



## **ARTS LEGACY PROJECTS**

When an artist reaches the end of his or her working life, their family, friends and heirs are often uncertain about how to manage papers and artworks that represent their career in art. The following is a roadmap for how to organize and deploy these holdings in order to assure a durable presence that preserves and promotes the work of visual artists, writers, musicians, performing artists, collectors, patrons, curators, arts administrators and others within the community of creative professionals. Needlewatcher LLC can provide expert guidance and skilled assistance in reaching these goals.

### **ESTABLISH AN ARCHIVE**

Donate papers to a major research-oriented library or archive. Positioning an artist's papers in an appropriate repository will make the details of an artist's life more accessible to researchers, journalists, art historians and biographers and add potential market value to their remaining artworks.

### **CREATE AN ORAL HISTORY**

Create an oral history. Conduct interviews with the artist, their peers, associates, dealers, collectors, publishers, family members as audio files for transcription, for podcast, or as a digital audio-visual recording. Oral histories are very useful primary records which could be donated to a research archive, or made available in several forms, on the website of the artist or their estate.

### **CREATE A CATALOGUE OF ARTWORKS AND OBJECTS**

If you are an artist or collector, your estate will be dealing with a number of artworks and objects for which an inventory must be prepared in order to evaluate and insure these holdings. In practice, this should be conducted following the same guidelines as museums. Each object needs to be measured, photographed, and described in a condition report.

### **CREATE AN ENTITY**

Once you have taken steps many questions will remain. Is it appropriate to create a trust, nonprofit, or foundation as a tax-sheltered entity to manage the artist's estate? This is a question for your accountant and lawyer. The next question will be how to promote the artist's work through galleries, museums, scholarship and publications.

### **PROMOTE THE LEGACY**

Artists, writers, performing artists, collectors, cultural leaders and philanthropists may remain active for as long as they are able, but eventually their heirs must take the steps to ensure that their creative work and intellectual property has a durable legacy. Part of the challenge will be to promote that legacy and its mission through publicity, strategic gifts of artworks and objects to public institutions, scholarships, publishing subventions and philanthropy. We can help.

This should get you started. If you have any questions, please visit our website [www.needlewatcher.com](http://www.needlewatcher.com) and contact us at [Info@needlewatcher.com](mailto:Info@needlewatcher.com) Needlewatcher LLC. PO Box 142, West Haverstraw, New York. 10993-0142. Tel: (347)-515-2606

## NOTES