Finding a place for Bric-a-brac, Knickknacks and Ephemera within the museum archive:
A look at Andy Warhol’s *Time Capsules*

Erin Byrne and Elaina Vitale, *TC* Project Cataloguers

byrne@warhol.org  evitale@aip.org
• A (very) brief history of Warhol and his *Time Capsules*
• Discussion of an Artist’s Archive
• Cataloguing an extensive multi-part collection
• Museum vs. special collection cataloguing
• Access
• Preservation
• Questions
History of the Artist

• During his career, Warhol was known to challenge traditional notions of fine art by incorporating popular culture icons into his artworks that spanned every available medium; likewise, Warhol’s *Time Capsules* challenge museum cataloging practices by placing an archival artwork into the framework of museum standards.
History of the *Time Capsules*
The *Time Capsules* as an Artist’s Archive

- Contain art from other artists, source materials, and records of the social and political time they were created.
- Illuminate the private life of an enigmatic celebrity.
- These archival collections of primary source materials that tend to be accessioned en mass.
Cataloguing a *Time Capsule*

Classification: “What am I cataloguing?”
- Specificity/ accuracy
- Considerable amount of missing core information

Adapting standard vocabularies
- CCO, DACS
- AAT, ULAN, LCSH
- Local authorities
### Finding a home for everything!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories</th>
<th>Categories</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Artwork</td>
<td>Exhibition announcements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Announcements</td>
<td>Food and Products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audio Materials</td>
<td>Furnishings and Textiles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books</td>
<td>Invitations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business/Financial Records</td>
<td>Manuscript materials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clippings</td>
<td>Mixed archival records</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collectibles</td>
<td>Personal records</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>Photographic materials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costume/Personal Accessories</td>
<td>Printed materials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ephemera</td>
<td>Serials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment/Tools/Materials</td>
<td>Toys/Recreational items</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adapted from the Getty Museum’s Art and Architecture Thesaurus: [http://www.getty.edu/research/tools/vocabularies/aat/](http://www.getty.edu/research/tools/vocabularies/aat/)
• Description: size of the collection limits the amount of information an object record contains

• End-user needs
• Special collections cataloguing vs. museum cataloging

• Access and researchers in museum archives
Preservation

Warhol’s art work forces us to view the objects around us in a new way but identifying and preserving the source material for these works has been a challenge.
Chicken Noodle WITH WHITE CHICKEN MEAT

Our Chicken Noodle Soup is a hearty combination of white chicken meat and egg noodles that cooks up in a richly seasoned chicken broth. It’s so chock full of good ingredients and flavor, it’s a lot like your homemade.

DIRECTIONS: Add 2 1/2 cups water.

STOVE:
• In 2-quart saucepan over high heat, heat 1 soup mix pouch and 2 1/2 cups (20 oz.) water to boiling.
• Reduce heat to low. Cover. Simmer 8 to 10 minutes, stirring occasionally.

MICROWAVE:
• Stirring and standing are needed to cook completely.
• Total time: 13 minutes.
• In a 2-cup microwave-safe bowl, combine 1 soup mix pouch and 2 cups (20 oz.) water.
• Cover and microwave on HIGH 4 minutes. Stir. Heat 4 more minutes.
• Let stand, covered, 5 minutes before serving.
• Makes 2 1/2 (8 oz. each) servings.
• Promptly refrigerate any uncooked portion.

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR RECIPE IDEA.
Questions?
Erin Byrne
_Time Capsules_ Project Cataloguer
The Andy Warhol Museum
Pittsburgh, PA
byrnee@warhol.org
Follow Erin: @librarian_erin

Elaina Vitale
Assistant Librarian
Niels Bohr Library and Archives
American Institute of Physics
College Park, MD
evitale@aip.org
Follow Elaina: @ms_elainious