Philadelphia Museum of Art: Planning for Time-Based Media Artwork Preservation

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Project Background

2014: Launch of the Contemporary Caucus

2014-2015: Seven workshops involving outside guest lecturers on the themes of Collection, Conservation, Development, Marketing, and Performance & Public Programs

2015: Contemporary Caucus white paper outlines recommendation to perform a conservation assessment of the Museum’s time-based media artworks

2016: Conservation Working Group formed

Spring 2017: Conservation assessment of time based media artworks

Summer 2017: Elise started her residency!
Project Overview

The Resident will help create a foundational roadmap to inform Museum staff of best practices, standards, tools, equipment, software, hardware, metadata and other technical needs which are imperative for the preservation of time-based media art in a sustainable and accessible way.

Fiona Tan, *Inventory*, 2012, six-channel color HD and color video installation, with sound
What I Started With

- NDSR Project Proposal Goals
  - Compile overview
  - Analyze needs
  - Summarize research
  - Metadata Application Profiles
  - Compile final deliverables

- Time-based Media Art Collection Survey
  - Create backups
  - Update TMS
  - Define equipment
  - Plan Media Assessment Workstation
  - Hire a TBMA conservator

Bruce Nauman, *Contrapposto Studies, I through VII*, 2016, seven-channel HD and color video projections, with sound, continuous loop
What I’ve Been Up To: Getting to Know the Players
What I’ve Been Up To: Digital Storage

Examples of digital storage solutions.
What I’m Doing Now: Fulfilling My CSI Dreams

- Learned how to use forensic tools in BitCurator
- Rewrote F.R.E.D. disk imaging workflow
- Practiced disk imaging
- Determining technical metadata fields
- Beginning to image TBMA collection
Two examples of TBMA records in The Museum System (TMS) at the PMA.

What I’m Doing Now: TBMA Documentation in The Museum System (TMS)
Lessons Learned: Equipment Case Study
Bruce Nauman’s *Contrapposto, I through VII*, 2016

Brown Innovations speakers and amplifiers temporarily stored on a table in A/V department.

Panasonic projectors being cleaned before packed for long-term storage.

Projectors were packed in original Panasonic packaging.
Lessons Learned: Collaboration is Everything

Members of the Contemporary Conservation Working Group, August 2017
• Perform disk imaging
• Update & standardize TMS records
• Update TBMA acquisitions processes and implement documentation forms
• Write digital preservation & storage policies
• Gather and share project deliverables
Art | National Digital Stewardship Residency

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