The Geneva Pasternak Foundation

Request for Proposal

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Pratt Institute

LIS 661 - Art Documentation

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Executive Summary

- We aim to organize Geneva Pasternak's collection of artwork and archival material to eventually make it available for donation to museum and library collections

- To achieve this we will implement a five stage plan over the next 5 to 10 years

- We will abide by industry standards to increase discoverability and accessibility to the collection

Gabriel Orozco *Asterisms*, 2012. Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York. (David Heald/SRGF, NY)

Historical Background

- Geneva Pasternak was born on November 29, 1947 in Madison Wisconsin

- In 1965 she moved to New York to study painting at the School of Visual Arts

- After two years of formal schooling, Pasternak dropped out to pursue her artistic practice more seriously

Historical Background

- Pasternak quickly fell in with a group of artists that would become her contemporaries

- She developed a prolific sculpture practice

- She would become associated with the Post Minimalist movement
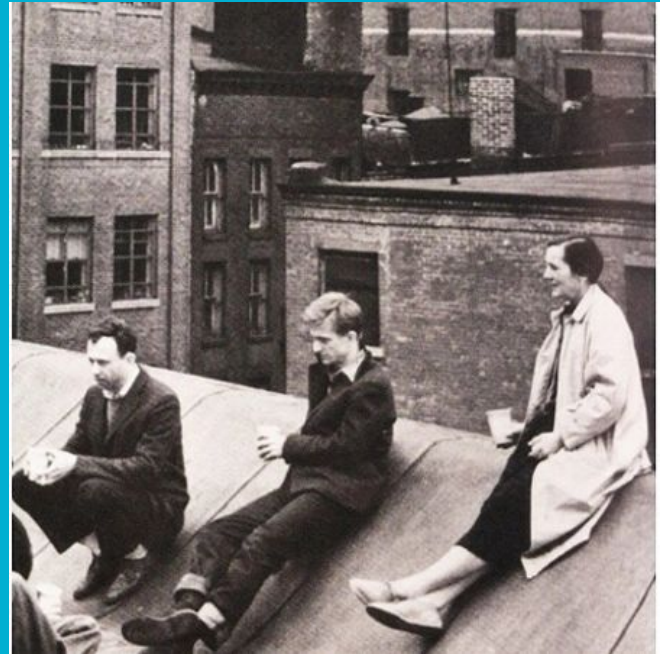
Agnes Martin with Ellsworth Kelly and Jack Youngerman, Photo by Mildred Tolbert

Current Status of Materials and Constituents

- Much of Pasternak's collection is together in her home studio

- Pasternak fastidiously kept records in her lifetime that dealt with her practice as a business

- Her personal assistant, Sidney Brainard, has been conducting a physical inventory of the material and noting preservation and conservation concerns

The Keith Haring Foundation, housed in Keith Haring's former studio (courtesy the Keith Haring Foundation)

Scope of Work

- The collection spans Pasternak's 50 year career from 1965 - 2015

- Her inventoried artwork includes around 200 sculptures and 150 drawings

- Pasternak's archival collection is largely photographic prints and paper elements

Unprocessed Collections (Courtesy Beinecke Library, Yale University

Methodologies of Work

- LIDO Schema

  - XML schema based on CIDOC conceptual reference model.

  - Implemented by major cultural institutions such as the Yale Center for British Art, and in digital resources like Europeana and the Bildindex der Kunst und Architektur.

  - Event-based structure allows events like exhibitions and provenance changes to be associated with an object.

Methodologies of Work

- Getty Art and Architecture Thesaurus

    - Controlled Vocabulary

    - Facilitates consistency in cataloging.

    - Enables data to be more easily shared across institutions.

THE GETTY

RESEARCH INSTITUTE

# Methodologies of Work

- xDams

  - Allows for different types of cultural heritage materials to be managed with one database.

  - Integrates the event-based structure of LIDO.

  - Allows for relational structure between works of art and related materials in the Foundation's archives.

