Descriptive Summary

Creator: Atlanta Contemporary Art Center.
Title: Atlanta Contemporary Art Center records, 1973-2010
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 1332
Extent: 151 linear feet (151 boxes)
Abstract: Records of the Atlanta Contemporary Art Center and the Nexus Press including administrative files, exhibition catalogs, and artists books.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access
Special restrictions apply: In-process collection. As of March 2016, this collection will be closed to researchers, and will reopen when processing is complete.

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Source
Purchase, 2015

Citation
[after identification of item(s)], Atlanta Contemporary Art Center records, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

Processing
Described by Carrie Hintz, May 2015.

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Collection Description

Biographical Note
The Atlanta Contemporary Art Center is a non-profit, non-collaborating arts organization dedicated to the creation, presentation, and advancement of contemporary art by emerging and established artists.

The organization began in 1973 as Nexus, a grassroots arts cooperative founded by a group of Atlanta-based artists. The organization, a combination of a gallery, a community space, and an alternative arts center, operated out of a storefront in Atlanta's Virginia Highlands neighborhood until 1976 when it leased space in a former elementary school in the Old Fourth Ward. The larger space allowed for increased public programming, was used as studios for working artists, and provided the space necessary to start a publishing venture, Nexus Press. Nexus Press was dedicated to creating and publishing artists’ books. The press closed in 2003 having published over 200 artists’ books as well as numerous posters, flyers, and other printed material during its 26-year run.

The organization was renamed Nexus Contemporary Art Center in 1984 and in 1989 Nexus began its move into its current home in Atlanta’s Westside neighborhood. In 2000 Nexus renamed itself the Atlanta Contemporary Art Center, often referred to as The Contemporary. The Contemporary continues to operate, hosting art exhibitions, public programming, and offering studio space to local artists.

Scope and Content Note
The collection documents the activities of the center from its early days as the Nexus Contemporary Art Center through 2010. The records include administrative records, exhibition files, exhibition catalogues, newsletters, promotional materials, press releases, photographs of exhibitions and events, and artist books produced by Nexus Press.

Arrangement Note
Collection is unarranged. Collection is described to the collection level.
None