

## **The Deiro Collection**

### **Collection CAE0901**

#### **Introduction/Abstract**

*The Deiro Collection* contains materials relating to early earthworks by Michael Heizer, Walter De Maria, and Charles Ross, collected by Count Guido Robert Deiro, Airline Transport Rated pilot and project consultant.

#### **Biographical Note: Count Guido Robert Deiro**

Count Guido Robert Deiro grew up in Las Vegas, worked on a ranch and then in casinos as a young man, and became an Airline Transport Rated pilot. He was hired by Howard Hughes first as an administrative assistant, and was working at Hughes Aviation as Director of Aviation Facilities in Las Vegas when he met Michael Heizer in late 1968/early 1969. The artist hired him to scout locations for *Double Negative* and then the *City* project; Heizer was joined by Walter De Maria and Charles Ross, who also worked with Deiro to scout property for their own projects, including De Maria's *The Lightning Field*.

Deiro's employment with Hughes gave him access to aircraft, vehicles, photographic equipment, and free time to work with the artists. By 1972 he was devoting all his time to assisting Heizer and De Maria to secure property and water rights at their desert locations, and leasing and buying the requisite heavy equipment for Heizer's work in Garden Valley, Nevada. In 1974 Deiro cut back to flying occasionally for Heizer and De Maria, and went back to work as a shift supervisor at a Las Vegas casino. He later started a real estate auction company, which enabled him to help Heizer obtain additional property in Garden Valley during the 1990s. Deiro was appointed to several state committees, including the State Advisory Board for Ground Water Management, the Nevada Nuclear Waste Study Committee, and the board of the Nevada Arts Council. In 2013 he helped Ugo Rondinone select a site for the *Seven Magic Mountains* sculpture, which was commissioned by the Nevada Museum of Art and Art Production Fund in New York City. It was installed on the edge of Jean Dry Lake, where Deiro had seen his first Heizer earthwork in 1968.

#### **Scope and Content**

Guido Robert Deiro, a pilot and head of aviation for Howard Hughes in Las Vegas, Nevada, was hired first in the late 1960s by artist Michael Heizer, then soon thereafter by Walter De Maria, to fly them around the desert Southwest as they scouted for large tracts of empty land. He continued to work with them to locate and facilitate the purchase of land for their most important works, including Heizer's *City* project and De Maria's *The Lightning Field*.

His collection of materials related to the two artists, and a third artist named Charles Ross, donated in January 2009, provide a very rare look into the early careers of the three artists. Materials include what Deiro identifies as the first sketch of *The Lightning Field* by De Maria, the first engineering drawing done by Heizer for *Complex One of City*, and other early sketches, correspondence related to land purchases, equipment bids, contracts, posters, and more than 300 black-and-white photographs and color 35mm slides by Deiro of the two artists in the field. Other projects in the collection include Heizer's *Vertical Displacement* and De Maria's Olympic Earth Sculpture, *Munich Mountain* (unrealized).

#### **Inclusive Dates**

1967 – 2016

## Quantity / Extent

2.0 cubic feet

## Language

English

## Arrangement

*The Deiro Collection* is organized into five series: Materials about the archive creator Robert Guido Deiro; a series for each of the artists he worked with; and, a final series that consists of the informational slide presentation about all three artists. Materials are further organized by specific projects.

- Series 1: Count Guido Deiro
- Series 2: Michael Heizer
- Series 3: Walter De Maria
- Series 4: Charles Ross
- Series 5: Deiro's Slide Presentation

## Related Archive Collections

- CAE0902: *Land Arts of the American West*
- CAE0909: *Arcy Douglass: Land Arts Investigations and Writings*
- CAE1111: *William L. Fox—Michael Heizer*
- CAE1212: *871 Fine Arts: Land Arts Ephemera*
- CAE1509: *Charles Ross*

## Related Publications

- Baker, Kenneth. *The Lightning Field*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2008.
- Camfield, William A. *Michael Heizer: 45°, 90°, 180°: A Sculpture for Rice University*. Houston, TX: Rice University, Farish Gallery, School of Architecture, 1985.
- Celant, Germano. *Michael Heizer*. Milan, Italy: Fondazione Prada, 1997.
- De Maria, Walter. *1999 Milano 2000*. Milan Italy: Fondazione Prada, 1999.
- De Maria, Walter. *Seen/Unseen, Known, Unknown*. Okayama City, Japan: Naoshima Contemporary Art Museum, 2002.
- De Maria, Walter. *Skulpturen*. Basel, Switzerland: Öffentliche Basel, 1972.
- De Maria, Walter. *Trilogies*. Houston, TX: Menil Collection, 2011.
- Durham Press. *Michael Heizer, Tom Slaughter, Ray Charles White, Scott Kilgour, John Giorno, Robert Harms, Daniel Villeneuve, Beatriz Milhazes*. Durham, Pa: Durham Press, 1996.

