

# Storm King Art Center's Archival Landscape: Creating Collective Space for the Site-Specific

**CHRISTINE PERSCHE and SARAH DZIEDZIC**

**Abstract:** Encompassing 500 acres and over 100 artworks, Storm King Art Center, a sculpture park in the Lower Hudson Valley, is most vividly experienced on-site. A recent archival initiative to share the history of its place-based art collection served as the impetus to map Storm King's memory infrastructure in a way that welcomed the public to explore the landscape of its past. This poster will visually express the development of Storm King's archival program considering the multiple intersections of art, time and place that constitute the on-site experience.

An open-source relational database has enabled the integration of varied assets, which span decades of institutional development:

- Artwork details, including acquisition and conservation records of artworks
- Documentation of artwork placement on the grounds, including special exhibitions and re-siting of the permanent collection
- Special collections, including paintings, photographs, and drawings, that highlight seminal relationships with artists
- Architectural drawings of on-site structures, including a registered historic building
- Visual documentation and plans relating to on-site landscape architecture, including the remediation of a former mining site
- Print materials relating to exhibitions and public programming
- Multi-media collection, including reference materials and original documentation
- An oral history collection with artists and institutional leaders
- A reference library for staff and docents

As the process of integrating assets moves forward, we also look inward to the ways in which establishing an archival program also created new space for cross-departmental interaction. New workflows that relate to Storm King's history, as well as real-time archiving of the present, connect the institutional landscape and position the archives as a nexus of place-based information.

## **About the Authors:**

**Christine Persche** is the Archivist at Storm King Art Center. A graduate of Pratt Institute, she has worked with art and architecture collections in museum, corporate and institutional settings. Past projects include knowledge management at Robert A.M. Stern & Partners, digital archiving at Cooper, Robertson & Partners, and visual resource librarianship at SUNY's Purchase College. She also has a background in rare books and is co-owner of Appledore Books LLC.

**Sarah Dzedzic** is the Oral Historian at Storm King Art Center. She also conducts interviews for the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation, and has managed large-scale oral history projects at the Columbia Center for Oral History Research on art, feminisms, and philanthropy. Her writing has been published in the *Oral History Review*, the *Public Historian*, and the *Brooklyn Rail*, and she has presented work at the Oral History Association, the Oral

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