

# Guide to the Activation of Interference Archive

Created at: Interference Archive  
314 7th Street, Brooklyn NY 11215

Contact: Interference Archive  
Email: [info@interferencearchive.org](mailto:info@interferencearchive.org)  
URL: <http://interferencearchive.org>

Finding aid prepared by Jen Hoyer, 2022.

---

## Descriptive Summary

**Creator:** Interference Archive

**Title:** Activation of Interference Archive

**Date Span:** 2011 to 2021

**Abstract:**

While an archive of an archive might seem superfluous or self indulgent, as we passed the tenth year of Interference Archive in 2021—a difficult time to be alive, and also a difficult time to be an all-volunteer, community-supported archive—we became more aware than ever that there is an aspect of our work that feels different, and feels critical to share.

This awareness was heightened by the fact that during the COVID19 pandemic, we felt like we were not able to do our work (a sentiment shared by most). And yet: although the doors of the archive were closed to the public, and our open stacks collection saw very few visitors taking down boxes and leafing through folders, we were still successfully carrying out the work that many archives set as their key goals: we were providing safe storage for collections; we were accepting new materials and processing them, albeit a little slower than normal; we were supporting researchers in their work, although this required the few volunteers in the space to search for materials and email scans instead of pointing researchers towards open stacks shelves.

Why, then, did it feel like something was missing? While we were still doing what an archive ostensibly should, why did it feel like everything had stopped?

The rich history of activating social movement history at Interference Archive has been key to our work for this first decade of collaboration. We have put together exhibitions on topics ranging from comics to gender justice to antinuclear movements. We have hosted free public events, including film screenings, hands-on workshops, and reading groups, and we've toured

dozens of classes through the collections. We've rolled out play mats and sharpened crayons for radical playdates, and we've welcomed thousands of activists, artists, and researchers through the door to engage with our open stacks collection during public visiting hours. We believe that this core focus on activating an archive's collections—and these many formats of activation—is unique to Interference Archive. With this collection of materials, we offer an archive of the activation of an archive.

The COVID19 pandemic made us more aware than ever of how much activating the archive means to us because so much of that work was not possible, or was not possible in the way we had grown used to. While the collections were still there, we were not using them in the ways we felt we were good at; we were not helping others use them in ways that so much of our volunteer labor had been structured to support. In spite of all of this, however, we saw new ideas born out of existing passions: exhibitions shifted from physical to online; class visit infrastructure developed to connect virtually; cataloging workflows were developed for collective processing of born digital content while hanging out together in a zoom room. The archive was still alive, still active and activating, but in new and exciting ways.

Our goal with this collection is not to memorialize one way of doing things, or to write a recipe others might follow. We are not creating an archive of a thing that has been; this is not a complete project, nor a perfect one. Instead, we are offering up the tools and strategies that we have learned for activation of an archive, and that we are in fact learning *from* right now as we imagine what archives activation looks like in the future. The activation of an archive presented in this collection is born from hundreds of thousands of volunteer hours of labor and love, and from relationships built between individuals, organizations, and archival materials. We hope it inspires your relationships, your labor, and the futures we imagine together.

**Quantity:** 3 boxes

---

## Biographical History

In the Fall of 2017, Interference Archive moved to a small, non-assuming storefront space just off a main commercial street in the neighborhood of Park Slope, in Brooklyn, New York. With acid-free boxes lined up along industrial metal shelving and flat file drawers stuffed with posters, the Archive opened the doors of its new home inconspicuously, but brought with it a formidable presence in the world of archives. Initially founded in the Summer of 2011 by four friends and comrades (Kevin Caplicki, Molly Fair, Dara Greenwald, and Josh MacPhee), it grew out of a shared sentiment that the kinds of politicized culture these founders were active in both producing and collecting was not being adequately archived in more traditional academic and art institutions. All came from backgrounds in art and political engagement, but only Fair had formal training in archiving or library science. They came together around a mission to create an

archive that would provide space to explore the relationship between cultural production and social movements.

After opening its doors as a highly engaged experiment in grassroots archiving, Interference Archive quickly began holding exhibitions and events with a goal of giving voice to the movements represented on its shelves. Activation of, and access to, social movement history has been core to Interference Archive's work. These movements range across the political spectrum, representing a wide range of issues and ideologies: mobilization around labor organizing, racial injustice, prison organizing, international solidarity, immigration, climate change, women's rights, anti-colonial struggles, and more. The materials representing these movements at Interference archive are just as diverse: posters, flyers, publications, zines, books, T-shirts and buttons, moving images, audio recordings, subject files, and more.

