Guide to the Vietnamese American Arts and Letters Association Collection
MS.SEA.026

Finding aid prepared by Processed by Julia Stringfellow; machine-readable finding aid created by Audrey Pearson; addition processed by Alix Norton
Special Collections and Archives, University of California, Irvine Libraries
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Title: Vietnamese American Arts and Letters Association collection
Identifier/Call Number: MS.SEA.026
Contributing Institution: Special Collections and Archives, University of California, Irvine Libraries
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 1.2 Linear feet (4 boxes, 5 videocassettes, 1 OS folder)
Date (inclusive): 2002-2005
Abstract: The collection is comprised of organizational records and materials documenting events sponsored by the Vietnamese American Arts and Letters Association (VAALA). Items include those from the Fresh off the Boat (F.O.B.) art exhibit that presented works by 40 visual and performing artists and artistic groups of all mediums. Materials from the Vietnamese International Film Festival (VIFF) are also contained in the collection, such as programs, photographs, and descriptions of films being shown at the festival. The film festival is the first in the nation and worldwide to exhibit works by the Vietnamese diaspora, Vietnamese living outside of their homeland, and has been held at the University of California, Los Angeles, and the University of California, Irvine beginning in 2003.
Creator: Hoi văn hoc nghe thuat Viet My.
Access
The collection is open for research. Original sound and video recordings may not be used. Researchers must request that duplicate use copies be made for access.
Publication Rights
Property rights reside with the University of California. Literary rights are retained by the creators of the records and their heirs. For permissions to reproduce or to publish, please contact the Southeast Asian Archive Librarian.
Preferred Citation
For the benefit of current and future researchers, please cite any additional information about sources consulted in this collection, including permanent URLs, item or folder descriptions, and box/folder locations.
 Acquisition Information
Processing History
Processed by Julia Stringfellow, 2005. Processing was supported by a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grant. Additional materials accessioned and processed by Alix Norton with assistance from Audra Eagle Yun, 2013.
Historical Background
The Vietnamese American Arts and Letters Association (VAALA), a community-based non-profit organization based in Orange County, California, was founded in 1991 by a group of Vietnamese American journalists, artists, and friends. VAALA's mission is to promote Vietnamese values in art, create opportunities for artists to interact with their audience, and facilitate communication among different ethnic groups through various forms of art. VAALA has organized numerous cultural events that include lectures, exhibits, book fairs, and concerts by world-class Vietnamese scholars and artists. These events help bring the arts and culture to the community.
The Fresh off the Boat (F.O.B.) art exhibit was held in September 2002 at the Nguoi Viet gallery in Westminster, California. F.O.B. was the first exhibit to incorporate all the major media of visual and performing arts presented by Vietnamese American artists who are under 40 years of age. The goal of the exhibit was to celebrate and empower the Vietnamese American identity through creativity. Media featured include painting, sculpture, photography, film, new genres, installation, performing art, video art, comic drawings, graffiti art, poetry/spoken word, music, and di-jing. F.O.B. interwove art, popular culture, and unpopular notions of identity into a controversial show that addressed discrimination, stereotypes, and struggles. The exhibit was part of a three-week long festival.
"Fresh off the Boat' is a label often attributed to immigrants who have not yet integrated into the mainstream American society. The art show was created to shatter stereotypes and empower the immigrant community, co-opting the term "F.O.B." for the immigrants' own use.
The Vietnamese International Film Festival (VIFF) was first held in 2003 and was the world's first film festival showcasing works on the Vietnamese diaspora. It was held at the University of California, Los Angeles, and the University of California, Irvine. The festival usually features about 100 films shown over a six-day period.
Collection Scope and Content Summary
The collection is comprised of materials from events sponsored by the Vietnamese American Arts and Letters Association (VAALA).

Items include those from the Fresh off the Boat (F.O.B.) art exhibit that presented works by 40 visual and performing artists and artistic groups of all mediums. The materials include information on the artists and their works, budget information, notes, a schedule of the exhibit, newspaper articles, and a Vietnam California Radio yearbook. Videotapes used for the exhibit are also included.

Materials from the Vietnamese International Film Festival (VIFF) are also contained in the collection, such as programs, photographs, and descriptions of films being shown at the festival. The film festival is the first in the nation and worldwide to exhibit works by the Vietnamese diaspora, Vietnamese living outside of their homeland, and has been held at the University of California, Los Angeles, and the University of California, Irvine.

Organizational records include meeting agendas and minutes, correspondence, event programs and announcements, digital files, and publications.

