

# Guide to the Monumenta Collection

By Shelley Byron and Maria Bernier

## Overview of the Collection

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

Creators: Diane Patrella and William Crimmins

Title: Monumenta Collection

Dates: 1988-2007, bulk 2006

Quantity: 0.208 linear feet (1 half document box)

Abstract: This collection contains miscellaneous records related to the Monumenta outdoor art exhibit held in Newport, Rhode Island, in 1974.

Collection #: SP 05

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, 1974 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 Newport resident, organized the exhibit, and the director was Sam Hunter, a professor from Princeton.

Monumenta had a significant impact, both positive and negative, on Newport and its citizens.

## Scope and Contents

This collection contains miscellaneous records related to the Monumenta art exhibit in Newport in 1974. The bulk of the materials were created by Diane M. Patrella, a student at Salve Regina University, who wrote about Monumenta in her senior thesis for the art department. A transcript of her 2005 interview with William Crimmins, the organizer of the original exhibit, is included. The collection contains a copy of her thesis as submitted in May 2006 as well as a version as published in *Newport History*, the journal of the Newport Historical Society, in Spring 2007. Newspaper obituaries of two contributing artists to the Monumenta exhibit are also included in the collection.

## Arrangement

All arranged in one series.

## Restrictions

Conditions Governing Access: This collection is not restricted.

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 03 William A. and Gael Crimmins papers and photos on Monumenta
- 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:

Patrella, Diane  
Crimmins, William A.

Corporate Bodies:

Monumenta Newport Inc.

Subjects:

Art—Exhibitions  
Outdoor sculpture—Exhibitions  
Sculpture, Modern—20<sup>th</sup> century—Exhibitions  
Newport (R.I.)—Public art—Exhibitions

Occupations:

Artists  
Sculptors

## Administrative Information

Preferred Citation: [Identification of item], in SP 05: Monumenta collection, Box 1, [Folder #], Special Collections, McKillop Library, Salve Regina University, Newport, RI

History of the collection:

1. Material acquired from various sources between 2006 and 2007. Professor James Yarnall delivered most items to the library.
2. 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. Additional accruals may be added in the future but are not anticipated.

## Detailed Description of the Collection

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

### Box 1:

1. Interview with William Crimmins by Diane Patrella, November 2005
2. "Monumenta," by Diane Patrella, May 2006
3. *Newport History*, vol. 76, no. 256 (2007) containing articles "Newport and Monumenta: The Ambition, Controversy, and Legacy of Contemporary Sculpture" by Diane Patrella and "Monumenta Redux" by William A. Crimmins
4. Newspaper obituaries of James Rosati and Kosso Eloul, contributing artists, 1988 and 1995