

Guide to the William A. and Gael Crimmins papers and photos on Monumenta

By Shelley Byron and Maria Bernier

Overview of the Collection

Repository: Salve Regina University Special Collections, McKillop Library, Salve Regina University, Newport, RI

Collectors: Crimmins, William A. and Crimmins, Gael, 1941-

Title: William A. and Gael Crimmins papers and photos on Monumenta

Dates: 1974-2004, bulk 2004

Quantity: 8.33 linear feet (8 flat boxes (10"x13") and 1 oversize flat box (14"x20"))

Abstract: This collection contains articles and photographs related to the modern art exhibit held in Newport in 1974. It also contains exhibit photographs and labels related to Re:Monumenta, an event held in 2004 to emphasize the importance of the original exhibit.

Collection #: SP 3

Location: Cabinet 2c

Language: English

Historical Note

Monumenta was an outdoor modern art exhibit held in Newport, Rhode Island, in 1974. It consisted of fifty-four sculptures which had been created by forty different artists, including Christo, Willem De Koonig, Kosso Eloul, Richard Fleischner, Anne Healy, and James Rosati. The sculptures were loaned to Monumenta on a temporary basis for the sole purpose of the exhibit, which was open to the public from August 17 to October 13, 1974.

The exhibit spanned ten different locations around Newport, including Bowens Wharf, Brick Market Place, Chateau-sur-Mer, the Elms, King's Beach, various locations on Ocean Drive, and Perrotti Park. Some of these sites were public areas owned by the state and town, while others were owned by the Preservation Society of Newport County. William Crimmins, a resident of Newport, organized the exhibit, and Sam Hunter, a professor of art from Princeton, was the director.

Monumenta's 30th anniversary was commemorated in 2004 in a month-long celebration called Re:Monumenta. Four local arts and cultural organizations – Project One, Island Moving Company, Island Arts, and Salve Regina University – presented a series of lectures, dance performances, public sculpture and gallery exhibitions. The exhibition Monumenta Redux, held at the Island Arts Gallery during the month of September 2004, presented reproductions of photographs, sketches, press clippings and memorabilia related to the original show. Re:Monumenta called the public's attention back to the importance of the fifty-four sculptures that once stood throughout Newport.

Scope and Contents

The Monumenta collection deals primarily with events that occurred after the opening of the exhibit. There are many newspaper articles from 1974 which represent both a positive and negative reaction to Monumenta. Also in the collection there are magazine and journal reviews of the exhibit. From the exhibit itself, there are maps which guided visitors to the location of each sculpture throughout Newport. There are various photographs included in the collection as well as foam-mounted wall board photographs from the Monumenta Redux exhibit. A digital copy of photographs is included on a DVD with a master directory.

There are no planning documents and no correspondence related to the artists and directors of the

exhibit.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged in three series:

Series 1: Printed material, 1974

Series 2: Images, 1974

Series 3: Re:Monumenta, 2004

Restrictions

Conditions Governing Access: This collection is not restricted.

Technical Access: A computer with a DVD drive and software for displaying tiff, jpeg, and pdf files is required for use of the DVD.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use: Various copying restriction apply, according to the Special Collections use policy. Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be directed to the Special Collections Librarian. See also the Library's copyright and publication statement.

Related Material in the Salve Regina Special Collections

- SP 05: Monumenta collection
- Hunter, Sam. Monumenta: a biennial exhibition of outdoor sculpture, Newport, Rhode Island, August 17 through October 13, 1974. Newport, R.I.: Monumenta Newport Inc., 1974. (Salve Newport Collection NB198 .M7)
- Yard, Sally and Gianfranco Gorgoni. Christo: Oceanfront. Princeton, N.J.: Art Museum, Princeton University, 1975. (Salve Newport Collection N7193.C5 P74 1975)

Search Terms

The following terms represent persons, organizations, and topics documented in this collection. To find additional related materials, use these headings to search the HELIN catalog.

Persons:

Crimmins, William A.

Corporate Bodies:

Monumenta Newport Inc.

Subjects:

Art—Exhibitions

Outdoor sculpture—Exhibitions

Sculpture, Modern—20th century—Exhibitions

Newport (R.I.)—Public art—Exhibitions

Document Types:

Photographs

Articles

Occupations:

Artists

Sculptors

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation: [Identification of item], in SP 03: William A. and Gael Crimmins papers and photos on Monumenta, [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections, McKillop Library, Salve Regina University, Newport, RI

History of the collection:

1. The collection was acquired from William A. and Gael Crimmins in summer 2005. They gave the material to Salve Regina professor of art Dr. James Yarnall, who gave it to the

library. This donation was made by the Crimmins in honor of Senator Erich A. O'D. Taylor.

