

Local Zines, Mini-Comics, and Mail Art Collection

This collection contains an assortment of zines, mini comics, and mail art pieces that were created by artists from the Kansas City region.

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Various artists

Title: Local Zines, Mini-Comics, and Mail Art Collection

Dates: 1999 -- (open ended)

Size: 2 boxes

Location: SC96

Administrative Information

Restrictions on access: Unrestricted access.

Acquisition information: Gift, 2005.

Citation note: Local Zines, Mini-Comics, and Mail Art collection (SC96), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

Collection Description

Scope and content note

The Local Zine, Mini-Comics and Mail Art collection is an open-ended collection that continues to grow through donated acquisitions. This collection features works from the 1990s and early 2000s that represent the voices of Kansas City's subculture scenes, including independent artists, comic creators, and anarchist communities. The content of the collection ranges from works of fiction, poetry, and comics to non-fiction pieces about participation in underground movements such as the local punk scene. What all these publications have in common is that they were independently published, usually hand-assembled, and reflect a voice that is strong, independent, or unique.

The independent, self published nature of the zine and mini-comic empowers the artist to be highly expressive with their message. In some cases, self-publishing is the only viable option for distribution because the product would not be accepted by a conventional publisher. Authors may be forced to choose self-publishing if they refuse to put limitations on their work in order to meet publisher requirements. However, many artists choose to self-publish because they believe strongly in the value of independent media. Throughout the zine and mini-comic collection, one can sense a strongly independent tone that pushes aside the mainstream in favor of something more real, honest, or shocking.

The affordability of zines and mini-comics encourages the circulation of free thought and ideas. Frequently the works are published by way of a copy machine or laser printer and then sold locally for \$1-3. A reader might find zines or mini-comics at local coffee houses, independent book and record stores, or comic shops. Sometimes copies are given away for free and distributed within social settings such as a music concerts or informal house parties. This distribution of independent thought and ideas helps perpetuate and honor the underground scenes that the zines are created from. For example, a zine about squatting houses in Kansas City points out that there is an anarchist movement in Kansas City and it empowers people to get involved and continue making progress within the realm of their anarchist identities. Road Kill could be seen as a publication

that helps cultivate and draw attention to the creativity and individual philosophies of people that identify with the Kansas City punk movement.

In this collection, you will find both hand assembled self-published mini-comics, as well as "indie comics", which are more widely distributed through independent publishing companies. What most of the comics in this collection have in common is that the content might be about every day life or somewhat self-autobiographical. Many of these comics were created by graduates of the Kansas City Art Institute (KCAI). Some of their works were printed with higher quality materials or published through a smaller independent comics company. Still, one can find many pieces in the collection that were hand-drawn and photocopied, also from KCAI graduates, with the same do-it-yourself spirit as zines, which are referred to as "mini-comics".

Mail art is another type of self-published medium included in the collection. These works are typically created by artists and then exchanged through the postal mail. The sending artist often gets a return piece created by another artist. According to Wikipedia, "mail art is a worldwide cultural movement that began in the early 1960s and involves sending visual art (but also music, sound art, poetry, etc.) through the international postal system". This collection contains a few mail art pieces created by Kansas City artists.

References

Wikipedia Mail Art article, date of access 12 July 2011.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mail_art

Collection Inventory

Box 1 (Zines and Mail Art)

Art and Words. AR. 2000. A mail art zine sub titled: the Importance of Mental Hygiene (a diary of nerves).

Behind the Stove. Vol. 2, Iss. 1. (No. 12) Edited by Greta Wyrd. January 2005. A poetry, artwork, and literary zine with contributions by Josh Grooters, Nairba Sirrah, Marilynne, Mikal Shapiro, Marx Aviano, Jim Wilckens, Shaun Hamontree, Terrace Myth, Matt, Megan, Holly, and Guy N. Toxikayed.

Demencia Magazine. Winter/Spring 2009. A locally produced self-published magazine that features articles about local music DJs and producers from the house and techno music scene.

Ghoulish Intent. Vol. 1, Iss. 1. Edited by Jeff Stapleton Jr. and Will Leathem. 2003. A literary and art compilation zine. This issue focuses on the theme of zombies. Contents include "For the Man Who Has Everything" by Mike Cody; "Experimental Existence" by Eleanor Droll; "Zombie" by Bob Savino; "Mommy's Helper" by J. Stapleton Jr.; "Malibu Golem" by Robert Dolan; "Dead Reckoning" by W.E. Leathem; "Foreplay" by Scot Stolfus; "Flake" by Chris Cunyngham; "Ancient Thieves" by Jayce Scott; "The Idiot's Guide to Zombies" by C. Rochelle Weidner; "The Flesh Eaters of Publishing" by J. Stapleton Jr.; "Our Dead" by Philip Miller; "Cheap Fare, No Tip" by Brandon Whitehead; "Last Transmission..." by Jason Ryberg; "Pushing Janey" by Janet Sked.

