



# **InterPARES 3 Project**

International Research on Permanent Authentic Records in Electronic Systems

**TEAM Canada**

## **“Making Archives Digital” The InterPARES 3 Project Case Study: Belkin Art Gallery**

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# Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery

- The Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery houses the third largest public art collection in British Columbia.
- The Gallery specializes in the collection of contemporary artwork by Canadian and British Columbia artists.
- The mandate of the Gallery is to research, exhibit, collect, publish, educate and develop programs in the field of contemporary art.



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# Case Study Overview

- InterPARES is collaborating with the Belkin Gallery to develop policies and procedures for the preservation of multi-media artworks with digital components.
- This will be accomplished through a comprehensive approach to documenting the artwork.



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# The Original Approach

- Initially, the approach to the case study involved investigating ways to preserve digital artworks by advising artists using best practice guidelines for creating artworks.
- This proved to be impractical as the very nature of artwork creation utilizes experimental and innovative technologies.
- Therefore, this approach might prove too prescriptive and curb artistic innovation.



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# A New Approach

- Seeks to build on the existing tradition of galleries and museums to create and acquire records and documentation on an artwork's provenance, conservation and exhibition history.
- Focuses on the Belkin as the records creator with the aim to further develop the Gallery's existing record creating policies through a comprehensive strategy for documenting the artwork.



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# Strategy for Documenting Artworks

- The strategy has two main components
  1. Documenting the artwork
    - Using an artists questionnaire at the stage of acquisition.
  2. Documenting the artwork's installation and exhibition history



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# The Artist Questionnaire

- Documenting the artwork at the stage of acquisition using an artist questionnaire.
- Questionnaire will:
  - identify and record the conceptual message of the artwork
  - identify and record the artwork's original technological context at the time of acquisition
- Identify and separate the artist's intent from its technological context. This is necessary as it is not possible to preserve the artwork's original technological components, but only possible to preserve the artist's intent.



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# The Artwork's Installation History

- Documenting the installation of artwork by recording the artist's intention for the artwork's physical exhibition.
- The purpose is to create a linear record of how the artwork was installed and exhibited at its home and all borrowing institutions, thus serving as a narrative and guideline for future installations.



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# Future Research

- Copyright and moral rights issues
- Authenticity of artwork
- Strategies for migrating an artwork's technological components
- Mapping and integrating this documentation strategy into the Gallery's workflow



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# Questions?



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