Franklin Furnace Archive, Inc.
Annual Report 2016-2017

Franklin Furnace Archive, Inc
Pratt Institute, 200 Willoughby Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11205
www.franklinfurnace.org
mail@franklinfurnace.org
(718) 687-5800 tel.
(718) 687-5830 fax

Mission Statement
Franklin Furnace Archive, Inc., on a mission to make the world safe for avant-garde art.

Franklin Furnace’s mission is to present, preserve, interpret, proselytize and advocate on behalf of avant-garde art, especially forms that may be vulnerable due to institutional neglect, their ephemeral nature, or politically unpopular content. Franklin Furnace is dedicated to serving artists by providing both physical and virtual venues for the presentation of time-based visual art, including but not limited to artists’ books and periodicals, installation art, performance art, and unforeseen contemporary avant-garde artforms; and to undertake other activities related to these purposes. Franklin Furnace is committed to serving emerging artists; to assuming an aggressive pedagogical stance with regard to the value of avant-garde art to life; and to fostering artists’ zeal to broadcast ideas.

Programs 2016-17
In FY 2017, Franklin Furnace’s website, www.franklinfurnace.org, received 53,310 page views, with 14,321 sessions by new visitors and 6,128 sessions by returning visitors from 130 countries. Our splash page now provides summary information in 28 languages. During the 2009-10 season, Franklin Furnace developed a presence on the social networking site, Facebook; and additionally maintains a blog, www.franklinfurnacearchive.blogspot.com, Instagram account, and Twitter account. In the spring of 2010, Franklin Furnace commenced using Vimeo as its platform for streaming video. Currently, 188 videos are available on Franklin Furnace’s Vimeo account, 15 of which are digital versions of 1/2” b/w open-reel videotapes made in the 1970s.


Franklin Furnace Fund: Initiated in 1985 with the support of Jerome Foundation, Franklin Furnace has annually awarded grants to emerging artists selected by peer panel review to enable them to prepare major performance art
works for presentation in New York. In the spring of 2008, Franklin Furnace combined the Franklin Furnace Fund for Performance Art and The Future of the Present programs into one, entitled the **Franklin Furnace Fund**. For 2016-17, Franklin Furnace received funding from Jerome Foundation; from The SHS Foundation; and continuing support from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and general operating support from the New York State Council on the Arts. We are grateful for this major support, which enabled Franklin Furnace’s July 2016 peer review panel to award $40,000 to eight deserving artists and collaborations selected from among 421 proposals.

Franklin Furnace has no curator; each year, a new panel of artists reviews all proposals. We believe that this peer panel system allows a diverse array of artists from all over the world an equal shot at presenting their work in New York. Each year we discuss anew what "performance art" is, how "emerging" is defined, and these days the notion of "liveness," as during the last decade, artists have created works on every point of the spectrum between the body of the artist and the circulatory network of the Internet, and now technology is viewed as a given. Events are presented in partnership with collegial venues, or, in the city environment. The esteemed selection panel of artists Donald Hải Phú Daedalus, Joyce Yu-Jean Lee, Tracie Morris, and Clifford Owens met July 23, 24, and 25, 2016, and decided to award $5000 grants to eight artists and collaborations.

The Fund has consistently identified emerging talent in advance of wider art world recognition: Karen Finley, John Fleck and Holly Hughes received support before the “culture wars” made them household names; artists of color such as Papo Colo, Tanya Barfield, Nao Bustamante, Patty Chang, Coco Fusco, Rashaad Newsome, Clifford Owens, William Pope.L, Dread Scott and Pamela Sneed received support at crucial, early points in their careers. We believe this success is due to the composition of Franklin Furnace's peer panels, representing a diverse range of practice, ethnic and cultural background, sexual preference, age and physical ability, as well as familiarity with new technology.

