Finding a Place for Bric-a-brac, Knickknacks and Ephemera within the Museum Archive

Paul Brobbel,
Len Lye Curator,
Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, NZ
Five Fountains and a Firebush, Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, 2007
Len Lye Centre, opening 2015
Len Lye Centre, opening 2015
Len Lye, 1901-1980

Sydney, 1925
Len Lye, 1901-1980

London, 1937
Unit, 1924, marble
Sergei Eisenstein’s filmmaking workshop, London, 1929
A Colour Box, 1935, 4 min, 35mm Dufaycolour, sound
Lye in studio making ‘scratch’ films
Free Radicals, 1958, 5 min, 16mm b&w, sound
An Evening of Tangible Motion Sculpture, MoMA, 1961
Zebra, 1965 (2008 reconstruction), fibreglass, motor
Trilogy (A Flip & Two Twisters), 1977, stainless steel, motors
**Wind Wand Test, 1960, NYC**

**Wind Wand, 2000, New Plymouth, NZ**
Waterwhirler Sketch, 1960s

Waterwhirler, 2006, Wellington, NZ
Wind Wands, 1961, U. of Carbondale

Wind Wands prototype test, 2012, New Plymouth
Seattle Civic Centre Fountain Competition, 1960-1961
‘Temple Lake Project’ sketch, 1960s
‘Sun, Land & Sea’ sketch, 1960s
Universe Walk (model), 1960s
Lye in studio, NYC, 1960s
The Len Lye Collection and Archive consists of 3,772 catalogue entries with an estimated total of 18,000 items. An inventory of the collection includes:

- 24 paintings
- 52 unique photograms
- 10 textile works
- 14 rare books
- Approximately 1,000 photographs, many documenting his sculpture
- 33 16mm film prints (some of which are included in the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery Collection)
- 12 linear meters of archival material, comprised of 120 boxes containing approximately 1,200 individual folders
- 16 exhibition-standard kinetic sculptures (two of which are included in the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery Collection)
- 530 audio tapes
- Approximately 11,000 slides
- 1,400 ‘doodles’, drawings and prints
- Various materials from the artist’s studio and
- Approximately 14 kinetic sculptures to be reconstructed or developed.
Len Lye Collection Store, Govett-Brewster, c. 1990s
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Temporary Offsite Len Lye Collection Store, Govett-Brewster, 2013
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Snow Birds Making Snow, 1936, oil on board
Land and Sea, 1977, acrylic on canvas
Polynesian Connection, 1977, acrylic on canvas
Marks & Spencer in A Japanese Garden, 1930, photogram
Georgia O’Keeffe, 1947, photogram
Self portrait, Ann Lye, Le Corbusier, Althea, Joan Miro, Alfred Bishop, 1947, photograms
Film tools in ‘Len Lye’, 2008 at the Australian Centre for Moving Image
Stencils for 35mm films, c. 1930s
Stencils for 35mm films, c. 1930s
Stencils for *Trade Tattoo*, 1937 & *Swinging the Lambeth Walk*, 1939
Roger Horrocks, Art That Moves, Auckland University Press, 2009
Five Fountains and a Firebush, Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, 2007
MoMA performance notes, 1961
MoMA performance notes, 1961