle poster collection (2008 - 2015)
The Typographic Circle was founded by Maggie Lewis in 1976, who brought together people with an interest in typography and type. The poster collection publicises talks and exhibitions by the Circle. Designers who presented at the TypoCircle events over the years include Alan Kitching, Jonathan Barnbrook, Marina Willer and Snask. In 2016 they celebrated their 40th anniversary by producing a history of the organisation; it includes essays by Lynda Relph-Knight and Sallyanne Theodosiou. The collection provides an exciting range of typographic design.

Epsom special book collections
The collection is intended to demonstrate the diverse and creative nature of artists' books. This is an inspirational resource for fine art, fashion, photography and those studying graphic design. There is also a collection of zines, some of which have been produced by Fashion Promotion students.

Image: Epsom School of Art and Design Fashion Show, 1987

How to access:
- myLibrary via myUCA
- ask Gateway staff for access to specific items
- T: +44 (0)1372 202 461
- E: gatewayepsom@uca.ac.uk
- E: archives@uca.ac.uk
Farnham archive collections

Institutional Archive
Consists of archive material from:
- Farnham School of Art 1951 – 1979: committee records, prospectuses and staff photographs
- Guildford School of Art: including prospectuses, press cuttings and publicity student magazines
- West Surrey College of Art and Design 1969 – 1994: prospectuses, student societies, department school records, institutional reviews, publications, Guildford School of Art protest information
- Surrey Institute of Art and Design 1994 – 2005: faculty, school and administrative body records
- University College for the Creative Arts: records from the merger of the six art and design schools in 2005, comprising of material from faculties, departments and administrative bodies

Bob Godfrey
Internationally celebrated animator, who founded the Animation programme at UCA Farnham in the 1970s (formerly West Surrey College of Art). Records include scripts, storyboards, correspondence, animation cels, pencil drawings, award certificates, publicity, distribution and exhibitions, along with the studio's collection of books which is now the Bob Godfrey Library. The archive also includes personal drawings from Bob Godfrey and photographs of Godfrey and his colleagues, family and friends.

Tim Brennan
Work of the artist Tim Brennan, engaged in the notion of discursive practice through performance, photography, sculpture, writing, drawing, painting, curating and teaching.

Business Cards
The collection is unique – 240,000 business cards from across the world; ephemera dating from the mid-nineteenth century. The collection provides a representative set demonstrating the development of the business calling card as a medium of advertising over more than a century.

Working Press
The Working Press is a collective publishing imprint which had the subtitle ‘books by and about Working Class Artists, 1986 - 1996’. This collection consists of material collected by Stefan Szczeluk. The collection includes correspondence, reviews of the books, discussion of the books, requests for books, and publishing and networking activity.

Farnham special book collections

Artists’ Books
As well as being of interest to students of fine art, illustration, photography, graphic and book design, the collection also includes inspirational examples of unusual narrative structure, expressing an idea in three-dimensional form and using text or typography.

Bookroom Collection
The Bookroom research cluster, based in Farnham and formed in 2004 by Professor Anna Fox and Emmanuelle Waeckerle from the Photography department, focuses on critical and practice based research into the photographic book and the printed page. Bookroom has also been involved in the development of the UCA MA in Book Art and Publishing.

How to access:
- myLibrary via myUCA
- ask Gateway staff for access to specific items
- T: +44 (0)1522 892 709
- E: gatewayfarnham@uca.ac.uk
- E: archives@uca.ac.uk
**Rochester archive collections**

**Institutional Archives**
The archive at Rochester Library holds material covering most of the college’s life and changes. The collection includes:
- A wide range of prospectuses from 1928 onwards including the occasional artwork produced as a publication during the early years – for example, The Gaffer’s Masterpiece (February 1936)
- College and course information, including annual reports, award ceremonies and desk diaries
- Student fashion shows
- Exhibition catalogues from student shows and the KIAD Update Magazine 1991 – 1997
- Press cuttings books dating from 1962, as well as many photographs from the early years of both the College and the Library
- 100 years of Medway College of Design, 1986

**Tessa Boffin Archive**
Tessa Boffin was a lecturer in the photography department of the University up until her death in 1992. As a photographer and performance artist, her artistic practice developed around LGBT, gay and lesbian culture and producing work in response to HIV/AIDS. She co-curated the exhibition Ecstatic Antibodies: Resisting the AIDS Mythology and produced a book of the same title. This archive contains her private collection of books, postcards, images, teaching, research and biographical material as well as original photographs.

**The Lynne Dennis Textile Sketchbook Collection**
This collection comprises of textile sketchbooks created in the 1980s by Lynne Dennis (alias Edwina Rosalyn), a member of the Embroiderers’ Guild. These inspiring sketchbooks are fine examples of how to keep working journals and sketchbooks, and give context in terms of what was in the curriculum for textiles in the 1980s.

**Image:** Tessa Boffin: The Sailor and the Showgirl, 1993

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**Rochester special book collections**

**Urban Fox Press**
Founded by Dave Wise in Chatham in 2003, Urban Fox Press was a community arts organisation that grew out of a growing frustration with the lack of outlets for the area’s painters, writers, poets, musicians and photographers. Urban Fox brought together artists and musicians from across Medway and gave them a platform to perform, exhibit and have their work published. The Press produced high-quality low-print run books of work by local artists and writers, including Billy Childish, Wolf Howard, Sexton Ming, Bill Lewis, Zara Carpenter, Katherine May, Joe Machine, Michael Curtis, The Medway Mermaids and David Wise.

**Tessa Boffin Library**
Tessa Boffin’s library consists of 509 books covering photography, gender identity, lesbianism, feminism, sex, women, AIDS, psychoanalysis and pornography.

**How to access:**
- myLibrary via myUCA
- ask Gateway staff for access to specific items
- T: +44 (0)1634 888 754
- E: gatewayrochester@uca.ac.uk
- E: archives@uca.ac.uk