
Finding aid prepared by Alexis Adkins
Descriptive Summary
Title: Heinz Ohff collection of Wolf Vostell papers
Date (inclusive): circa 1962-2007
Number: 2009.M.24
Creator/Collector: Ohff, Heinz
Physical Description: 8.0 linear feet (4 boxes, 4 flatfile folders)
Repository:
The Getty Research Institute
Special Collections
1200 Getty Center Drive, Suite 1100
Los Angeles, California, 90049-1688
(310) 440-7390

Abstract: The Wolf Vostell papers, collected by the German art critic and friend of the artist, Heinz Ohff, document the activities of one of Europe's pioneers in video art, Happenings, and Fluxus. The bulk of the material dates from the 1970s and the early 1980s.

Request Materials: Request access to the physical materials described in this inventory through the catalog record for this collection. Click here for the access policy.

Language: Collection material is in German

Biographical/Historical Note
Born in Leverkusen, Germany in 1932, Wolf Vostell was a pioneer of video art, and the Fluxus and Happening movements. While studying graphic arts at the Ecole nationale des beaux-arts in Paris, Vostell developed the concept of dé-coll/age, or the process of artistic creation through the destruction of everyday materials. In Paris in 1958 he staged his first Happening, Theatre is in the Street. Four years later he joined with George Maciunas and Nam June Paik to coordinate the First International Fluxus Festival at Museum Wiesbaden in Germany. Vostell was among the first artists to incorporate television into his work, which he did as early as 1958. Vostell had close ties to Spain, the birthplace of his wife, where he founded the Museo Vostell Malpartida de Cáceres in 1976. The first retrospective exhibition of Vostell's work took place in 1974 at Musée d'art moderne de la ville de Paris. He died in Berlin in 1998.

Heinz Ohff was a friend of Wolf Volstell, as well as an art critic and editor at the Berlin Tagespiegel from 1961 until 1987. He also served as president of the German chapter of International Association of Art Critics (AICA).

Access
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Preferred Citation
http://hdl.handle.net/10020/cifa2009m24

Acquisition Information
Acquired in 2009.

Processing History
In 2009 the collection was evaluated by John Tain and rehoused by Vladimira Stefura. In 2010 Alexis Adkins processed the collection and wrote the finding aid; Isabella Zuralski supervised and edited the work.

Related Archival Materials
The following collections at the Getty Research Institute also include archival materials related to Wolf Vostell: Jean Brown papers (accession no. 890164), Allan Kaprow papers (accession no. 980063), Dick Higgins papers (870613).

Scope and Content of Collection
Collected by Wolf Vostell's friend, the German art critic Heinz Ohff, the Wolf Vostell papers document the activities of one of Europe's pioneers in video art, Happenings, and Fluxus. The bulk of the material dates from the 1970s and the early 1980s, a prolific period in Vostell's career. Including correspondence, signed drawings and notes, press clippings, invitations to Happenings and exhibitions, posters, and other printed ephemera, the collection provides a broad, if selective, overview of...
Vostell's career and art. Many of the items are signed, dedicated, initialed, stamped and/or hand-written by Vostell, often in the form of correspondence to Ohff. Particularly well documented are several of Vostell's Happenings, his first retrospective exhibition in Paris in 1974, the mobile museum Fluxus Zug (Fluxus Train), the Vostell Environment Museum, the Vostell Archive in Berlin, and his work for the Museo Vostell de Malpartida de Cáceres in Spain. Also included are ephemera from Happenings and dé-coll/age projects, including an empty Joya de Nicaragua cigar box inscribed by Vostell.

**Arrangement**


**Subjects - Names**

Ohff, Heinz  
Vostell, Wolf, 1932-1998

**Subjects - Corporate Bodies**

Museo Vostell de Malpartida de Cáceres

**Subjects - Topics**

Art critics--Germany--Correspondence  
Artists--Germany--Correspondence  
Fluxus (Group of artists)  
Happening (Art)  
Video art--Germany--20th century

**Genres and Forms of Material**

Drawings--Germany--20th century  
Posters--Germany--20th century  
Printed ephemera--Germany--20th century

**Contributors**

Vostell, Wolf, 1932-1998

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**Series I. Happenings, 1962-1975**

Physical Description: 2.88 linear ft. 8 folders

Scope and Content Note

This series contains printed ephemera relating to Happenings. Included are *P.-C.-Petite Ceinture, T.O.T. (Technological Oak Tree), Erdbeerren, Fandango, Heuwagen*, and *Salat*, a train taken by Vostell, cohorts, and several crates of lettuce between Cologne and Aachen over a 100 day period.