Felix, Zdenek. *Michael Heizer*. Essen, Germany, Otterlo, Netherlands: Museum Folkwang; Rijksmuseum Kröller-Müller, 1979.

Gorgoni, Gianfranco. *The New Avant-Garde: Issues for the Art of the Seventies*. New York, NY: Praeger, 1972.

Heizer, Michael. *Michael Heizer: Photographic and Actual Works*. Detroit, MI: Detroit Institute of the Arts, 1971.

Heizer, Michael. *Michael Heizer*. Innsbruck, Austria: Galerie im Taxispalais, 1977.

Heizer, Michael. *Michael Heizer*. London, England: Waddington Galleries, 1990.

Heizer, Michael. *Michael Heizer—Dragged Mass Geometric*. New York, NY: Whitney Museum of American Art, 1985.

Heizer, Michael. *Michael Heizer: Double Negative*. New York, NY, Los Angeles, CA: Rizzoli; Museum of Contemporary Art, 1991.

Heizer, Michael. *Michael Heizer: New Sculpture*. New York, NY: M. Knoedler & Co., 1988.

Heizer, Michael. *Michael Heizer: New Sculpture*. Tokyo, Japan: Akira Ikeda Gallery, 1988.

Heizer, Michael. *Michael Heizer: Sculpture in Reverse*. Los Angeles CA: Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art, 1984.

Kimmelman, Michael. *The Accidental Masterpiece: On the Art of Life and Vice Versa*. New York, NY: Penguin Press, 2005.

Lewis, David P. *The Size of City: Michael Heizer's Masterpiece as Architecture*. Cardiff, Wales: Dissertation, Cardiff University, 2010.

McGill, Douglas C. *Michael Heizer: Effigy Tumuli: The Reemergence of Ancient Mound Building*. New York, NY: H.N. Abrams, 1990.

Ross, Charles. *Charles Ross: The Substance of Light*. Santa Fe, NM: Radius Books, 2012.

## Container Listing by Series:

### CAE0901/1 Series 1: Count Guido Deiro, Folders 1-4, 1971 – 2016

Series 1 includes personal ephemera of Count G. Robert Deiro including his autobiography dated August 209, personal correspondence, and newspaper and magazine articles.

#### CAE Box 33

- 1-1 Personal Ephemera & Correspondence, 1974 – 2016
- 1-2 Interviews, 2008 - 2016
- 1-3 Images, 1974 – 2000
- 1-4 Articles and Press Materials, 1971 – 2015

### CAE0901/1 Series 1: Additional Materials

### CAE Box 13: Objects

1-1#1 Deiro's datebook of appointments and addresses for the year 1974

### CAE0901/2 Series 2: Michael Heizer, Folders 1-9, 1968 – 2016

Series 2 contains items relating to Michael Heizer. Materials include information about and imagery of the following artworks: *Perforated Object*, *Complex 1 of City*, *Vertical Displacement (unrealized)*, *V-Trough Grating*, *Dragged Mass*, *Displaced-Replaced Mass*, *Munich Depression*, *Double Negative*, *Loop Drawing*, *Circular Surface Planar Displacement Drawing*, *Circular Surface Planar Displacement Etching*, and work from the "Nine Nevada Depressions" series. Other materials include exhibition announcements and documents related to obtaining water rights for Garden Valley, Nevada.

### CAE Box 33

- 2-1 Deiro's Presentation Binder, 1968 – 1974
- 2-2 Perforated Object, 1993 – 1996
- 2-3 City, 1974 - 2007
- 2-4 Vertical Displacement (Unrealized), 1970 – 1992
- 2-5 Water Rights, Garden Valley, 1970 – 2001
- 2-6 Land Acquisition, Garden Valley and Coal Valley, 1992 – 1998
- 2-7 J.F.K. 6.5 Sculpture, 1974 – 1981
- 2-8 Double Negative, 1970 – 2010
- 2-9 Miscellaneous Materials and Exhibition Invitations, 1970 – 2009

### CAE0901/2 Series 2: Additional Materials

#### CAE Box 4: Objects

2-9#38 Hardhat inscribed with "CIVA CORP", 1974

#### CAE Box 13: Objects

- 2-3#20 Initial Survey Stake from Complex One. Pencil Inscribed, 1972
- 2-9#39 CIVA Corp Stamp Pad #1, 1974
- 2-9#40 Inkpad used by CIVA Corp, 1974

