Robert A. Roth Study Collection Development Policy

## Intuit's Robert A. Roth Study Center is a non-circulating library with a primary focus in the fields of outsider and self-taught art. Our holdings contain an extensive and growing collection of books, catalogs, periodicals, images, video recordings, and archive materials. As a public resource that complements Intuit’s mission, the Study Center offers the services and materials that best support the learning needs of those interested in outsider and self-taught art.

1. Mission

#### 1.1 Intuit’s Mission

Intuit is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1991. Intuit’s mission is to celebrate the power of outsider art. Intuit defines "intuitive and outsider art" as the work of untrained artists who demonstrate little influence from the mainstream art world and who, instead, are motivated by their unique personal visions. This includes what is known as art brut, non-traditional folk art, self-taught art and visionary art.

1.2 Robert A. Roth Study Center Mission  
The mission of the Robert A. Roth Study Center is to support Intuit’s mission by offering access and opportunities to learn, explore and analyze outsider and self-taught art. Through onsite and online access to our resources and services, the museum is committed to providing an information-rich environment to support the diverse learning needs of anyone who is interested in intuitive and outsider art.

## 2. Purpose of policy

This policy outlines the principles that guide the Study Center’s development of a collection that ensures the information needs of its client community are being met. The quality and consistency of the collection is maintained through the ongoing application of these principles during the evaluation, selection and de-selection processes that continually occur around the management of the Study Center collection.

## 3. Policy scope and application

This policy applies to all staff, interns, board members and volunteers as well as the larger community of researchers, students and visitors of the museum and the Robert A. Roth Study Center.

## 4. Responsibility

Collection development is a collaborative process involving study center, curatorial and education staff. Directions and priorities in collection development are reported to the Study Center Advisory Committee on a quarterly basis and the museum Board of Directors on an annual basis. Final decisions on the purchase of resources rest with designated Study Center staff.

## 5. Scope of the collection

The Study Center collection holds resources designed to support the learning, teaching and research needs of the public community and museum staff. Resources are provided in a variety of formats:

* books and other hard-copy printed materials
* serials (i.e., journals and periodicals in hard-copy format)
* multimedia material (including CDs, DVDs and online sources)
* realia (i.e., physical objects, such as archival artifacts)
* ephemera (i.e., exhibition flyers and pamphlets)

## 6. Clients

## Intuit’s study center is open to students, scholars and museum visitors and members interested in pursuing further research into intuitive, self-taught, and outsider art and artists. It is used by staff and board members in educational and curatorial initiatives to support the museum’s many exhibits, activities and programs.

## 7. Resource selection

#### 7.1 Selection criteria

Study Center Development Guidelines are used in the acquisition and selection of resources for the Study Center. The following criteria are considered when acquiring Study Center resources whether purchased or donated:

* Relevance of content
* Quality of content
* Suitability
* Demand
* Currency of content
* Format
* Adequacy of current holdings in the subject area
* Availability of resources
* Cost
* Space and storage issues

#### 7.2 Collection Scope

The Robert A. Roth Study Center collects books, serials, video, music, ephemera and other select materials about intuitive and outsider art defined as the work of artists who demonstrate little influence from the mainstream art world and who instead are motivated by their unique personal visions. This includes what is known as art brut, non-traditional folk art, self-taught art, and visionary art. The scope of the Study Center also includes the archive of the Henry Darger Collection consisting of ephemera, art supplies, household objects and other realia pertaining to Darger’s life and artistic process.

#### 7.3 Materials Not Collected

Due to finite physical and financial resources and our focus on supporting Intuit’s mission, there are certain materials that the Robert A. Roth Study Center does not collect:

* **Outdated Physical Formats (video tapes, microfilm, slides, etc.):** Given the increasing challenges around maintaining the quality of these mediums as well as the equipment necessary to access the content, Intuit may choose to reject any physical format that is deemed outdated or incompatible with the resources available for viewing unless the donor is willing to provide for the cost to transfer/update the item to a more accessible and sustainable format.
* **Antiquarian Books:** Since the Study Center’s function is to make materials available to all users, the Study Center does not collect books that require conservation, special conditions or special handling. Antiquarian publications of value will be redirected to an alternate appropriate institution for preservation.
* **General Art Books:** The Study Center collects materials specific to intuitive and outsider art as defined by Intuit’s mission statement. Books and other materials about general art history or other specific styles and schools of art are not in scope for the collection.

#### 7.4 Donations

Donations are assessed in accordance with the Study Center Development Guidelines.

Donations are accepted only on the understanding that the Study Center has full ownership over selection, location and disposal of resources.

## 8. Copyright, license, and access

Resources are catalogued and located in the Study Center to facilitate access. Availability of resources also can be ascertained online through the Study Center’s online catalog.

All resources are made available in compliance with copyright and license conditions.

This Study Center adheres to the principles of intellectual freedom outlined in the American Library Association’s Library Bill of Rights.

### 9. Collection maintenance

Study Center staff regularly monitor, evaluate and cull the collection to ensure its relevance and currency. Items no longer deemed relevant in the collection will be deaccessioned and either sold in a Study Center book sale or disposed of in an alternative appropriate manner.