

**The Osler Library of the History of Medicine
McGill University, Montreal Canada
Osler Library Archive Collections**

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AIDS COLLECTION

COMPLETE INVENTORY LIST

This is a guide to one of the collections held by the [Osler Library of the History of Medicine](#), McGill University.

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Title

AIDS Collection

Physical Description

3,7 cm of textual records. – 7 posters.

Dates

1981-2009

Biographical Sketch / Administrative History

AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) activism began in the early 1980's when the disease was first discovered and beginning to be understood. AIDS activism took many cultural forms, including the creation of artworks, fundraisers and other benefits. In Canada, John A. Schweitzer, both an artist and art collector, was an early leader in AIDS activism, holding the first AIDS benefit auction in Canada, *Art against AIDS*, in 1986. In 1990 he chaired *An AIDS Benefit for Actors* in Montréal and in 1994 he founded The John A. Schweitzer Foundation, a private trust in support of visual artists with AIDS. He often spoke out on the subject in interviews, at conferences, and in other public forums. Additionally, he collaborated with and exhibited works by Robert Mapplethorpe, a well-known contemporary visual artist who suffered from the disease. (From Epstein, S. (1996). *Impure science: AIDS, activism, and the politics of knowledge*. Berkeley: Univ. of California Press and the Curriculum Vitae of John A. Schweitzer, http://www.rca-arc.ca/cvs/Schweitzer_John.pdf).

Scope and Content

The fonds includes a collection of AIDS activism materials, with an emphasis on its manifestation in Canada's visual art world, through the collections of Mr. John A. Schweitzer and others. Several of the documents have been signed by either John A. Schweitzer or Robert Mapplethorpe. The materials in the collection include posters, press releases, conference programs, exhibition catalogues, exhibition invitations, exhibition ephemera, programs, brochures, tear-sheets, auction catalogues, and reviews.

Finding Aids

Complete inventory list available.

Custodial History

AIDS Collection – complete file list
Osler Library Archive Collections

The fonds was founded through donations by Mr. John A. Schweitzer and others to the Osler Library in June 2010.

Language

The documents are in English and French.

Source of Supplied Title Proper

Title based on the documents in the fonds.

Retrieval Number

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Series

Subjects

AIDS (Disease)
AIDS (Disease) and art
AIDS (Disease) – Canada

COMPLETE FILE LIST

Note: Documents 1 – 31 represent the founding donation to the The Osler AIDS Collection in June 2010.

Documents 1 – 24 donated by Mr. John A. Schweitzer from The John A. Schweitzer AIDS Archive/L'archive John A. Schweitzer sur le SIDA:

1. Offset lithograph – *L'art contre le SIDA: Art Against AIDS* - Auction November 1986 (signed by John A. Schweitzer)
2. Offset lithograph – *Visual Aids: An international exhibition of AIDS Posters* - Galerie John A. Schweitzer, June 1-25, 1989 (signed by John A. Schweitzer)
3. Offset lithograph – *John A. Schweitzer – Les forms du temps/The Shapes of Time: 1991-2001* – Centre des Arts Visuels, 1-24 Novembre 2001 (signed by John A. Schweitzer)

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4. Offset lithograph– *John A. Schweitzer – the Erehwön Cycle* - John A. Schweitzer, 1999 (signed by John A. Schweitzer)
5. Offset lithograph –John A. Schweitzer-*Of Porphyry*- John A. Schweitzer, 1998 (signed by John A. Schweitzer)
6. Offset lithograph-John A. Schweitzer-*Anatomy of the Universe*, 2001 (signed by John A. Schweitzer)
7. Press release – Art Against AIDS - *AIDS Research to Benefit from Art Auction*, 6 October 1986.
8. Press release – Art Against AIDS - *AIDS Research to Benefit from Art Auction*, 6 October 1986. (also a French version of same)
9. Tear-sheet – *Art International du XXe Siecle* - Poirier-Schweitzer, nd
10. Conference programme and exhibition information – *Visual Aids: Affiches internationales sur le SIDA*, Galerie John A. Schweitzer, 1989
11. Auction catalogue – *L’art contre le SIDA: Art Against AIDS* - 16 November 1986
12. Exhibition notes - *Liaisons aigues*, McGill University, 2008
13. Prospectus – Autumn/Winter 1987 - Galerie John A. Schweitzer
14. Prospectus – Spring/Summer 1987 - Galerie John A. Schweitzer
15. Exhibition notes – John A. Schweitzer - *Schweitzer en Seriation: 10 Collages: 1991-2005* – Galerie d’art de la bibliothèque publique Eleanor London, 9 Novembre – 10 Décembre 2006
16. Exhibition notes – John A. Schweitzer – *Of Porphyry – Du Porphyre* – University of Western Ontario, 26 March – 25 April 1999. (French and English versions)
17. Tear sheet – *Keith Haring*, Galerie Poirier Schweitzer, 5 Novembre 1998 - 10 Janvier 1999
18. Exhibition Catalogue – *Of Collage: The Artist as Collector* – Stewart Hall Art Gallery, 11 October – 23 November 2003

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19. Exhibition Catalogue – *John A. Schweitzer; The Shapes of Time: 1991-2001* – Visual Arts Centre, 1 – 24 November 2001
20. Auction Catalogue – *Make a Difference Art Auction – London Club, London, Ontario, 1 April 2000* (media release and invitation to preview reception inserted)
21. Curriculum vitae of John A. Schweitzer
22. Print out – VisualAIDS blog entry regarding *Art, Actually!* Exhibition, 6 March 2008
23. Fine Arts and Auction Review, Volume 13, no.3, December/January 1987.
24. Exhibition brochure – *Schweitzer's 'Universe' De-Constructed*-The John A. Schweitzer Gallery, Archives and Research Collections Centre, The University of Western Ontario, London, 2009.

Documents 25-31, other donations:

25. Offset lithograph – *Robert Mapplethorpe Photographies 1978-1984* – Galerie John A. Schweitzer, Montreal, Canada, December 1984 (signed by Robert Mapplethorpe)
26. Programme – folded – for the Vernissage for *Robert Mapplethorpe Photographies 1978-1984* – Galerie John A. Schweitzer, Montreal Canada, December 8th, 1984
27. Tear-sheet – *Il y a une décennie... Fondation John A. Schweitzer*, 1994
28. Tear-sheet – *Il y a vingt ans - Fondation John A. Schweitzer*.
29. Tear-sheet – *Robert Mapplethorpe* – Galerie Poirier Schweitzer, 1997
30. *Parachute*-one complete issue of this magazine, number 113, 2004.
31. Exhibition Invitation, Robert Mapplethorpe *Ajitto-edition Galerie Poirier Schweitzer*, 1981