



Archive

Mark Teh

Archives can be understood as depositories for things which will not go away, where documents have the ability to accumulate into monuments.

Observing that the construction and constitution of an archive takes place when the memory that requires preservation is beginning to fragment or disintegrate, Jacques Derrida noted in *Archive Fever* (1995) that they are “at once *institutive* and *conservative*. Revolutionary and traditional... There is no political power without control of the archive.”

In recent decades a significant trajectory of art and documentary practice has proliferated around the archival, often seeking to challenge, disperse and decolonise the formal orderings, classifications, and rationalities that govern state, official or institutional archives. Treating them as dynamic, open-ended systems for generating future knowledge, artists, curators and researchers critically reconfigure existing archival materials and structures – excavating subjective taxonomies, making available personal collections, constellating digital resources, constructing alternative or participatory repositories, as well as drawing out embodied knowledges and practices that reside in individual and community lives.



Koh Nguang How, *Artists in the News* (2011), installation with newspaper archive and ongoing research, Singapore Art Museum.

Source: <https://opencontours.wordpress.com/2012/01/12/work-in-process/>



The aftermath of a fire on June 3 2020 in Green Papaya Art Projects - the oldest artist-run space in Manila - which partially destroyed their archives.

Source: <https://cnnphilippines.com/life/culture/2020/6/30/green-papaya-catch-272.html>

Related Links

Books, Websites & Videos

1. Antariksa (KUNCI Study Forum & Collective) interview, researching Indonesian collections and archives at University Leiden library, with a focus on collaborative works between Japanese and Indonesian artists during the Japanese Occupation. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qod3f_4a9yg
2. Kohara Masashi's article and collection of images relating to 1903 World's Natives Building and Exposition in Osaka, Japan, *published in photographers' gallery press no. 14: Human - Exhibition - Histories* (Tokyo: photographers' gallery, 2019). <https://pg-web.net/shop/pg-press-file/photographers-gallery-press-no-14/>
3. Adrian Mulya interview about *So Far So Close* (2019), a project investigating Chinese-Indonesian identity and his family history. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DxPeT0BEeCw>
4. Hoo Fan Chon, curator's tour of "Bayangnya itu Timbul Tenggelam" exhibition (2020). Focus on trans performer Ava Leong's portraits and other photographic cultures in Malaysia <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6esUDVywDGc>
5. Green Papaya Art Projects, notes and documentation relating to June 3 2020 fire, which partially destroyed their archives. <https://greenpapaya.art/Fire-Notes-master>
6. Koh Nguang How interview about *Artists in the News* (2011). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zOWVCgsv688>
7. Judy Freya Sibayan, *Scapular Gallery Nomad* and *The Museum of Mental Objects*. Ongoing performance art gallery and museum by the artist. https://judyfreyasibayan.weebly.com/uploads/4/3/3/6/43365903/sgn_4_pages_nparadoxa_final.pdf
8. Ho Tzu Nyen, *The Critical Dictionary of Southeast Asia*. <https://aaa.cdosea.org/#about/a>
9. Simon Soon & Visual Art Program, Cultural Centre, Universiti Malaya & Malaysia Design Archive, *Researching Colonial History of the Malay World Like A Millenial*. <https://sites.google.com/um.edu.my/colonialhistoryofthemalayworld>

10. Dhaka Art Summit Compendium (2020, online).

<http://www.dascompendium.com/>

11. The center for remembering 3.11, by Sendai Mediatheque.

<https://recorder311-e.smt.jp/>