



DISCUSSION SERIES

The Production of the Authentic Voice: Artists and Scholars as Users of Collections and Archives

The Getty Center for the History of Art and the Humanities
Seventh Floor Auditorium
401 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90401-1455
Monday, May 15, 1995, 3:00–6:00 p.m.
Reservations are required.

Please join us for the second panel discussion in the series **L.A. Archives & Collections: In Search of Urban History**.

Public and private collections of historic resource materials on Los Angeles regularly inform contemporary scholarship and artistic practice. They are searched for traces of a collective or individual past in order to articulate a coherent image of the present and a meaningful vision of the future. It is commonly assumed that the holdings of large institutional repositories, such as university and municipal archives, are diverse and comprehensive enough to yield a potentially complete and objective picture of the history of our cities and ourselves. The goal of this discussion on the production of the authentic voice is to question this assumption by exploring how our understanding of the history of Los Angeles is determined not only by the nature of the archive in general and the range of material holdings available but also by the ways in which archives are used to create knowledge and to render our cities meaningful.

L.A. Archives and Collections combines the interest of two Getty Center research projects—"Imaging the City" and "L.A. as Subject"—which examine the formation and display of urban identities throughout the Americas. This panel will explore the contingencies of scholarly and artistic production in the context of the following questions: How do highly mediated repositories respond today to the increasing desire of researchers and the general public to trace the history of diverse groups of citizens (e.g., women, people of color, migrants/immigrants, etc.), which are demographically visible yet relatively anonymous in the official historical record? How do institutional collection policies impact research methodologies and our knowledge about the city? The panel brings together a group of artists and scholars who will engage these questions from a personal point of view as they have experienced them in the production of their works. Nancy Troy, professor of art history at the University of Southern California and editor of *Art Bulletin*, will lead the discussion.

Panelists: **Doug Flamming**, Associate Professor of History, California Institute of Technology.

Dan Cwong, Performance Artist.

George Lipsitz, Professor of Ethnic Studies, University of California San Diego.

Pat Ward Williams, Installation Artist.

Moderator: **Nancy Troy**, Professor of Art History, University of Southern California and editor of *Art Bulletin*.

For reservations, please call the Getty Center at (310) 541-6526.