

## **Image Bank**

"Image Bank" was a term coined by Michael Morris and Vincent Trasov in 1970 to describe and define an artists' network. During the early seventies there was a real need for personal, direct contact and communications among artists in Canada and abroad. Morris and Trasov used the postal system to create a network by sending out regularly image-request lists to artists and friends. This exchange soon expanded to include publishing directories and collaboration on events which brought artists together.

Image Bank always existed in the mind. There were never any of the charters, boards of directors or societies that came later with the parallel galleries. Image Bank was telepathic. It read the pulse and tapped into the subliminal. Image Bank motivated events, created structures, questioned and redefined roles, and was always open to new ideas.

## **The Morris/Trasov Archive**

The Morris/Trasov Archive contains more than 10,000 items, including documents, artefacts, correspondence and artists' ephemera. It was assembled by Michael Morris and Vincent Trasov from the original Image Bank holdings, covering the period from 1968 through 1980. The archive's extensive collection of mail art and related correspondence is an important record of avant-garde activity in Canada and abroad during the 1970's.

The archive is regarded as a work of art as well as a research tool, and has an important generative aspect. Morris's and Trasov's mandate is to document properly and preserve its holdings. The archive is housed in the Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver.



### Image Bank Chronology

- 1969 Initial concept for Image Bank. Vancouver.
- 1970 First Image Bank mailings.
- 1971 *Video Exchange Directory* cards from Michael Goldberg included in Image Bank mailings.  
Colour bar project commences.
- 1972 Purchase of property near Roberts Creek B. C. referred to as "Babyland".  
Painting of first set of 1000 colour bars at Babyland.
- 1973 Painting of 2nd. set of 1000 colour bars at New Era Social Club, Vancouver.
- 1981 Morris and Trasov receive invitation as guests of Berliner Künstlerprogramm, DAAD.  
Move to Berlin. Now live and work between Berlin and Canada.
- 1990 Accessioning of Morris/Trasov Archive during artist-in-residency at Banff Centre.
- 1995 Morris/Trasov Archive finds permanent home at The Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery, UBC Vancouver.
- 1967- Colour research.  
2000

### Image Bank Exhibitions

- 1971 "Room with Props" Image Bank exhibition at Vancouver Art Gallery.  
"Collage Show" at UBC Fine Arts Gallery organized by Chris Dikeakos.  
"Photo-Media Show" at Museum of Contemporary Crafts, N.Y., organized by Ray Pierotti.  
"Image Bank Post Card Show" at UBC Fine Arts Gallery, circulated by National Museums across Canada.
- 1974 "Festival de la Postal Creativa" at Galeria U, Montevideo Uruguay, organized by Clemente Padin.
- 1977 "Image Bank Post Card Show". Second Image Bank postcard edition and exhibition.  
"Das Sofortbild Polaroid" exhibition, Aktionsgalerie Bern, travelled to numerous centres in Europe. Organized by Rudolph Jaggli, Switzerland.
- 1978 Image Bank Correspondence exhibition at Centre Culturel Canadien, Paris. Organized by Yves Pépin.
- 1979 "Un Espace Parlé - A Spoken Space" imaginary installation by Image Bank for a catalogue by Edition Gaetan, Genève.  
Image Bank exhibition at Galerie Gaeten, Genève.  
"1er Festival International de la Carte Postale d'Avant Garde 1979". Image Bank postcards included in exhibition at Vitrine bookstore, Paris.
- 1983 Image Bank included in Art Metropole exhibition entitled "Museums By Artists", circulated across Canada by National Museums.

### Morris/Trasov Archive Exhibitions

- 1992 "Morris/Trasov Archive Inaugural Exhibition", UBC Fine Arts Gallery, Vancouver
- 1994 "Hand of the Spirit: Documents of the Seventies from the Morris/Trasov Archive" at UBC Fine Arts Gallery, Vancouver, organized by Scott Watson.  
"Morris/Trasov Archive Colour Research" at XXII Bienal Internacional de Sao Paulo, organized by Wayne Baerwaldt.
- 1995 "Morris/Trasov Archive Colour Research" at Plug In Gallery, Winnipeg, organized by Wayne Baerwaldt.
- 1996 "Colour Research". Works from the Morris/Trasov Archive at Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery, Vancouver.