Technologies

- Epson Perfection V800 Photo Scanner

- Nikon D7000 Camera

- Nikon ES-1 Slide Copying Adapter
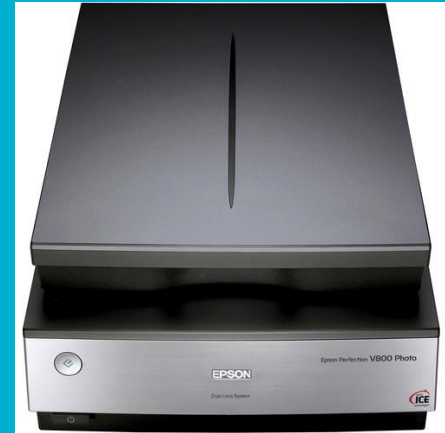
Staff

- Archivist

- Registrar

- Interns

- Outside contractors

  - professional photographers

  - web designers

Photo Credit Neal Ambrose-Smith, © 2015 Joan Mitchell Foundation

Supplies

- Storage:
  - acid-free folders and boxes
  - filing cabinets, metal shelving, flat-file drawers, and bins
- Administrative Equipment:
  - Computers (2) and external RAID storage
  - Flatbed scanner
  - Camera, tripod, lights, and slide scanning attachment
- Costs:
  - Total budget will be around $5000 for supplies (as estimated based on *Career Documentation for the Visual Artist*).

Project Overview

Neal Ambrose-Smith, © 2015 Joan Mitchell Foundation
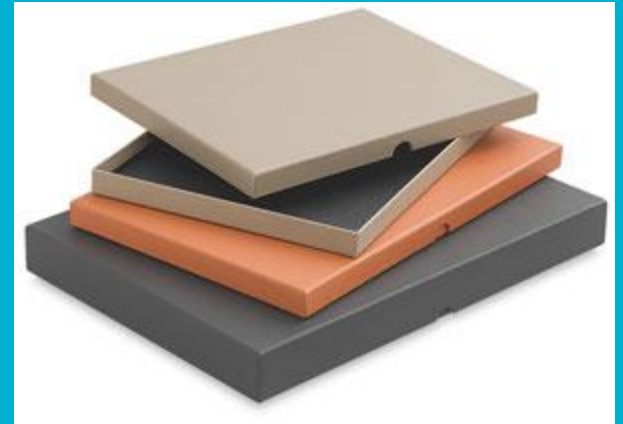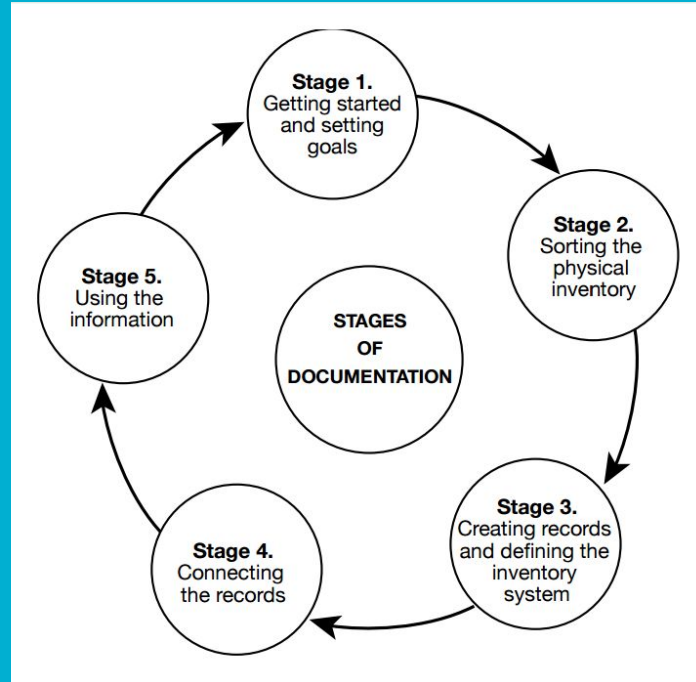
Stage 1: Getting Starting and Setting Goals

- Outline the Geneva Pasternak Foundation's goals.

- Establish a rough timeline for dealing with her work.

- Hiring staff to assist with the documentation process.
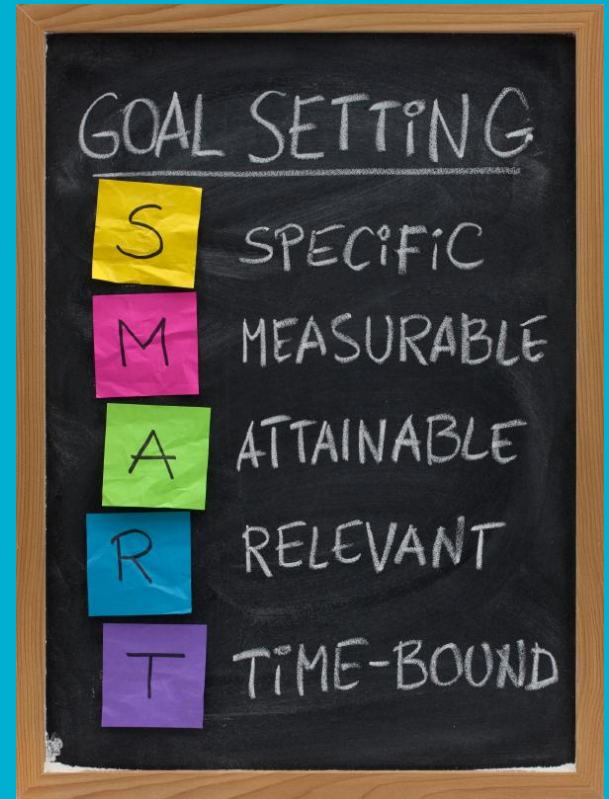
Project Timeline

