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Aa vaa The African & Asian Visual Artists Archive

JIDI

UEL University of East London



As of February 2005, Aavaa has been re-launched as "Diversity Art Forum". The new Diversity Art Forum is led by Pauline de Souza, based at the University of East London.

Aavaa, had grown to become the most comprehensive slide archive of contemporary visual art by artists of African and Asian descent working in the UK since the post-war period. Founded in Bristol by Eddie Chambers in 1989, with funding from the Arts Council and the Gulbenkian Foundation, the archive emerged at a time when institutions were opening up to the enriching potential of diversity in the visual arts. However, at the time of the archive's emergence there was a severe lack of information pertaining to the work of many of the artists we now see in the Aavaa collection. Artists that have made a significant contribution to the British and international arts scene. In 1995 the archive relocated to the University of East London where it is now based as a Research Centre at the spectacular new Docklands Campus.

The collection holds a diverse and distinctive range of material available for research. Aavaa's main objective is to document, collect and encourage reflection on the artistic developments that have taken place in Britain and internationally since the latter part of the twentieth century. The archive houses over 6,000 slides of artworks and exhibitions, as well as publications and videos about and by artists. There are over 200 individual artist folders, as well as curators, art historians, cultural critics and arts organisation files.

The JIDI images

The slide collection is divided into two main areas: installation views of exhibitions and individual artists' work. The 1,946 images that reside on the AHDS Visual Arts database were made possible by the JISC Image Digitisation Initiative (JIDI), which has enabled Aavaa to begin the process of digitally conserving its collection. These 12 artists represent an important cross range of artforms in the Aavaa slide collection. With such works by recent graduates like Amanda Francis (A Cosy Couple, 1997) to the early modernist sculptures of Ronald

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