As awareness of the archive expanded, the collection initially donated by the four founders grew. Word-of-mouth spread across New York City and beyond that an actively politicized archive was preserving and sharing the culture produced by social movements, and many involved in these movements responded by donating to the collection. The material collected by Interference Archive reveals the broad output of all these organizations and political groupings. While some of this material is very text-based, such as newspapers and pamphlets, the collection as a whole gives testimony to the strong use of graphics across social movement organizing. Interference Archive provides a valuable testimony to the visual elements of radical politics.

---

## Scope and Content

Material in this collection includes:

- General informational materials created by Interference Archive
  - Promotional material created for Interference Archive exhibitions and public programs
  - Publications created as educational resources related to Interference Archive exhibitions
- 

## Restrictions

### **Access Restriction**

We believe that archives should be available to everyone, and we ask that you make this collection—this tiny archive of an archive—available as broadly as your institution permits. Please use this as an opportunity to reconsider the access restrictions of your collections and to create access policies for this collection that are more open than any you currently have in place.

## Use Restrictions

Interference Archive follows a policy of preservation through use. We believe that the best way to preserve the ideas and intentions of our collections are to continue using them and find new ways of using them. Please use this collection to model new means of use in archives: for exhibitions, programs, education, strategic planning, workshop design, or whatever else you can imagine.

---

## Access Points

### Subject Topics

Archives  
Social Movements  
Exhibitions  
Curation  
Use

---

## Administrative Information

**Provenance:** Material in this collection was created by Interference Archive, saved onsite, and curated by volunteers.

**Preferred Citation:** Activation of Interference Archive collection.

---

## Arrangement

This collection is arranged in two series: Series 1 contains Ephemera and Publications; Series 2 contains posters.

Series 1	Ephemera and Publications
Box/Folder	Item
1.1	Interference Archive flyer. 2011. General Materials. Printed flyer.
1.2	SQEK Library: A collaborative exhibition between Squatting Europe Collective, House Magic, and Interference Archive, 2012. Exhibition Publication. Photocopied handout.

1.3	Can Art Stop A War flyer. 2012. Event Publicity. Color copied flyer.
1.4	ID4: RadioActivity! Antinuclear Movements from Three Mile Island to Fukushima. With Todos Somos Japan. Map designed by Yuko Tonohira; catalog designed by Josh MacPhee, 2012. Exhibition Publication. Fold-out Poster.
1.5	Radioactivity! 2012. Exhibit Publicity. Screenprinted face mask. Printed by Kevin Caplicki.
1.6	"Art & Revolt" Talk/Discussion. With Sublevarte Colectivo, 2012. Event Publicity. Flyer.
1.7	Film Screening of "Las Píldoras del Doctor Barnés." With Sublevarte Colectivo, 2012. Event Publicity. Flyer.
1.8	ID5: Persistence of Dreams/La Persistencia de los Sueños. With Sublevarte Colectivo, designed by Josh MacPhee, 2012. Exhibition Publication. Offset Pamphlet. Printed by Eberhardt Press, Portland, Oregon.
1.9	Interference Archive postcard. 2013. General Materials. Postcard.
1.10	Serve the People. 2014. Exhibit Publicity. Postcard.
1.11	ID6: Serve the People. Timeline designed by Yuko Tonohira; catalog designed by Josh MacPhee, 2014. Exhibition Publication. Fold-out Poster.
1.12	La Autonomia es la Vida, la Sumisión es la Muerte: A Celebration of 20 Years of the Zapatistas and the Autonomous Communities of Mexico. 2014. Exhibit Publicity. Postcard.
1.13	We Are Who We Archive. 2014. Exhibit Publicity. Postcard.
1.14	Self Determination Inside Out. 2014. Exhibit Publicity. Postcard.
1.15	ID7: Self Determination Inside Out. Catalog designed by Josh MacPhee, 2014. Exhibition Publication. Fold-out Poster.
1.16	Documents from Greenham Common. 2014. Exhibit Publicity. Postcard.
1.17	ID8: Documents from Greenham Common. 2014. Exhibition Publication. Offset Pamphlet.