Physical inventory:
Approx. 6 months

Creation of records:
Approx. 12 months

Image consolidation and research:
Next 3 years

Creation of Geneva Pasternak Online Catalogue Raisonné:
Next 5 years

Placement of Pasternak's artworks in museum collections: Next 5-10 < years

Stage 2: Sorting the Physical Inventory

- Organize and create a physical inventory of all of Pasternak's artworks in the Foundation's possession

- Process Pasternak's archival documents.

  - Refer to *Career Documentation for the Visual Artist* in determining how to treat these materials.

Les Archives du Parlement de Paris, Wikimedia Commons

Organizing Archival Materials

- Sketchbooks
  - Chronologically arranged on bookshelves
- Photographs
  - Reorganized by series and places in archival storage boxes
- Papers
  - Organized in acid-free folders and moved to filing cabinets
- Found objects and other ephemera
  - Kept in labeled boxes

Artnet; Photo: Courtesy of Art Library Crawl.

Organizing Artwork

- Assess artwork for damage and conservation needs.

- Place drawings in chronologically ordered, labeled flat files.

- Re-wrap, label, and store sculptures.

Laura den Hertog, The Thrive Art Project Blog

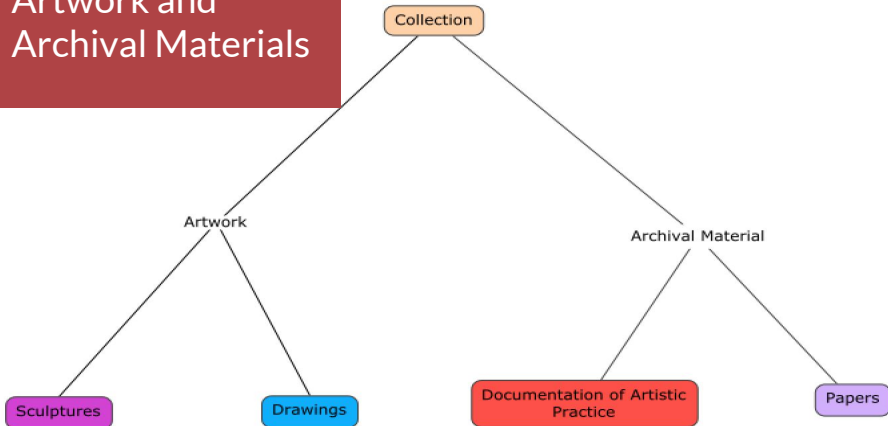# Stage 3: Creating Records & Defining the Inventory System

- Creating records and defining the inventory system.

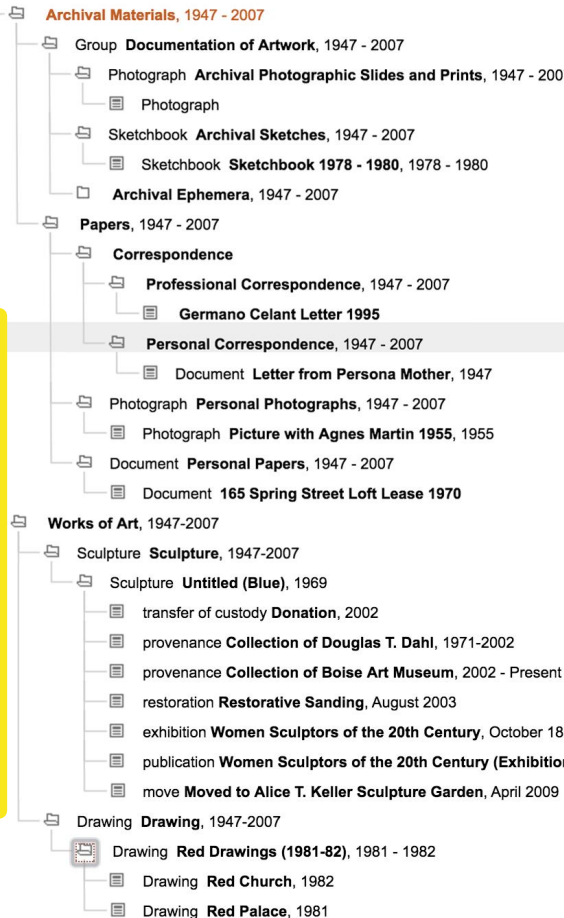- Cataloging and entry of Geneva Pasternak's archival materials and artworks into xDams.