#### CAE Box 14: Small Objects

- 2-7#31 Reject Kennedy Half Dollar for *JFK 6.5*, 1967
- 2-9#37 CIVA Corp Stamp Pad #2, 1974

#### CAE S-Box 9

- 2-8#65 Aerial photograph of Michael Heizer's "Double Negative", Photograph, 1970
- 2-8#67 Double Negative View 2, Photograph, 1970
- 2-8#68 Double Negative View 3, Photograph, 1970
- 2-9#41 CIVA Corporation, G. Robert Deiro and Michael Heizer, Photograph, 1974
- 2-9#60 CIVA Corporation, G. Robert Deiro and Michael Heizer, Photograph, 1974

#### Tube Rack: Oversized Items

- 2-3#19 Complex One/City 140 x 120 x 23 1/2' Cement Steel Earth, Poster, ca1975
- 2-5#6 Coal Valley Panorama Reproduction, Photograph, 1972
- 2-8#66 Double Negative, 1,100' x 42' x 30', 40,000 Tons Displacement, Poster, 1970
- 2-9#53 June 12, Poster, 1982

- 2-9#54 *Michael Heizer Geometric Extraction*, Poster, 1984
- 2-9#56 *Michael Heizer Geometric Platform*, Poster, 1988
- 2-9#55 *Michael Heizer Dragged Mass Geometric*, Poster, 1985
- 2-9#57 *Michael Heizer 45°, 90°, 180° Geometric*, Poster, 1987
- 2-9#58 *Michael Heizer Photographic and Actual Work*, Poster, 1971
- 2-9#158 *Michael Heizer Hat*, ca1995

### **CAE Flat File F3: Oversized Items**

- 2-3#4a-e "S1" for *"Complex I of The City"* (1 Original, 5 Copies), Blueline print, 1974
- 2-3#5a-e "S2" for *"Complex I of The City"* (1 Original, 5 Copies), Blueline print, 1974
- 2-3#6 Technical drawing for *"Complex I of The City"*, 1974
- 2-3#129 *The City*, 2016
- 2-4#7 Topographical Map for *Vertical Displacement* (Unrealized), 1972
- 2-4#10 *Anaconda Pintler Wilderness*, Map, 1972
- 2-4#20 Image of *Vertical Displacement* (unrealized) (1 of 3), not dated
- 2-4#21 Image of *Vertical Displacement* (unrealized) (2 of 3), not dated
- 2-4#22 Image of *Vertical Displacement* (unrealized) (3 of 3), not dated
- 2-5#4 US Geological Survey topographical map with Garden Valley marked, 1970
- 2-5#5 Bureau of Land Management Map, 1972

### **CAE0901/3 Series 3: Walter De Maria, Folders 1-3, 1972 – 1975**

Series 3 contains items relating to Walter De Maria. Materials include information relating to the artworks *The Lightning Field*, *Munich Mountain* (unrealized), and *Las Vegas Piece*.

#### **CAE Box 33**

- 3-1 *Lightning Field*, 1972
- 3-2 *Munich Mountain* (Unrealized), 1972 – 1975
- 3-3 *Las Vegas Piece* and Miscellaneous, 1973 - 1974

### **CAE0901/3 Series 3: Additional Materials**

#### **CAE Flat File F3: Oversized Items**

- 3-2#4 *Mobile Oil Corp Auto Map of Arizona and New Mexico*, 1972

#### **CAE S-Box 11**

- 3-2#5 *Stardust Hotel Placemat*, Sketch, 1972
- 3-2#6 *Stardust Hotel Placemat*, Sketch, 1972
- 3-1#1 *Lightning Field Concept Sketch*, 1972 - 1974

### **CAE0901/4 Series 4: Charles Ross, Folder 1, 1967 – 1973**

Series 4 contains one folder related to the collection of works by Charles Ross. Materials include maps, photographs, and correspondence related to the development of Ross' *Solar Center*, as well as photographs of other Ross artworks.

#### **CAE Box 33**

- 4-1 *Solar Center* and other Artworks, 1967 – 1973

#### **CAE0901/4 Series 4: Additional Materials**

##### **CAE Flat File F3: Oversized Items**

- 4-1#9 Auto map of Utah with handwritten notes, 1973
- 4-1#10 Map of West Central Utah, 1973
- 4-1#11 Auto map of Utah, 1973
- 4-1#12 map of South West Utah with notes and sites circled, 1973

#### **CAE0901/5 Series 5: Slide Presentation, Folder 1, 1970 – 1974**

Series 5 consists of one folder containing the slides that G. Robert Deiro used for informational presentations.

##### **CAE Box 33**

- 5-1 Deiro Presentation Slides, 1970 – 1974