

## **David Arnold: Visual Language Collection CAE1907**

### **Introduction/Abstract**

Beginning in the mid-1970s, artist David Arnold began creating visual poems using press-type letterforms and collage. He soon thereafter began documenting graffiti in abandoned structures, then applying his own language and visual elements to the structures, as well as designing visual poetry for billboards. Materials include work prints, a book dummy, manuscripts, reviews, and interviews.

### **Biographical Note: David Arnold**

Photographer David Arnold received both his BA and MA in creative writing from San Francisco State University, and then an MFA at the Academy of Art University, San Francisco. His work has appeared in numerous group shows internationally as well as more than a dozen solo shows in the U.S. He received an NEA Visual Art Fellowship in 1985. Arnold is best known as a photographic educator, teaching at the Academy of Art University since 2008, and at the Nevada Union High School in Grass Valley near where he lives in California from 1995-2018. He specializes in digital and new media photography and has received numerous national and international teaching awards. Arnold has also published books of poetry and of photography, and for many years ran a Trike, a small literary and art press that specialized in experimental literature.

### **Scope and Content**

Beginning in the mid-1970s, Arnold began creating visual poems using press-type letterforms and collage. He soon thereafter began documenting graffiti in abandoned structures, then applying his own language and visual elements to the structures, as well as designing visual poetry for billboards. He published two books of these bodies of works, visual poems in *Chain of Letters* (1977) and black-and-white photographs in *Situations* (1984). He also collaborated with William L. Fox on *Four Black Corners*, an artist book with visual poetry by Fox photographed by Arnold that was based on a road trip the two had taken, and a consequent series of experimental landscape photos by Arnold. The series was shown and published widely. Arnold's visual language works appeared in various publications, such as *Cafe Solo*, 1978; *Impressions 22/23*, 1979; *Lightworks 10*, 1980; *Scree 17-18*, 1981; *Scree 19- 21*, 1983; *Kaldron 20*, 1984 *Interstate 15*, 1982; *Iron Magazine*, 1985; and, *Pigiron*, 1985. Materials include work prints, a book dummy, manuscripts, reviews, and interviews.

**This archive is currently in process.**