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden Blog

Collection Hierarchy

Collection is separated at highest level into Artwork and Archival Materials

Archival materials are separated into two categories: Papers and Documentation of Artwork

Artwork is separated by medium (Sculpture, Drawings)

Artist Foundation Collection, 1947 - 2007
- **Archival Materials**, 1947 - 2007
  - Group **Documentation of Artwork**, 1947 - 2007
    - Photograph **Archival Photographic Slides and Prints**, 1947 - 200...
      - Photograph
    - Sketchbook **Archival Sketches**, 1947 - 2007
      - Sketchbook **Sketchbook 1978 - 1980**, 1978 - 1980
    - **Archival Ephemera**, 1947 - 2007
  - **Papers**, 1947 - 2007
    - **Correspondence**
      - **Professional Correspondence**, 1947 - 2007
        - **Germano Celant Letter 1995**
      - **Personal Correspondence**, 1947 - 2007
        - Document **Letter from Persona Mother**, 1947
    - Photograph **Personal Photographs**, 1947 - 2007
      - Photograph **Picture with Agnes Martin 1955**, 1955
    - Document **Personal Papers**, 1947 - 2007
      - Document **165 Spring Street Loft Lease 1970**
- **Works of Art**, 1947-2007
  - Sculpture **Sculpture**, 1947-2007
    - Sculpture **Untitled (Blue)**, 1969
      - transfer of custody **Donation**, 2002
      - provenance **Collection of Douglas T. Dahl**, 1971-2002
      - provenance **Collection of Boise Art Museum**, 2002 - Present
      - restoration **Restorative Sanding**, August 2003
      - exhibition **Women Sculptors of the 20th Century**, October 18, 2003 - February 24, 2004
      - publication **Women Sculptors of the 20th Century (Exhibition Catalogue)**, 2003
      - move **Moved to Alice T. Keller Sculpture Garden**, April 2009
  - Drawing **Drawing**, 1947-2007
    - Drawing **Red Drawings (1981-82)**, 1981 - 1982
      - Drawing **Red Church**, 1982
      - Drawing **Red Palace**, 1981
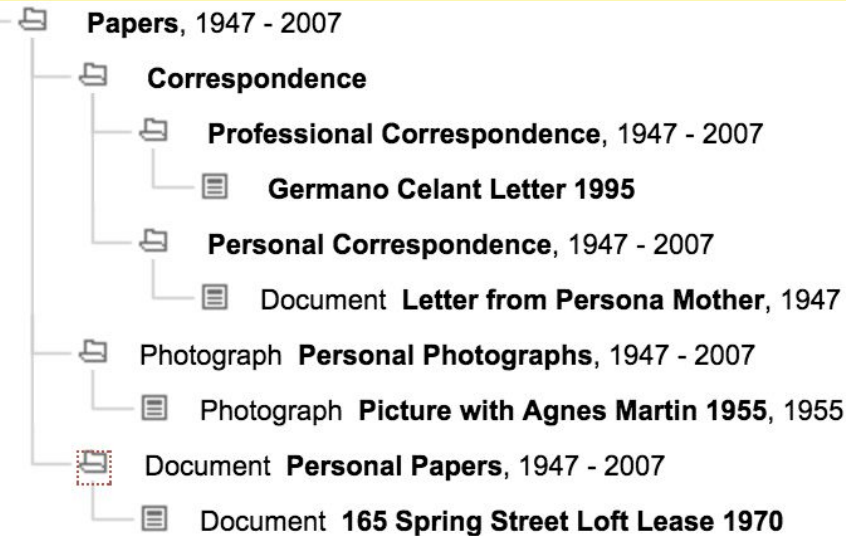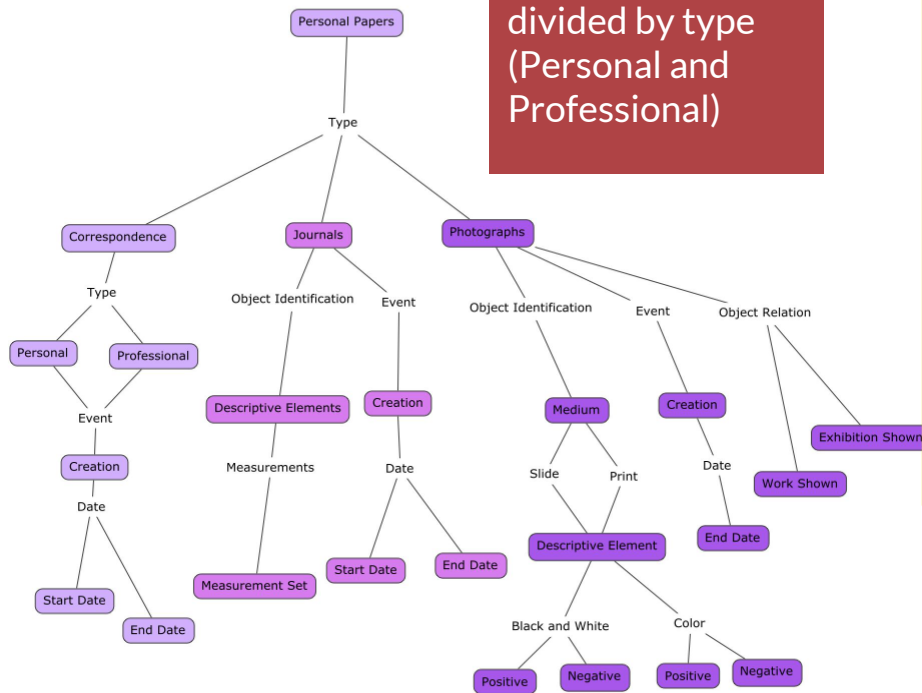
Cataloging Archival Materials

