Finding a place for Bric-a-brac, Knickknacks and Ephemera within the museum archive: A look at Andy Warhol's *Time Capsules* 

Erin Byrne and Elaina Vitale, TC Project Cataloguers



- A (very) brief history of Warhol and his Time Capsules
- Discussion of an Artist's Archive
- Cataloguing an extensive multi-part collection
- Museum vs. special collection cataloguing
- Access
- Preservation
- Questions

# **History of the Artist**

 During his career, Warhol was known to challenge traditional notions of fine art by incorporating popular culture icons into his artworks that spanned every available medium; likewise, Warhol's Time Capsules challenge museum cataloging practices by placing an archival artwork into the framework of museum standards.

History of the *Time Capsules* 



- The Time Capsules as an Artist's Archive
  - Contain art from other artists, source materials, and records of the social and political time they were created.
  - Illuminate the private life of an enigmatic celebrity.
  - These archival collections of primary source materials that tend to be accessioned en mass.

# Cataloguing a Time Capsule

- Classification: "What am I cataloguing?"
  - -Specificity/ accuracy
  - -Considerable amount of missing core information
- Adapting standard vocabularies
  - -CCO, DACS
  - -AAT, ULAN, LCSH
  - -Local authorities

#### Finding a home for everything!

Artwork

Announcements

**Audio Materials** 

Books

Business/Financial Records

Clippings

Collectibles

Correspondence

Costume/Personal Accessories

Ephemera

Equipment/Tools/Materials

Exhibition announcements

Food and Products

Furnishings and Textiles

Invitations

Manuscript materials

Mixed archival records

Personal records

Photographic materials

Printed materials

Serials

Toys/Recreational items

Adapted from the Getty Museum's Art and Architecture Thesaurus: http://www.getty.edu/research/tools/vocabularies/aat/

 Description: size of the collection limits the amount of information an object record contains

End-user needs

 Special collections cataloguing vs. museum cataloging

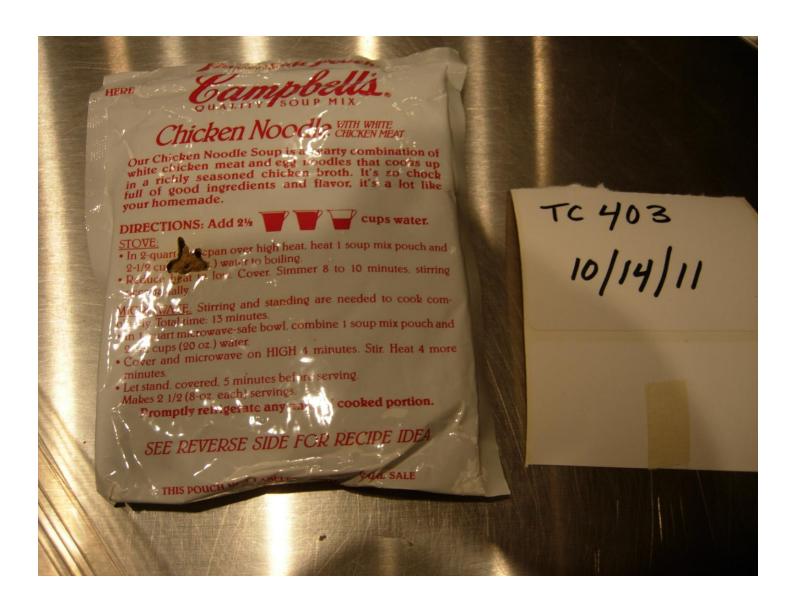
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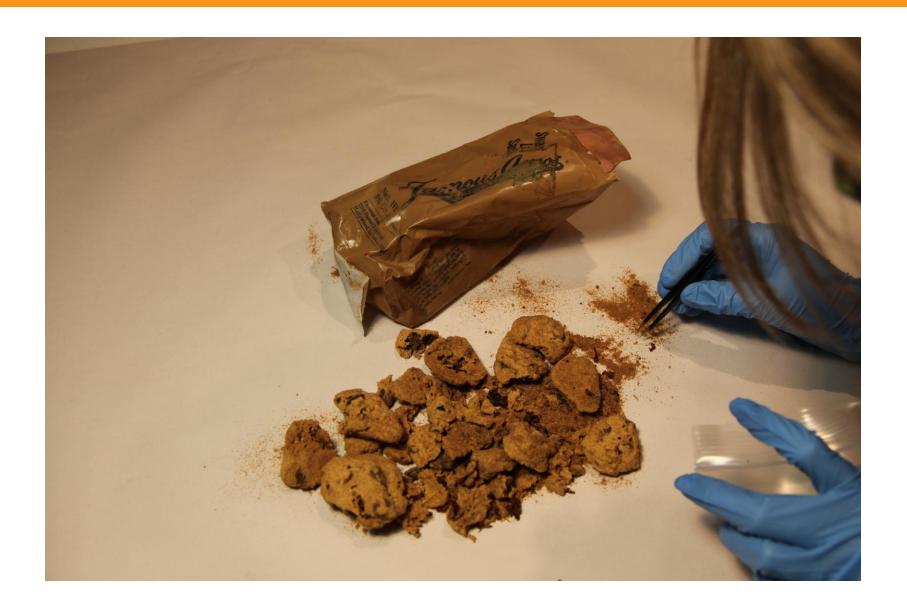
Access and researchers in museum archives

#### **Preservation**

Warhol's art work forces us to view the objects around us in a new way but identifying and preserving the source material for these works has been a challenge

















### Questions?



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