- 1997 "Morris/Trasov Archive On Line". E-Mail and Internet exhibition. Tang Station. Berlin.
- 1999 "How Sad I am Today..." ,The Art of Ray Johnson and the New York Correspondence School, Morris/Trasov Archive and Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery.  
"Zero Hour", 10th. anniversary of the fall of the Berlin wall", Morris/Trasov Archive, Western Front Society and Goethe-Institute Vancouver.
- 2000 "Gay Chic of the 70's" from the Morris/Trasov Archive, Helen Pitt Gallery, Vancouver.
- 2002 "Golden Streams Artists' Collaboration and Exchange in the 1970s" from the Morris Trasov Archive, Blackwood Gallery, University of Toronto at Mississauga.
- 2005 *Classified Materials>>Accumulations, Archives, Artists*,  
Morris/Trasov Archive at Vancouver Art Gallery.
- 2005- *Intertidal Vancouver Art & Artists* at Muhka, Antwerp,
- 2006 Museum of Contemporary Art.
- 2007 *The Monochromatic Field: Works from the collection*, Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery, Vancouver.  
*Before the Internet: Networks and Art*, Western Front Society, Vancouver.

## Publications

- 1971 *Image Bank Post Card Show*. 80 postcards designed by 80 artists. 100th. anniversary of the picture postcard. Coach House Press. Toronto.
- 1972 *Legal Tender Image Bank Annual Report*. Intermedia Press. Vancouver.  
*International Image Exchange Directory*. Talonbooks. Vancouver.
- 1973 *File*. Special Double Issue. Special Image Bank and Colour Bar issue. May 1973 Vol. 2 No. 1 & 2. General Idea. Toronto.  
*IS13*. West Coast Art. Winter 1973. Coach House Press. Toronto.
- 1974 *Image Bank Colour Research*. Video produced with Byron Black. *Images from Infinity*. Cable 10 t.v. Vancouver.  
*File*. Vol. 2, No. 5. "Image Bank Directory Issue". General Idea. Toronto.
- 1976 *Image Bank Network Sampler*. 20 publications, multiples, prints and ephemera, documenting five years of individual and collective ideas, fantasies and events.
- 1977 *Image Bank Post Card Show*. 48 postcards designed by 48 artists. Vancouver - N.Y.C.
- 1978 *Art Rite*. No. 18, Dollar Art Series. "Image Bank Correspondence Issue". N.Y.C.
- 1979 *Art & Correspondence from the Western Front*. Western Front Publications. Vancouver.
- 1990 *Morris/Trasov Archive* tabloid. Banff Centre.
- 1992 *Morris/Trasov Archive* Portfolio No. 1. "The Search for the Hand of the Spirit".  
Morris/Trasov Archive and UBC Fine Arts Gallery. Vancouver.
- 1994 *Hand of the Spirit*. "Documents of the Seventies from the Morris/Trasov Archive".  
Morris/Trasov Archive and UBC Fine Arts Gallery. Vancouver.  
*Colour Research*. "Morris/Trasov Archive, XXII Bienal Internacional de Sao Paulo".  
Plug In Editions. Winnipeg.
- 1999 *How Sad I am Today*. 'The Art of Ray Johnson and the New York Correspondence School', website. Sharla Sava, Morris/Trasov Archive and Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery.  
*Zero Hour*, '10th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin wall', website.  
Morris/Trasov Archive, Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery and Institute for European Studies, UBC.
- 2000 *Colour Research 1967-2000*, website. Design Patrick Chan and Morris/Trasov Archive.
- 2001 *RAY JOHNSON How Sad I am Today*, catalogue. Morris/Trasov Archive and Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery.

**Morris/Trasov Archive Research**

- 1996 Vancouver, Presentation House Gallery. "Transient Moments". Vancouver and the Performance Photograph.
- 1997 Toronto, Art Gallery of Ontario. "The Search for the Spirit". General Idea 1968-1975.

**Correspondence Events**

- 1972 The Marcel Duchamp Fan Club, Cultural Ecology Project.  
1984 Correspondence Event.
- 1973 "Canada-Trajectoires-73 Trajectoires-Canadiennes 73", exhibition at Musée d'art  
modern  
de la Ville de Paris.