- Initially cataloged largely at the series level

- Select documents of particular importance will be cataloged at item-level.

- Organized by group and series in xDams.

- Object records will be created for key documents, photos, and objects.

Kira L. Dodd, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at UC Berkeley Archives

Conceptual Map: Archival Papers

Correspondence divided by type (Personal and Professional)

Papers, 1947 - 2007
- Correspondence
  - Professional Correspondence, 1947 - 2007
    - Germano Celant Letter 1995
  - Personal Correspondence, 1947 - 2007
    - Document Letter from Persona Mother, 1947
- Photograph Personal Photographs, 1947 - 2007
  - Photograph Picture with Agnes Martin 1955, 1955
- Document Personal Papers, 1947 - 2007
  - Document 165 Spring Street Loft Lease 1970

Divided into series for Correspondence, Journals, and Photographs

Sample Archival Papers Record

Hierarchical structure

- **Artist Foundation Collection** , 1947 - 2007
  - **Archival Materials** , 1947 - 2007
    - **Papers** , 1947 - 2007
      - **Correspondence**
        - **Personal Correspondence** , 1947 - 2007

IDENTIFICATION

RECORD CONTROL

LIDO record ID	US-foundation-LIDO0002-000032
record type	item

OBJECT WORK

object work definition	Document

TITLE

title(s)	*value:* Letter from Geneva Pasternak's Mother

DATE(S)

date(s) of creation	1947

CREATOR(S)

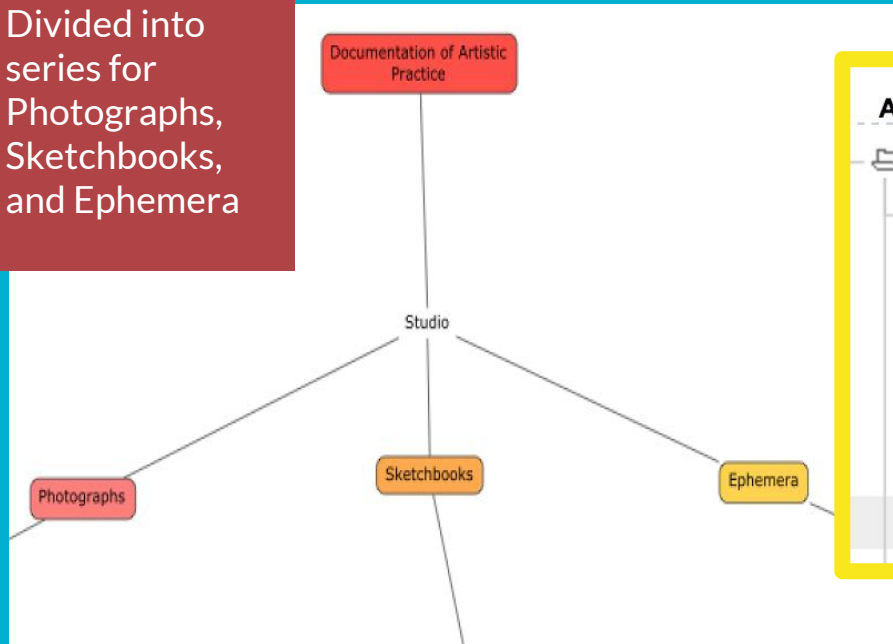|	
creator(s)	*actor:* Geneva Pasternak
	actor: Doris Pasternak

