

Make Visible: North Country, Dear North Country 2025
MSS Collection #232

Scope & Content

This collection consists of materials generated by the “Make Visible: North Country” project which was undertaken at St. Lawrence University in the summer and fall of 2024, and the spring of 2025 (<https://www.shannonnovak.com/make-visible-north-country>).

The project was initiated by Shannon Novak, an artist, curator, activist and director of the international Safe Space Alliance, and was designed to contribute to the statewide “Make Visible: New York” project. Notable among the planned activities was a community letter writing project, which Novak described as one where “people can write an open response/letter to the prompt ‘Dear North Country.’ The instruction is, ‘What would you like people to know about what it’s like being LGBTQI2S+ in North Country?’ So it’s like an open letter to ‘North Country’ from local LGBTQI+ people.”

The “Dear North Country” letter writing was led by Brush Art Gallery Director Catherine Tedford on February 26, 2025, in the Ireland Room of the Noble Center. As part of the “Make Visible: North Country,” participants in the 1991 St Lawrence University Arts Festival “Out Art” and other members of the St. Lawrence LGBTQI2S+ community were interviewed by Special Collections and Archives Librarian Paul Doty. Transcripts of those interviews and other materials related to the “Out Art” Festival are part of the collection.

Dates

1991-2025

Creator

The collection was created by Special Collections and Archives Librarian Paul Doty in the summer of 2025.

Availability

The Collection is open for research.

Extent

1 Box, .1/2 linear foot.

Language of the Materials

English

Arrangement

Folder 1

- Transcripts of and notes for “Out Art” interviews.
- Photocopies of “Out Art” promotional materials, reactions, and an article in *Text and Performance Quarterly* (1992) by Kirk Fuoss, Cindy J. Kistenberg, and Laurence B. Rosenfeld assessing “attitudinal effects on first-year undergraduates of a festival featuring artistic texts by and about gays, lesbians, and bisexuals.”
- “Dear North Country” letters housed in a box designed and built by L.M. & G.L. Flint Professor of Fine Arts Melissa Schulenberg.

Provenance

Letters from “Dear North Country” were presented to the library by Catherine Tedford in the summer of 2025. Materials on “Out Art” interviews were presented to the library by Paul Doty in the summer of 2025.

Processing Information

Processed by the St. Lawrence University Libraries Special Collections staff.

Repository Details

Part of the St. Lawrence University Libraries manuscript collections.

Contact:

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Briana Dianno, Special Collections Assistant and ILL Technician, bfelice@stlawu.edu

St. Lawrence University Libraries Special Collections
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Out Art Interview Participants

AnnaMarie Pileggi
Danielle Egan
Ginny Schwartz
Heather McCauley
Scott Goodell
Sue Washburn
Syd Seifert

Make Visible North Country Participants and Conversation Partners

Justin Cree, Director, Akwesasne Cultural Center

Mark Denaci, Associate Professor, Art and Art History, St. Lawrence University

Rebecca Donnelly, Potsdam Pride

Paul Doty, Special Collections and Archives Librarian, St. Lawrence University

Sookyoung Lee, Associate Professor, English Department, St. Lawrence University

Valerie Lehr, Charles D., Sarah A. and John D. Munsil Professor in Government and Gender and Sexuality Studies, Gender and Sexuality Studies Department, St. Lawrence University

Carole Mathey, Assistant Director of the Brush Art Gallery, St. Lawrence University

Shannon Novak, Make Visible

Brenda Papineau, Native American Affairs, St. Lawrence University

Jessica Sierk, Associate Professor, Education Department, St. Lawrence University

Catherine Tedford, Director of the Brush Art Gallery, St. Lawrence University

Created

6/10/25