

Think Oversize! The Challenge of Mounting, Installing, and Storing Very Large Contemporary Works of Art on Paper During Times of Constraint

ABSTRACT

With the opening of newly built contemporary galleries at the Art Gallery of Ontario, the opportunity to showcase some unusually large contemporary artworks was enthusiastically embraced. A variety of oversize works on paper were requested for the inaugural exhibition and the success of these installations has opened the door for further requests on an ongoing basis.

Tasks associated with the examination, documentation, mounting, installation and storage of these artworks ranged in complexity and required interdepartmental participation during a very busy pre-opening period and later with reduced staff after opening. Innovative systems were developed and implemented along with use of typical conservation methods and materials. Decisions were affected by financial, time, and space constraints.

This presentation and paper will follow the process of examination to installation and storage of a number of contemporary works ranging in size and varying in materials. The largest works are an unframed collage on Mylar 25 feet by 11 feet and a temporary mounted/framed hand coloured aquatint, in six sections 2.5 feet x 17 feet long. The suitability and success of the materials, techniques, and systems used are reviewed and discussed. Extensive photographic documentation and diagrams are provided for both the presentation and publication.

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Presented at the Book and Paper Group Session, AIC's 38th Annual Meeting, May 11–14, 2010, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.