PLAC(S) OF CREATION

place(s) of creation	*place:* Wisconsin

Conceptual Map: Documentary Materials

Divided into series for Photographs, Sketchbooks, and Ephemera

Documentation of Artistic Practice

Studio

Photographs   Sketchbooks   Ephemera

Artist Foundation Collection, 1947 - 2007

Archival Materials, 1947 - 2007

Group **Documentation of Artwork**, 1947 - 2007

Photograph **Archival Photographic Slides and Prints**, 1947 - 2007

Photograph

Sketchbook **Archival Sketches**, 1947 - 2007

Sketchbook **Sketchbook 1978 - 1980**, 1978 - 1980

Archival Ephemera, 1947 - 2007

Found Object Blue Bottle 7

Objects can be linked to one another through Relationship field

Sample Documentary Materials Record

Hierarchical structure

▶ **Artist Foundation Collection** , 1947 - 2007
  ▶ **Archival Materials** , 1947 - 2007
    ▶ Group **Documentation of Artwork** , 1947 - 2007

IDENTIFICATION

RECORD CONTROL

LIDO record ID	US-foundation-LIDO0002-000020
record type	series

OBJECT WORK

object work definition	Sketchbook

TITLE

title(s)	*type of title:* supplied
	value: Archival Sketches

DATE(S)

date(s) of creation	1947 - 2007

CREATOR(S)

creator(s)	*actor:* Geneva Pasternak

PLAC(S) OF CREATION

place(s) of creation	*place:* New York

REPOSITORY AND LOCATION

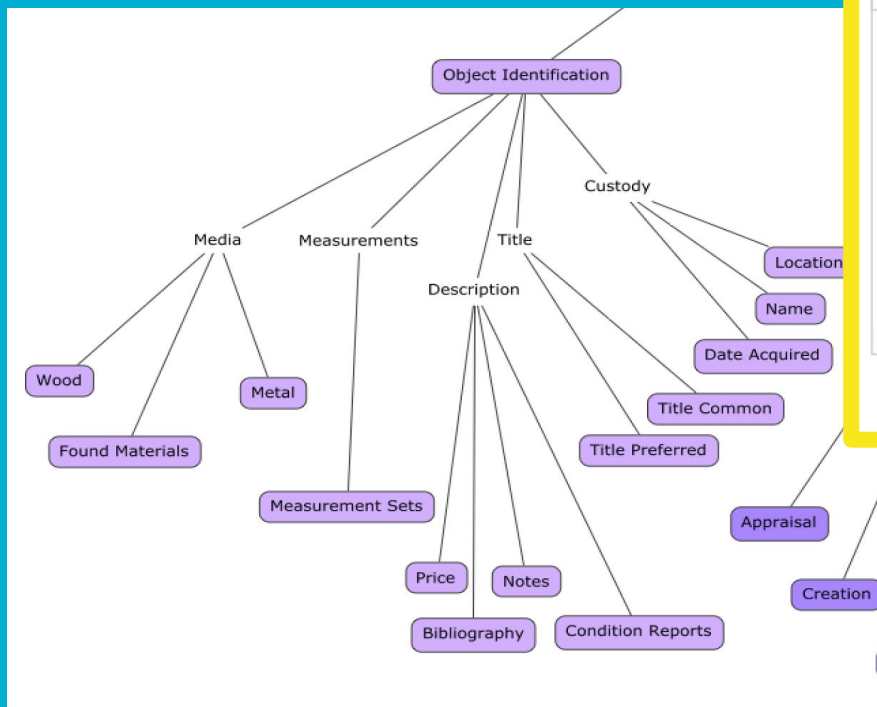|	
legal body	Geneva Pasternak Foundation
place	Archives
physical location (type)	New York

Cataloging Artwork

- Each artwork assigned a unique catalogue number corresponding to their date of creation.

- Prefix "DW" for drawings, "SC" for sculptures.