2. The collection was processed by Shelley Byron, Archives Assistant, in 2008.
3. New finding aid produced in 2008 by Shelley Byron, Archives Assistant, and Maria Bernier, University Archivist and Special Collections Librarian.
4. Finding aid posted online in 2008 by Ingrid Levin, Reference Librarian.
5. No additional accruals are expected.

Detailed Description of the Collection

The following section contains a detailed listing of the materials in the collection.

Series 1: Printed material

This series contains newspaper clippings and magazine articles regarding the exhibit as well as a map and photocopy of the exhibit catalog. The magazine items include four original articles as printed in *Vogue*, *Time*, *House and Garden*, and *Domus* (a European arts and architectural magazine), as well as a photocopy of an article from the journal *Art News*. All of those articles comment on the Monumenta exhibit and include some images. In addition to magazines, Monumenta made appearances often in newspapers. Various articles commented upon the general appearance and idea of Monumenta, while other newspaper clippings demonstrate positive and negative reactions from the general public in Newport. The articles also contain photographic images, including some related to the beginning of Monumenta and final exhibit. Tour guide maps directed sightseers to the location of each sculpture around Newport. Lastly, a photocopy of the published Monumenta exhibit catalogue is included. (An original copy of the catalog is shelved in the Special Collections Room, call number Newport Collection NB198 .M7.)

Box 1:

1. Monumenta newspaper clippings, July 1974 – October 1974
2. Monumenta magazine articles, August 1974 – February 1975
3. Monumenta tour guide maps, 1974
4. Monumenta catalog, 1974 (photocopy)

Box 9 (oversize):

1. "Christo: Oceanfront," *Domus*, no. 543 (February 1975)

Series 2: Images

This series contains different formats of images of Monumenta, including photographic prints, postcards, and digital images. There are six 5 x 7 photographic prints of Anne Healy's *Hot Lips* and two original postcards, one of Christo's *Oceanfront* and one of Healy's *Hot Lips*. Two other printed images include participants in Monumenta (including the organizer William Crimmins). This series also includes two identical DVD+Rs with a variety of files related to the exhibit, including photos of the sod maze from 2005, pdf versions of the 1974 exhibit catalog and other books related to the exhibit, and digitized images of the installation of each sculpture and formal photographs of the sculptures in place. These digital files (tiff, jpeg, and pdf) were created by Thomas Palmer, who scanned and retouched original slides taken by a variety of unidentified photographers. The digital files in the DVD folder titled "Formal Shots" depict the same images as the foam-mounted photos in series 3. The .mov file called "Re-Monumenta Movie" will not play.

Box 1:

5. Monumenta images, 1974
6. Monumenta DVD (2 copies)

Series 3: Re:Monumenta

These items date to the Re:Monumenta event in September 2004. The majority of this series consists of exhibit labels and enlarged reproductions of photographs and articles from 1974 that were used in the Monumenta Redux exhibit at the Island Art Gallery. The photographic images are mounted on foam core and measure 8 x 12, and the articles measure 19 x 13. These articles and images can all be found in original form in other folders throughout the collection. In addition, the series contains one folder of items from 2004 on Monumenta Redux, the Wind Sea Sky outdoor sculpture exhibit, and William Crimmins' speech at Salve Regina on September 10.

Box 1:

7. Re:Monumenta, 2004

Box 2:

1. Monumenta Redux label and photos: Brick Market Mall
2. Monumenta Redux label and photos: Perotti Park
3. Monumenta Redux label and photos: Bowen's Wharf

Box 3: Monumenta Redux label and photos: The Elms

Box 4: Monumenta Redux label and photos: Chateau-sur-Mer

Box 5: Monumenta Redux label and photos: Chateau-sur-Mer

Box 6: Monumenta Redux label and photos: Chateau-sur-Mer

Box 7:

1. Monumenta Redux label and photos: Ocean Drive
2. Monumenta Redux label and photos: Goose Neck Pond
3. Monumenta Redux label and photos: Fort Adams
4. Monumenta Redux label and photos: King's Beach

Box 8: Monumenta Redux label and photos: Bleak House Point

Box 9 (oversize):

2. Monumenta Redux exhibit materials: Labels and article reproductions