**SEQuential ART for KIDS (SEQ ART KIDS):**

Art education is not a requisite for public elementary school students in New York City, and many schools do not provide any arts education. SEQ ART KIDS is a 30+-year-old arts-in-education program that redresses this problem by placing professional artists in New York City public school classrooms. What makes SEQ ART KIDS unique is that our small and dedicated team of professional artists does not teach traditional art such as painting and sculpture; rather, we accommodate different learning styles through the use of performative and hands-on projects that build higher standards of learning across the curriculum. SEQ
ART KIDS graduates show marked improvement in core curriculum studies — in 2011, for example, fifth-grade SEQ ART KIDS students at PS20K improved their New York State English Language Arts test scores by an average of 13.58% from the previous year.

Franklin Furnace Archive, Inc. was very successful in its fundraising for SEQARTKIDS in 2016-17, bolstering NYSCA support with major grants from The National Endowment for the Arts Art Works program, The Weissman Family Foundation, The Shelley and Donald Rubin Foundation, and others to surpass our projected budget. This surplus meant we sent more teaching artists into more classrooms and positively impacted more school children and their communities than anticipated. Franklin Furnace met its goals in serving the NYC public elementary school children at PS185K, PS20K and PS217K in Bay Ridge, Fort Greene, and Midwood, Brooklyn. Teaching artists Ron Little (filmmaking), Naimah Hassan (theatre), and Harley Spiller (storytelling with objects) presented a total of 73 x 45 minute workshops at PS185K in Bay Ridge; Alva Rogers presented 10 x 45 minute workshops at PS20K in Fort Greene; and Dustin Grella (animation), Louise Diedrich (graphic novels) and Harley Spiller presented 40 x 45 minute workshops at PS217K in Midwood. In 2016-17, all told, Franklin Furnace served 512 Brooklyn children during the academic year. For complete information please visit www.SequentialArtforKids.org

**Artists’ Books: Portal to Pedagogy**
When Franklin Furnace moved to Pratt Institute in 2014, both organizations agreed that The Franklin Furnace Artists’ Book Collection would be made available to Pratt students and faculty in addition to outside researchers, curators, and the general public. The advantage of the Franklin Furnace collection is its ease of access and fewer restrictions for lending and exhibition requests. *Portal to Pedagogy* was undertaken to create individual custom archival enclosures for artists’ books in Franklin Furnace’s collection. This project primarily addressed the problem of the collection being under-utilized as an educational tool as a result of inadequate protective storage containers, which made the materials unsuitable for handling, by students and the general public. Following the completion of this project, the FF artists’ book collection is now more freely available for research. One example is Professor Ellen Wallenstein’s course at Pratt (Photo 413) “Narrative Forms—The Photo Book.” Her class of approximately 10 students visited in spring of 2016 and fall of 2017 to browse through artists’ books that use photography. The new enclosures allowed them to do so with more freedom and with less risk of damage to the materials. Two main categories of enclosures were created for the project: phase boxes and pamphlet binders. Phase boxes were created for thick books (over ½ inch); their fabrication
is labor intensive as they were individually made from scratch and assembled by hand. Pamphlet binders were created for thin books; their fabrication required less labor as they were purchased pre-assembled and customized by hand. A total of 1400 enclosures were created for 1400 titles, which consisted of 1183 pamphlet binders and 217 phase boxes.

Exhibitions, Performances and Publications

*Martha Wilson and Franklin Furnace*, an exhibition which traveled under the auspices of Independent Curators International (ICI) from 2009 to 2015, surveys 40 years of individual and collaborative work by artist Martha Wilson, as well as one project representing each of Franklin Furnace's first 40 years. Curated by Peter Dykhuis, this exhibition chronicles the interwoven stages of Wilson’s creative contributions within the context of early feminist and socially engaged studio practice as well as her dissemination of the work of like-minded individuals through the auspices of Franklin Furnace. Central to the discussion is Wilson’s presence as an agent of transformative change, initially in her artwork and then her facilitation of cultural change through her directorial presence at Franklin Furnace. Wilson’s selection of 40 projects from 40 years of programming at Franklin Furnace also becomes a self-portrait of sorts as she highlights works that are historically significant for pushing boundaries within exhibition and display culture as well as society at large.

In 2016-17, under the auspices of Franklin Furnace, Transformer, a 15-year-old alternative space in Washington, DC partnered with American University’s Katzen Center to showcase the *Martha Wilson and Franklin Furnace* exhibition and host a lecture at AU on Thursday November 10, 2016. The American University Museum hosted the opening of *Martha Wilson and Franklin Furnace* on Saturday, November 12.