**Collection Arrangement**

This collection is arranged in 3 series:

- Series 1. Fresh off the Boat (F.O.B.), 2002
- Series 2. Vietnamese International Film Festival (VIFF), 2003-2005

The first two series of the collection are arranged alphabetically, either topically or by form of material. The organizational records series is an addition and is not arranged.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

Hội văn học nghệ thuật Việt Mỹ -- Archives.

Online Archive of California.

Vietnamese International Film Festival -- Archives.

Art, Vietnamese

Artists, Vietnamese

Audiocassettes -- 21st century.

Clippings -- 21st century.

DVDs -- 21st century.

Interviews -- 21st century.

Motion pictures (visual works) -- 21st century.

Video recordings -- 21st century

Vietnamese American art -- California -- Orange County -- Exhibitions -- Archives.

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**Fresh off the Boat (F.O.B.) Series 1. 2002**

- Box-folder 3:
  - Cassette tape, F.O.B. show circa 2002
- Box-folder 3:
  - DVDs, Nguoi Tinh Gia (Pham Duy) The Old Lover, documentary film 2002
- Box-folder 3:
  - "F.O.B.: A MultiArt Show" materials 2002
  - General Physical Description note: 2 folders.
- Box-folder 1:
  - "F.O.B.: A MultiArt Show" newspaper articles 2002
- Box-folder AV-11:
  - VHS videocassette tapes
  - Cinema symposium at the University of California, Los Angeles 2002
  - General Physical Description note: 2 tapes.
- Box-folder 3:
  - F.O.B. interviews
  - Hien 2002
Box-folder 3 : MS-SEA026-V04
Nguyen, Charlie 2002

Box-folder 3 : MS-SEA026-V05
Nguyen, Hien 2002

Box-folder 3 : MS-SEA026-V06
Nguyen, Tuan 2002

Box-folder 3 : MS-SEA026-V07
Pham, Simon Cuuong 2002

Box-folder 3 : MS-SEA026-V08
Phan, Van 2002

Box-folder 3 : MS-SEA026-V09
Vu, Thu Ha 2002

Box-folder 3 : MS-SEA026-V10
Vu, Victor 2002

Box-folder AV-11 : MS-SEA026-V11-V12
F.O.B. short films series 2002

General Physical Description note: 2 tapes.

Box-folder AV-11 : MS-SEA026-V13
Nguoi Tinh Gia (Pham Duy) The Old Lover, documentary film 2002

Box-folder AV-11 : MS-SEA026-V14
Shut Up White Boy, short film 2002

Vietnamese International Film Festival (VIFF) Series 2. 2003-2005

Box-folder 3 : MS-SEA026-A02-A03
DVDs, Vietnamese International Film Festival (VIFF) trailers 2005

General Physical Description note: 2 discs.

Box-folder FB-34 : 10
Posters 2003-2005

Box-folder 1 : 6-7
Programs, photographs, and festival materials 2003

General Physical Description note: 2 folders.

Box-folder 1 : 8
Programs and festival materials 2005

Box-folder 2
T-shirt 2003

Box-folder AV-9 : MS-SEA026-V15
VHS videocassette tape, Vietnamese International Film Festival (VIFF) talk show 2003

Organizational records Series 3. 1994-2007

Physical Description: 0.4 linear feet. 1 box

Scope and Content Summary
This series includes digital files from the VAALA organization, brochures, event programs and announcements, meeting agendas and minutes, correspondence, and a book published by VAALA on Vietnamese boat people.

Digital files 2004-2006

Physical Description note: 3 discs.

Scope and Content Summary
Contains VAALA website information, secretary files, and files of Ysa Le.

Box 1, Folder 10
Use copies

Box 1, Folder 11
"Building a Stronger America Together" brochure and note from President George W. Bush 2006

Box 1, Folder 12
Event programs and announcements 2005-2007

Scope and Content Summary
Contains programs and postcards from VIFF, gallery openings, lectures, and book events.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 4, Folder 1-6</th>
<th>Meeting notes and correspondence 1994-2000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Content Summary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Contains agendas, minutes, and notes from VAALA meetings as well as correspondence and other organizational records.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 4, Folder 7</th>
<th>The Forgotten Ones: a photographic documentation of the last Vietnamese boat people in the Philippines 2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Box-folder 1 : 4</td>
<td>Vietnam California Radio yearbook 2002-2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box-folder 1 : 5</td>
<td>Vietnamese Diaspora Film Symposium, program materials 2004</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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