1.18	We Won't Move. 2015. Exhibit Publicity. Foldout flyer.
1.19	ID9: We Won't Move. Curated by Maggie Schreiner with Ash Bayer, Bonnie Gordon, Jen Hoyer, Karen Hwang and Greg Mihalko. Publication designed by Partner & Partners. Printed by Eberhardt Press, Portland, Oregon, 2015. Exhibition Publication. Book.
1.20	If A Song Could Be Freedom.... , 2015. Exhibit Publicity. Postcard.
1.21	ID10: If A Song Could Be Freedom.... Created with Textual Records, 2015. Exhibition Publication. Organized by Kevin Caplicki, Josh MacPhee, Amy Roberts and Valerie Tevere. 7" record with booklet. Designed by Josh MacPhee
1.22	ID10.5: If A Song collected writings. 2015. Exhibition Publication. Photocopied Pamphlet.
1.23	Music Video Night! July 29, 2015. Program.
1.24	Armed by Design. 2015. Exhibit Publicity. Fold-out Poster.
1.25	ID11: Armed by Design. Organized and edited by Lani Hanna, Jen Hoyer, Josh MacPhee, Vero Ordaz, Joelle Rebeiz, and Sarah Seidman. Publication design by Josh MacPhee, 2015. Exhibition Publication. Book.
1.26	Black Power and the Book Cover. Title list for Designing Black Power, off site exhibition at Ace Hotel. November 2015.
1.27	Just Cause Bad Faith. With the Art Handlers Alliance, 2015. Exhibit Publicity. Fold-out Poster.
1.28	Interference Archive brochure. Layout by Partner & Partners, 2016. General Materials. Printed flyer.
1.29	ID13: Our Comics Ourselves. Edited by Jan Descartes, Ethan Heitner, and Monica McKelvey Johnson. Designed by Josh MacPhee and Greg Mihalko. 2016. Exhibition Publication. Offset Pamphlet.
1.30	Soñamos Sentirnos Libres // Under Construction. With Mobile Print Power, 2016. Exhibit Publicity. Postcard.

1.31	ID14: Libre. Created with Mobile Print Power, designed by Josh MacPhee, 2016. Exhibition Publication. Offset Pamphlet.
1.32	Climate Justice Propaganda Party. 2016. Event Publicity. Postcard.
1.33	We Are What We Archive. 2016. Exhibit Publicity. Flyer.
1.34	Joanie4Jackie4Ever. 2016. Event Publicity. Flyer.
2.1	Thankyou card. Designed by Flavia Lopez, Screenprinted at Shoestring Press, 2016. General Materials. Screenprint.
2.2	Finally Got the News! 2017. Designed by Josh MacPhee. Exhibit Publicity. Offset Printed poster.
2.3	ID15: Finally Got the News! Organized by Interference Archive with Brad Duncan; designed by Partner & Partners; published by Common Notions, 2017. Exhibition Publication. Book.
2.4	Radical Playdate. 2019. Event Publication. Risographed zine.
2.5	ID16: Take Back the Fight. Organized by Louise Barry, Rachel Corbman, Melissa M. Forbis, Lani Hanna, and Monica Johnson. Designed by Monica Johnson, Josh MacPhee, and Abigail Miller, 2017. Exhibition Publication. Book.
2.6	Commonwealth: Water for All. With Justseeds Artists' Cooperative, 2017. Exhibit Publicity. Large color flyer.
2.7	Let's Get Started. Layout by Monica Johnson, 2017. General Materials. Risographed pamphlet.
2.8	Thank You Card. Printed by Radix Media, 2017. General Materials. Letterpressed card.
2.9	We Are All In This Together. Created by Nora Almeida, Kevin Caplicki, Bonnie Gordon, Amber Hickey, Amy Roberts, Melissa Sions and Michelle Wilson. Publication coordinated by Eleanor King; designed by Community Design at SUNY Purchase, facilitated by Professor Warren Leher and led by Madeline Friedman with Alyssa Claire, Kelly Mertz, Vanessa Nguyen, and Fisayo Felicia Olaogun, 2017. Exhibition Publication. Book.