Headcase. No.3. Edited by Libby and Danni. 2003. A punk lifestyle zine compiled by Danny and Libby. Includes an interview with the band Groove Ghoulies and a comic strip called "Amoeba Days" by Danni Deathaxe.

Headcase. No.4. Edited by Libby. December 2004. Includes an interview with the band Mass Street Murder, the Midnight Creeps, and performance art group Bang! Bang! Burlesque.

Johnny America. No.2. Edited by Libby and Danni. November 2004. A small publication of fiction, humor, and other miscellany.

Kansas City Squatter's Handbook. Circa 2008. A guide to squatting vacant buildings in Kansas City, including philosophy, best practices, and further resources for investigation. Produced by the Feral Kat Collective. **2 copies**

Neuralgia. No.3. Edited by AR. Fall 1999. A goth compilation zine of poetry and prose edited by AR. Contents include "Entombed" by Alix Caldwell; "Heartland Film Classic Starring Peter Lorre" by Fetters; "Retinal Fetish" by AR; "Salvador Dalai Lama" by David Goth; "Untitled" by Regina; "Transfuse Me" by Tom Hamilton; "Cradle" by David Canada; and "An Episode" by A.M. Olsson. **2 copies**

Nihilist Monthly. Vol. 0 / Issue 0. Dimino Inc, 2004.

Orange Grove. No.7. Edited by John Breau and Paula Whitmer. 2002. A local literary zine edited by John Breau and Paula Whitmer. Contents include "Crossing Borders" by Mark Browning; "The King" by TJ O'Conchuir; "The Saint of Philadelphia" by John Breau; "Just Here and Home?" by Cathlyn J. Barnett; "The Wait" and "The Poet" by Keith Soforic; "Dream" by Paul Whitmer; "Punk Rock Rebel Club" by Dead Dog; "Unintentional Gift" and "Ink" by Felicia MacGregor; with artwork and photos by DW, JB, and Keith Soforic.

One Shot Deal: Back to Basics. Edited by Jeremy McConnell. 2004. An art zine "taken from the sketchbooks of really proud Americans" who are from the Kansas City, Mo and KS area. Participating artists include Chet Duvenci, David Ford, Rita Brinkerhoff, Davin Watne, Luke Rocha, IKA, Eric Grimes, Glenn North, Tyrone Brown, Brook Waason, Shane Evans, Nathan Kline, Alan Winkler, Quickfix 5er, Lauren Mcentire, Scribe, Gracia Therber, Adrian Halpern, Mott-ly, Aaron Sutton, Phem Niner, Mark Westervelt, Big 10, Syke Steez, Quisp!, Stephen Collins, Yana, Cheryl Hanback, Nomad, and Akihiro Hiranda. **2 copies**

Random Mysterious World Smack. May 28 2005. Mostly a collage and art zine created by participants of the Teen Zine Workshop at the Kansas City Public Library on May 28, 2005.

Roadkill. Vol 1. Issue 1. 2008.

Roadkill. Vol 1. Issue 2. 1 October 2008. **2 copies**

Roadkill. Vol 1. Issue 3. November 2008. **2 copies**

Roadkill. Vol 1. Issue 4. December 2008.

Roadkill. Vol 1. Issue 5. January/February 2009.

Roadkill Vol 1. Issue 7. April 2009. **2 copies**

Roadkill. Vol 1. Issue 9. June/July 2009. **2 copies**

Roadkill. Vol 1. Issue 10. August 2009.

Roadkill. Vol 2. Issue 11. Sept-Oct 2009. **2 Copies**

Sochar. No.1. created by Kelamity and Rocco. Not dated. A revolutionary political zine. This issue talks about the "west Memphis three" and includes a recipe for cooking tofu as well as a primitive painting supply recipe.

Box 2 (Mini-Comics)

Art for Arts Sake. Created by John Schuler. Not dated.

Bug Slayer. Iss. ½. Created by Mickmo. 2004.

Classic 40 Ounce: Tales from the Brown Bag. Created by Jim Mahfood. 2005. A collection of Jim Mahfood's self published comics.

Day of Atonement. Created by Alonzo Washington. 1995.

Free Pulp # 1: Shawn Geabhart's Bennett. Self-published pulp comic by Shawn Geabhart. Includes a short comic by Bryan Stalder called "Cletus the Fetus".

Gear & Co. Created by James Harmon. 2004.

Gimme Some Truth! Created by Travis Fox. 2004. This mini-comic is about the author's thoughts on the bush administration and the 2004 presidential election.

The Invisible Man: A 24 Hour Comic Book. Created by Rob Shamberger. Not dated. This mini-comic was created as part of a 24 Hour Comic book project.

Jack Skull. Created by Mark Stinson. 2004.

