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


**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

**CAE0901/1 Series 1: Additional Materials**
CAE Box 13: Objects

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


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
2-6 Land Acquisition, Garden Valley and Coal Valley, 1992 – 1998
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#29 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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2-9#54</td>
<td><em>Michael Heizer Geometric Extraction</em>, Poster, 1984</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-9#56</td>
<td><em>Michael Heizer Geometric Platform</em>, Poster, 1988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-9#55</td>
<td><em>Michael Heizer Dragged Mass Geometric</em>, Poster, 1985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-9#57</td>
<td><em>Michael Heizer 45°, 90°, 180° Geometric</em>, Poster, 1987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-9#58</td>
<td><em>Michael Heizer Photographic and Actual Work</em>, Poster, 1971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-9#158</td>
<td>Michael Heizer Hat, ca1995</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**CAE Flat File F3: Oversized Items**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2-3#4a-e</td>
<td>&quot;S1&quot; for &quot;Complex I of The City&quot; (1 Original, 5 Copies), Blueline print, 1974</td>
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<tr>
<td>2-3#5a-e</td>
<td>&quot;S2&quot; for &quot;Complex I of The City&quot; (1 Original, 5 Copies), Blueline print, 1974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-3#6</td>
<td>Technical drawing for &quot;Complex I of The City&quot;, 1974</td>
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<tr>
<td>2-3#129</td>
<td><em>The City</em>, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-4#7</td>
<td>Topographical Map for <em>Vertical Displacement</em> (Unrealized), 1972</td>
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<tr>
<td>2-4#10</td>
<td><em>Anaconda Pintler Wilderness</em>, Map, 1972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-4#20</td>
<td>Image of <em>Vertical Displacement</em> (unrealized) (1 of 3), not dated</td>
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<tr>
<td>2-4#21</td>
<td>Image of <em>Vertical Displacement</em> (unrealized) (2 of 3), not dated</td>
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<tr>
<td>2-4#22</td>
<td>Image of <em>Vertical Displacement</em> (unrealized) (3 of 3), not dated</td>
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<tr>
<td>2-5#4</td>
<td>US Geological Survey topographical map with Garden Valley marked, 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-5#5</td>
<td>Bureau of Land Management Map, 1972</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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**

<table>
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<th>Item No.</th>
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<tr>
<td>3-2#4</td>
<td>Mobile Oil Corp Auto Map of Arizona and New Mexico, 1972</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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