On September 30, 2014, Franklin Furnace (FF) signed an organization-in-residence agreement with Pratt Institute in order to develop collaborations designed to study, preserve and disseminate the ephemeral practice it has championed for four decades:

- Four Fellowships were successfully developed by FF in conjunction with schools and programs at Pratt including: the Center for Art, Design, and Community Engagement K-12; Performance + Performance Studies; Sustainability Environmental Systems; the School of Information, and the Department of the History of Art and Design.
An annual exhibition program entitled *Live at The Library* was created via planning conversations between Russ Abell of Pratt Libraries and Martha Wilson of FF. In 2015-16, at FF’s suggestion, Pratt Libraries presented an exhibition of Mail Art by Anna Banana; in 2016-17 Pratt faculty/FF alumn Robert Morgan, proposed the exhibition of Raquel Rabinovich. For FY 2018, FF and Pratt developed a panel selection process including two Pratt faculty and one Pratt student, resulting in Ann Messner’s *The Free Library and Other Histories* and *The Complete History of M/E/A/N/I/N/G Magazine* (1986-2017) by Susan Bee and Mira Schor, a pair of exhibitions opening on February 6, 2018.

Every other year, Martha Wilson is team-teaching *Performance Art: The Artist as Provocateur*. As a consequence, FF has begun augmenting its reference collection with materials concerning the field of performance art; these include a complete set of *High Performance* magazine, as well as books. The FF Event Archives will be utilized by Pratt faculty Julia Steinmetz and Karin Shankar, who teach Introduction to Performance Studies. Their students will study the relationship between performance and performance documents using unique FF materials.

The FF Artists’ Book Collection, with the added support of the Pratt nesting agreement, has experienced record growth since moving to Pratt. In 2015, FF was chosen as the official repository for the prestigious *Anamorphosis* international photobook prize. Since then, 729 new titles have been added from that competition alone. FF is pleased to be able to share its unique, growing, and vibrant collection with the Pratt educational community. Pratt photobook classes taught by Ellen Wallenstein and Artists’ Book classes taught by Robbin Ami Silverberg visit FF’s Artists’ Book Collection each semester so Pratt students can examine examples of this influential art form.

Each November, in collaboration with Performance + Performance Studies, FF announces each new class of Franklin Furnace Fund grant recipients. This year’s twelve 2017 awardees presented their proposed projects in the Alumni Reading Room to a full house of artists, faculty, community members and friends.

Conservation internships in the FF Artists’ Book Collection were provided for Pratt students including Leslie To (Pratt MLIS), and Xinan Helen Ran (Pratt Drawing BFA), and others as a result of a $50,000 grant obtained by FF from the Pine Tree Foundation for book conservation. Michael Katchen, FF Senior Archivist, is developing *Photography as a Conservation Tool* to be taught in Fall 2018 with Pratt Acting Dean of the School of Information Anthony Cociolo. The course explores how to employ photography as a conservation tool and students will gain hands-on experience by photographing a variety of artifacts from FF’s archives.
Income and Expenses for the fiscal year ended July 31, 2016

The following is an overview of Franklin Furnace Archive, Inc.’s income and expenses for the fiscal year ended July 31, 2016:

Total Support and Revenue $437,998
Program Expenses $252,333
Management & General Expenses $ 57,275
Fundraising Expenses $ 68,184
Total Liabilities and Net Assets $412,705.

Board of Directors, 2016-2017
Susan Widerman Blog, Treasurer (financial officer)
Adam M. Cohen (attorney)
Chris DAZE Ellis (artist)
Coco Fusco (artist)
Ruth Hardinger (artist, realtor)
Chris Havens (real estate broker)
Jon Hendricks (curator)
Russet Lederman, Chair (artist)
Sandra Lipsman, Secretary (attorney)
David S. Perlmutter, Vice Chair (realtor)
Martha Wilson (artist)
Ricardo Miranda Zuniga (artist)

Franklin Furnace Archive, Inc., is tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.