- Examples:
 - DW1981.02
  - SC2001.47

Photograph via The German Federal Archives

Conceptual Map: Object Record

Sculpture **Sculpture**, 1947-2007
  Sculpture **Untitled (Blue)**, 1969
    transfer of custody **Donation**, 2002
    provenance **Collection of Douglas T. Dahl**, 1971-2002
    provenance **Collection of Boise Art Museum**, 2002 - Present
    restoration **Restorative Sanding**, August 2003
    exhibition **Women Sculptors of the 20th Century**, October 18, 2003 - February 24, 2004
    publication **Women Sculptors of the 20th Century (Exhibition Catalogue)**, 2003
    move **Moved to Alice T. Keller Sculpture Garden**, April 2009
Drawing **Drawing**, 1947-2007
    Drawing **Red Drawings (1981-82)**, 1981 - 1982

Information that identifies a work, such as its title and physical characteristics

Conceptual Map: Event Record
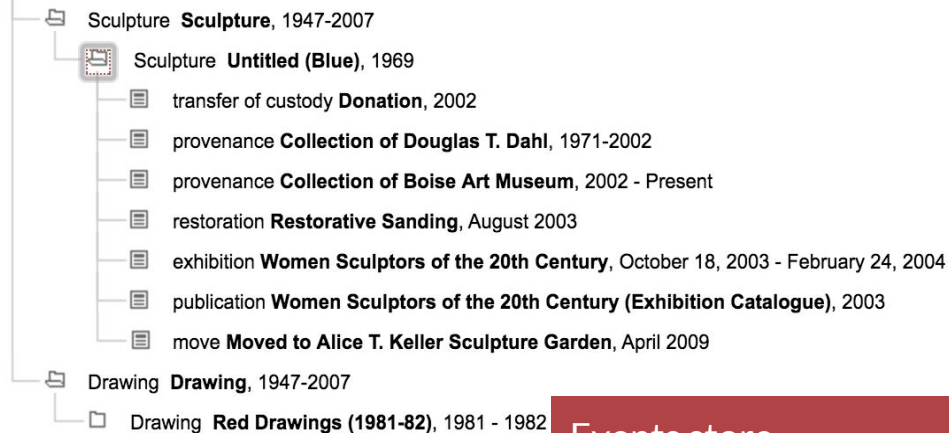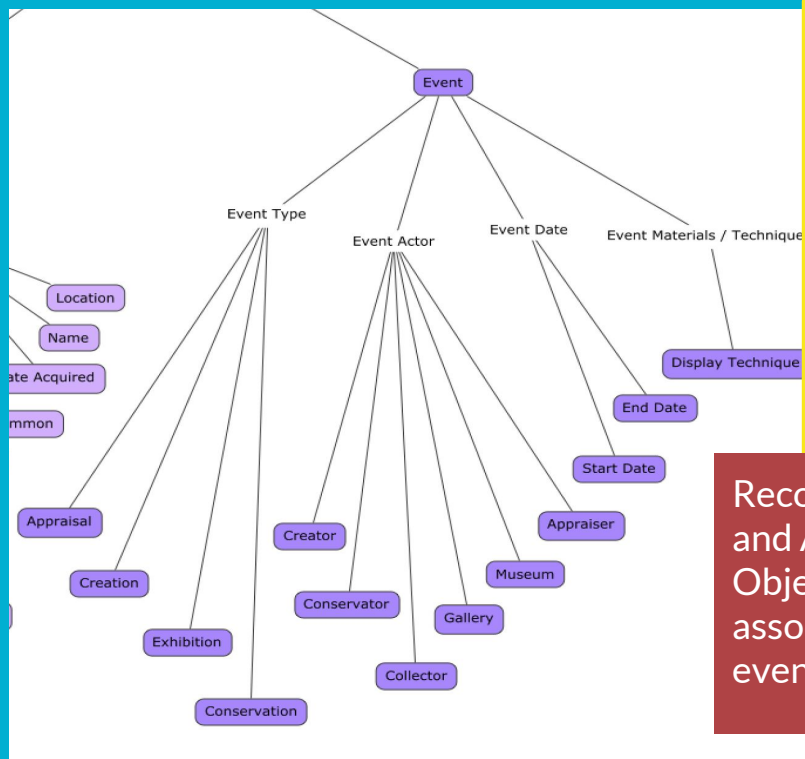
Records for Art and Archival Objects can be associated with events

Events store information about people and places related to the object and events in its lifecycle (e.g.creation, purchase,exhibition)

Sample Artwork Record

Hierarchical structure

▸ **Artist Foundation Collection** , 1947 - 2007
  ▸ **Works of Art** , 1947-2007
    ▸ Sculpture **Sculpture** , 1947-2007

