

William L. Fox: Michael Heizer
Collection CAE1111

Introduction/Abstract

The archive *William L. Fox: Michael Heizer* consist of materials related to Fox's work with Heizer on the writing of the essay for the brochure for the public sculpture outside of the Reno Federal Courthouse, and for his book *The Void, the Grid, & the Sign*. Materials also include organizational papers for the Triple Aught Foundation, correspondence, and photographs of *City*.

Biographical Note: William L. Fox

William L. Fox, Director of the Center for Art + Environment at the Nevada Museum of Art in Reno, Nevada, has variously been called an art critic, science writer, and cultural geographer. He has published thirteen books on cognition and landscape, numerous essays in art monographs, magazines and journals, and fifteen collections of poetry. Among his nonfiction titles are *Aereality: On the World from Above*; *Terra Antarctic: Looking Into the Emptiest Continent*; *In the Desert of Desire: Las Vegas and the Culture of Spectacle*; and *The Void, the Grid, and the Sign: Traversing the Great Basin*. Fox is also an artist who has exhibited in numerous group and solo shows in eight countries since 1974.

Fox has researched and written books set in the extreme environments of the Antarctic, the Arctic, Chile, Nepal, and other locations. He is a fellow of both the Royal Geographical Society and Explorers Club and he is the recipient of fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, National Endowment for the Humanities, and National Science Foundation. He has been a visiting scholar at the Getty Research Institute, Clark Art Institute, the Australian National University, and National Museum of Australia.

Scope and Content

The materials in the archive *William L. Fox: Michael Heizer* consist of four groups. The first group covers William L. (Bill) Fox's service as a panelist for the General Services Administration when it ran a competition for a public sculpture outside the Reno Federal Courthouse on Virginia Street, and his subsequent hiring by GSA to write the brochure for the work (1993-1996). The second group concerns his travels to Garden Valley where he interviewed Michael Heizer at length for the writing of *The Void, the Grid, & the Sign* (1997-98). In addition to notes, a manuscript copy of the first third of the book, "The Void," which is set in and about Heizer's *City* sculpture is included. It was annotated extensively by Heizer for discussion with Fox before the final manuscript was submitted to the publisher, and includes material that was not published. (Note that the other manuscript materials for *The Void, the Grid, & the Sign* are in the Fox archive materials at Special Collections, University of Nevada, Reno). The third group concerns his connection to fundraising efforts in 1988 for Heizer in connection with the Dia Art Foundation (while Fox was Executive Director of the Nevada Arts Council), and then his service on the board of Heizer's Triple Aught Foundation in 1999. (Other board members included Michael Govan and Virginia Dwan, as well as Heizer and his two assistants, one of whom, Mary Shanahan, latter became his wife). The fourth section consists of miscellaneous personal correspondence.

Dates

1985 - 1999

Quantity / Extent

.5 cubic feet

Language

English

Arrangement

This archive is arranged into four series:

- Series 1: Perforated Object
- Series 2: Heizer Interviews/Research
- Series 3: Triple Aught Foundation
- Series 4: Miscellaneous Correspondence

Related Archive Collections

- CAE0901: *The Deiro Collection*
- CAE0909: *The Arcy Douglass Land Arts Investigations and Writings Collection*

Related Publications

Fox, William L., *The Void, The Grid, & The Sign: Traversing the Great Basin*. Salt Lake City, Utah: The University of Utah Press, 2000.

Container Listing by Series:

CAE1111/1 Series 1: Perforated Object, Folders 1-5, 1992 – 1996

Series 1 contains materials related to the Michael Heizer sculpture "Perforated Object" located at the Federal Court House in Reno, Nevada.

CAE Box 15

- 1-1 Art-in-Architecture Minutes, 1992 – 1996
- 1-2 Correspondence, 1993 – 1996
- 1-3 Research, Essay Notes & Brochure, 1996
- 1-4 Press, 1996
- 1-5 Sculpture Information, 1996

CAE1111/2 Series 2: Heizer Interviews/Research, Folders 1-3, 1985 – 1998

Series 2 contains materials consisting of research about and interviews with Michael Heizer.

CAE Box 15

- 2-1 Interview Notes, 1997 – 1998
- 2-2 Research, 1997
- 2-3 Draft Manuscript, 1998

CAE1111/2 Series 2: Additional Materials

CAE Flat File F17: Oversized Items

2-2#1 U.S. Department of the Interior Geological Survey Map of Water Gap West Quadrangle,
Nevada, Edition 1985

CAE1111/3 Series 3: Triple Aught Foundation, Folder 1, 1998 – 1999

Series 3 consists of material on the Triple Aught Foundation, of which Michael Heizer and William Fox were both board members.

CAE Box 15

3-1 Triple Aught Organizational Papers, 1998 - 1999

CAE1111/4 Series 4: Miscellaneous Correspondence, Folders 1-2, 1997 – 1999

Series 4 consists of miscellaneous correspondence and photographs of City.

CAE Box 15

4-1 Personal Correspondence, 1997 – 1999

4-2 Photographs, 1997 - 1999