2.10	2017 Thank You Card. Photo by Butcher Walsh, 2017. General Materials. Photo card.
2.11	Presenter guidelines. Developed by the Education Working Group at Interference Archive, 2017. General Materials. Risographed brochure.
2.12	ID19: Free Education. Designed by Josh MacPhee with Jakob Jakobsen, 2018. Exhibition Publication. Book.
2.13	Drinks list from Situationist Speakeasy. With Common Notions, 2018. Event Publicity. Flyer.
2.14	Everybody's Got a Right to Live. 2019. Created by Ryan Buckley, Kevin Caplicki, Hamber Hickey, Jill Samuels, Ana Tuazon, Ilk Yasha, and organizers from the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival, 2019. Pamphlet.
2.15	Audio Interference sticker, 2019.
2.16	Building for Us event flyer. With the Urban Homesteading Assistance Board, 2019. Exhibit Publicity. Risographed flyer.
2.17	ID20: Building for Us. Created by Nandini Bagchee, Rania Dalloul, Sasha Hill, Jen Hoyer, Yu-Shih Huang, Lulu Johnson, Samantha Kattan, Eliza Klein, Greg Mihalko, Emily Ng, Maddux Pearson, Maura Rigny, Maggie Schreiner, Devika Sen, Clara Weinstein, and Marlisa Wise. Design by Partner & Partners, 2019. Exhibition Publication. Book.
2.18	Building for Us newspaper. With the Urban Homesteading Assistance Board; designed by Partner & Partners, 2019. Exhibition Publication. Newspaper.
2.19	Hi-Viz. 2017. Exhibition Publication. Risographed zine.
2.20	Resistance Radio. 2019. Exhibition Publication. Risographed zine.
2.21	Like the Waters We Rise. Designed by Josh MacPhee, 2020. Exhibition Publication. Fold-out Poster.
2.22	ID21: Walkout. Research and writing by Jen Hoyer, Justin Mugits, Nitesh Menon, and Katy Nelson. Designed by Katy Nelson, 2020. Exhibition Publication. Book.
2.23	Interference Archive tote bag. 2021. General Materials. Screenprinted tote.



2.24	Interference Archive thank you cards. 2022. Designs based on icons developed by Iconoclasistas as part of their <i>Manual for Collective Mapping</i> (published in <i>This is Not an Atlas</i> , Verlag, 2018). Blockprint.
------	---

Series 2	Posters
Box	Item
3	Art, Culture, Struggle: Signal, 2012. Event Poster. Color copied flyer.
3	Modern Times and The Idea, 2012. Event Poster. Screenprint. Designed by Josh MacPhee. Printed by Kevin Caplicki.
3	Àvenir [Future]. Exhibition Poster. Screenprint. Designed and collectively printed by Ecole De la Montagne Rouge and Interference Archive.
3	Maggots and Men, 2013. Event Poster. Screenprint. Art by Alec Icky Dunn. Designed by Josh MacPhee. Printed by Kevin Caplicki.
3	Rebel Newsprint, 2013. Exhibition Poster. Screenprint. Designed by Josh MacPhee. Printed by Kevin Caplicki.
3	Strike Then Strike Now, 2013. Exhibition Poster. Screenprint. Designed by Josh MacPhee. Printed by Kevin Caplicki.
3	Serve the People (signed), 2014. Exhibition Poster. Screenprint. Original art by Tomei Arai, Designed by Josh MacPhee. Printed by Kevin Caplicki.
3	We Are Who We Archive, 2014. Exhibition Poster. Screenprint. Designed by Greg Mihalko. Printed by Kevin Caplicki.
3	If A Song Could Be Freedom..., 2016. Exhibition Poster. Screenprint. Designed by Josh MacPhee. Printed by Kevin Caplicki.
3	Our Comics Ourselves, 2016. Exhibition Poster. Screenprint. Original Art by Edie Fake. Designed by Monica Johnson. Printed by Kevin Caplicki.
3	<i>La Lutte Continue...The Struggle Continues...Lotta Continua...La Lucha Continúa...</i> , 2018. Exhibition Poster. Risograph. Designed and printed by Josh MacPhee.

3	Armed Love, 2018. Event Poster. Risograph. Designed and printed by Josh MacPhee, with Ben Morea.
3	Agit Prop, 2018. Exhibition Poster. Risograph. Designed and printed by Josh MacPhee.
3	Resistance Radio, 2019. Exhibition Poster. Risograph. Designed by Peter Kaplan. Printed by Josh MacPhee.
3	Everybody's Got a Right to Live, 2019. Exhibition Poster. Screenprint. Original artwork by Sarah Farahat. Designed by Kevin Caplicki. Printed by Josh MacPhee.
3	Like the Waters We Rise, 2020. Exhibition Poster. Screenprint.
3	Audio Interference, General Promotional Poster Screenprint. Designed by Dilhan Kushan. Printed by Kevin Caplicki.