Introduction

The Carnegie International is the most important and prestigious international survey of contemporary art in North America, impacting the collection decisions of the Carnegie Museum of Art, other museums, and countless private collections. When Andrew Carnegie founded the Carnegie Museum of Art in 1895, his goal was to introduce Pittsburghers to paintings by contemporary American and European artists. His collection program centered on an annual exhibition that began in 1896. The only exhibition of its kind in North America, only the Venice Biennale is an older international art show. The 55th Carnegie International exhibition, curated by Douglas Fogle and Heather Pesanti, will open on May 3, 2008 and continue through January 11, 2009.

Carnegie International Exhibition Catalogs

The Carnegie International is frequently asked about in Pittsburgh libraries and, due to name changes, it is not always easy to locate all of the exhibition catalogs published to document the show.

Keyword Search

A keyword search using the terms “Carnegie” AND “International” results in a huge number of “false drops.” Adding the word “Art” to the same keyword search brings a much better result, but it is not complete.

Author / Title Search

It is not possible to bring up a list of the entire exhibition catalogs by doing an author search or title search either because the name of the exhibition changed through the decades. It was first known as the Pittsburgh Exhibition, the Pittsburgh International, and, in 1982 it began to be called The Carnegie International.

Subject Search

There is no Library of Congress subject heading specifically for international art exhibitions; only the generic subject headings “Art Modern – 20th Century -
“Exhibitions” and “Art Modern – 21st Century – Exhibitions” are used. The results produced by the former search currently requires a library user to look through 400 entries!

The Frick Fine Arts Library has designed this guide to assist scholars and the public in locating material on this exhibition that has been so important to the city of Pittsburgh and the contemporary art world.

Indexes and Reference Sources


Writings about the Carnegie International


Includes an essay on the history of the Carnegie International and the formation of the permanent collection as well as a large section devoted to biographies of some of the artists represented in the collection.


Carnegie International Exhibition Catalogs

The exhibition catalogs are shelved together in a section we have reserved for selected international art exhibitions. It is located in the Reading Room at the top of the balcony stairs (to your left as you enter the library).

This listing is arranged chronologically.


1970-1977


1979


1982


1985


1988


1991 – to the present


*"The person who knows where knowledge is, as good as has it.” –Brunetiere

No. 41 – Rev. 08/31/07