Junk Yard Buddha No.1. Created by Jeremy McConnell. 2004. A philosophical and community-centered mini-comic. **2 Copies**

Lovely Ugly Cruel World. No 1. Created by AR. 2002.

Lovely Ugly Cruel World. No 2. Created by AR. 2002.

Lovely Ugly Cruel World. No 3. Created by AR. 2002.

Lovely Ugly Cruel World. No 4. Created by AR. March 2004.

Lovely Ugly Cruel World. No 5. Created by AR. May 2003.

Lovely Ugly Cruel World. No 6. Created by AR. July 2003.

Lovely Ugly Cruel World. No 7. Created by AR. October 2003.

Lovely Ugly Cruel World. No 8. Created by AR. April 2004.

Lovely Ugly Cruel World. No 9. Created by AR. January 2005.

Lovely Ugly Cruel World. No 10. Created by AR. May 2005..

Lovely Ugly Cruel World. No 11. Created by AR. January 2005.

Macon Bacon. Created by Mad Hawkins. Not dated.

See Dick Die. Created by Duane Cunningham and Michelle Arcand. Not dated.

Skyscrapers of the Midwest. No 1. Created by Joshua Cotter. Summer 2003.
This mini-comic is based on the author's childhood experiences. Includes "I'm Not Fat, I'm Just Big-boned;" "Elsewhere in the Cosmos;" "Nobody Likes Me, Everybody Hates Me;" and "We are Already Dead and Going to Grandma's."

Skyscrapers of the Midwest. No 2. Created by Joshua Cotter. Summer 2004.
This mini-comic is based on the author's childhood experiences of summer camp and a memorable birthday.

Small time. Created by Chris Garrett. Not dated.

True Spoon Comix. Created by Parrish Baker. 2004.

Watusi, The Talking Dog. No. 13. Created by Dale Martin with other contributors. 2004. Comic strips.

Work. Edited by D. Kubert and Ryan Middaugh. 2003. Subtitled, *Comics About Working*. Includes "Me. I'm What's For Dinner" by Josh Cotter; "Work" by Joe Wilper; "Widescreen" by Travis Fox; "Order Up" by Mike Springet; "I Love Work" by Michael Herring; "Worlds of Fun" by Ryan Middaugh; "SuperChuck" by Chuck Irons; "Disquiet" by Daniel Spottswood; "Earnings" by D. Kubert; "All I Really Wanted was Lunch" by Gina Kaufmann; "Passing Time" by Bradley Parker; "In Days of Spiders" by Scott Kaufman; "I Bought a New Pair of Glasses So That Others Would See Me Better" by Scott Kaufman.

Yellow. By Bierley. 2010. From the inside cover, "Just another post-zompocalyptic comedy adventure love story"

Folder 1 (Box 2)

Comic Creator's Network: Words and Pictures. Vol. 1, Iss. 5. Various Authors. November 2003. Comic strips and new articles by members of the Comic Creator's Network. Contributors include Duane Cunningham, Mad Hawkins, Anthony Oropeza, Shawn Geabhart, Ryan Middaugh, Daniel Spottswood, Timothy Markin, Scott Stewart, and Bonnie Leigh

Comic Creator's Network: Words and Pictures. Vol. 1, Iss. 6. Various Authors. 2004. Articles and comics by the Comic Creator's Network. Contributors include Greg Gildersleeve, Parrish Baker, Dale Martin, Jason Preu, Ryan Middaugh, and Duane Cunningham.

Comic Creator's Network: Words and Pictures. Vol. 2, Iss. 1. Edited by Mad Hawkins and Jason Preu. April 2004. Comic strips, interviews, and reviews centered on members of Kansas City's Comic Creator's Network. Contributors of this issue include Greg Gildersleeve, Don Ensign, Rob Schamberger, Arie Monroe, Mark Stinson, Jason Peru, Duane Cunningham, Mad Hawkins, Dan Jacobson, Parrish Baker, Dale Martin, Ryan Middaugh, and Zachary Parker.

Donation Letter. Written by Jason P. Preu. March 2005. A mini-comic donation letter from Jason Preu, affiliated with the Comic Creator's Network of Kansas City.

Sparrow's Fall: Attack of the Claw. Created by Parrish Baker. 2003. A mini-comic printed on front and back on letter-sized paper.

Envelope A (Box 2)

Disquiet. No.3. Created by Daniel Spotwood. Not dated. This mini-comic is about the pressure of setting goals and accomplishing things.

Disquiet. No.4: Created by Daniel Spotwood. Not dated.

Disquiet. No.5. Created by Daniel Spotwood. Not dated. This mini-comic, titled *1000 Ways to Waste your Winter Vacation*, is about how time can get away from one during winter break.

Sparrow's Fall. Created by Parrish Baker. April 2002. In this mini-comic, Nips writes a letter to patches.

Envelope B (Box 2)

Lamont Art Card Deck. Created by Lamont Transmissions. Not dated.