**Arrangement**

Materials are in the chronological order in which they were received.

- Box 1, Folder 1 *P.-C.-Petite Ceinture, 1962*  
- Box 1, Folder 2 *Salat, 1970-1971*  
- Box 1, 3* *T.O.T. (Technological Oak Tree), 1972*  
- Box 1, Folder 3 Papers  
- Box 3*, Folder 1 Poster  
- Box 1, Folder 4 *Erdbeerren, 1974*  
- Box 1, 3* *Fandango, 1975*  
- Box 1, Folder 5 Papers  
- Box 3*, Folder 2 Poster  
- Box 1, Folder 6 *Heuwagen, 1975*
Series II. Exhibitions ephemera, 1970-1983, undated

Physical Description: 10 folders, 3 flatfile folders

Scope and Content Note
Ephemera relating to exhibitions. Included are Vostell's first major retrospective at the Musée d'art moderne de la ville de Paris in 1974, the Vostell Environment Museum, the Vostell Fluxus Zug, and others.

Arrangement
The materials are in the order in which they were received.

Box 1, 3*
Box 1, Folder 7
Box 1, Folder 8
Box 1

Paris exhibition, 1974
Papers
Poster

40 V 40, 1971

Box 1, Folder 10

Vostell Environment Museum, 1977

Scope and Content Note
Also in Flatfile 1**.

Box 1, Folder 9
Flatfile 1**

Vostell Fluxus Zug, 1981

Scope and Content Note
Also in Flatfile 2**.

Box 1

Various other exhibitions, 1970-1983, undated

Scope and Content Note
Also in Flatfile 3**.

Box 1, Folder 11-14
Box 3*, Folder 4
Flatfile 3**

Series III. Various papers, 1971-2007, undated

Physical Description: 13 folders, 1 flatfile folder

Scope and Content Note
Documented are other projects Vostell was involved in, including the Museo Vostell Malpartida de Caceres in Spain, and the Happening Archiv Berlin (HAB). Also in this series is correspondence, a lecture Vostell gave at Marburg University, press clippings, various texts and drawings, and a cigar box inscribed by Vostell.

Arrangement
The materials are in the order in which they were received.

Box 2, 3*

Museo Vostell Malpartida de Caceres, 1974-1986, undated

Scope and Content Note
Also in Flatfile 4**.

Box 2, Folder 1
Box 3*, Folder 5
Flatfile 4**
Box 2, Folder 2
Box 2, Folder 3-5

Papers, 1976-1979

oversize materials, 1974-1986, undated

Large flyer, 1979


Correspondence, 1971-1982, undated
Box 2, Folder 3  Letter to Ohff and essay by Vostell, 1971, undated  
Scope and Content Note  

Box 2, Folder 4  Staatliche Museen Preussischer Kulturbesitz, 1975  
Scope and Content Note  
Two letters to the artist, one letter from Vostell to Stephan Waetzold.

Box 2, Folder 5  Letters to Ohff from Vostell and his wife, 1972-1982  
Box 2, Folder 6  Lecture at Marburg University, 1979  
Box 2, 3*  Press clippings, 1977-1979, undated  
Box 2, Folder 7  Clippings, undated  
Box 2, 3*  Oversize clippings, 1977-1979, undated  
Box 2, 3*  Various notes and drawings, 1971-1974  
Box 2, Folder 8  Notes and drawings, 1971-1974  
Box 3*, Folder 7  Oversize notes and drawings, 1972-1973  
Box 2, Folder 9  Manifesto and Wolf Vostell Ideen Kartei 1/1969, undated  
Scope and Content Note  
Photocopies.

Box 4  Cigar box, 1982  
Box 2, Folder 10  Ephemera supplied by dealer, 1983-2007, undated