IDENTIFICATION

━ RECORD CONTROL

LIDO record ID	US-foundation-LIDO0002-000016
record type	item

━ OBJECT WORK

object work definition	Sculpture

━ TITLE

title(s)	*type of title:* supplied *value:* Untitled (Blue)

━ DATE(S)

date(s) of creation	1969

━ CREATOR(S)

creator(s)	*actor:* Geneva Pasternak

━ PLAC(S) OF CREATION

place(s) of creation	*place:* New York

━ REPOSITORY AND LOCATION

|	
legal body	Boise Art Museum
place	Boise
inventory number	C1979.13

DESCRIPTION

━ DESCRIPTION

free text description	Created in 1975, this piece incorporates parts from a telephone owned by the artist's neighbor and wood retrieved from a dumpster on Broome St.

Stage 4: Connecting the Records

- Using xDams' relational structure to contextualize and show the relationships between artworks and archival documents.

- Event Records

- Object Relations
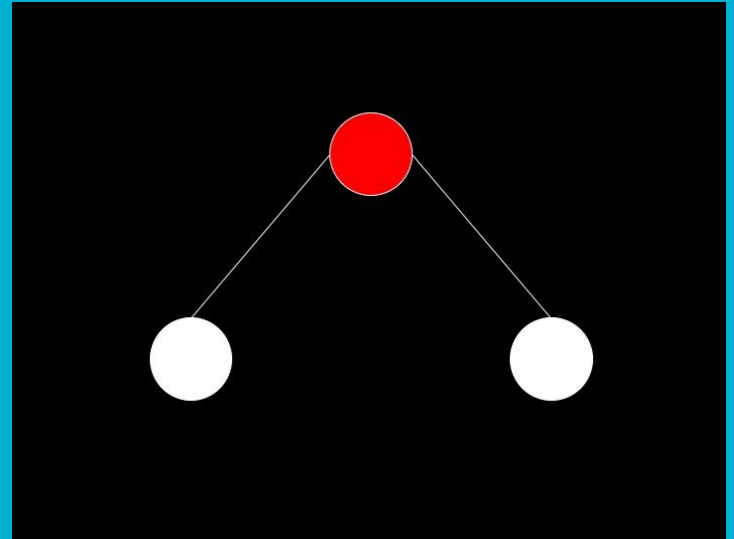
Event Records

Hierarchical structure

▸ **Artist Foundation Collection** , 1947 - 2007
  ▸ **Works of Art** , 1947-2007
    ▸ Sculpture **Sculpture** , 1947-2007
      ▸ Sculpture **Untitled (Blue)** , 1969

IDENTIFICATION

RECORD CONTROL

LIDO record ID	US-foundation-LIDO0002-000039
record type	event

EVENTS

EVENT DESCRIPTION

type of event	exhibition
event name	Women Sculptors of the 20th Century
date(s)	October 18, 2003 - February 24, 2004
description	Exhibited in the Boise Art Museum's "Women Sculptors of the 20th Century" exhibition. Traveled to Wichita Art Museum, Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis

ACTORS

actor	*actor:* Boise Art Museum
	actor: Wichita Art Museum
	actor: Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis

PLACES

	place: Boise
	place: Wichita
	place: St. Louis

Correspond to LIDO's Event elements

Used to express events in the lifecycle of an object, such as creation, modification, and acquisition.

Object Relations

RELATIONS

+	RELATED SUBJECTS
+	SUBJECT PLACES
-	SUBJECT OBJECTS

OPEN name of the object

| - | RELATED WORKS |

OPEN name of the work (without lookup)

| - | NAME OF THE RELATED WORK | ADD |

Correspondence

LOOKUP INSERT

REMOVE

code US-foundation-LIDO0002-000023

related work relationship type ...

xDam's Relations tab corresponds to the Object Relations element set in LIDO

Can be used to connect related records to one another

Stage 5: Using the Information

- Image Assessment

- Object Research

- Archival Arrangement and Description

- Online Catalogue Raisonné

- Museum and Library Placement

Photograph © Lana Locke, installation view of Damaging Objects, Lana Locke solo exhibition at Schwartz Gallery, 2014

Questions?

Bibliography

Donegan, T.J. (20 December 2001) The best cameras for art photography. *Reviewed.com*. Retrieved from http://cameras.reviewed.com/news/the-best-cameras-for-art-photography

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Society of American Archivists. *Standards and best practices resource guide.* Retrieved from http://www2.archivists.org/groups/museum-archives-section/standards-best-practices-resource-guide

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