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Special Collections Unbound: The Opportunity for Collecting Visual Arts as Primary Source Materials

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Motivations Behind the Acquisition
Support FIU Libraries Strategic Plan 2015-2020

Acquisition
- Advance transformative teaching and learning
- Develop strategic partnerships that support student success goals
- Increase virtual physical interdisciplinary space for collaboration, research, and digital scholar laboratories
- Collect exhibitions and improve access to unique and non-traditional primary resource materials and create a digital collection to provide online access to enhance face-to-face and distance learning
- Create opportunities to partner with academic units/campus organizations to co-host events in the library

Appraisal
- Promote use of digital collections, streaming videos, and digital learning objects to enhance teaching and learning
- Highlight and promote special collections that tie into FIU's preeminent program focus areas such as the Cuban Research Institute, Latin American and Caribbean Center, and the Digital Library of the Caribbean
- Create opportunities to partner with academic units/campus organizations to co-host events in the library

Catalog
- FIU Libraries employ one security officer per shift
- GORR students visit the library daily
- Limited technical support for web access
- Limited resources, knowledge, funding, and time for cataloging
- Limited storage space
- FIU Libraries has one dedicated gallery space to display art
- Due to the size, value, and condition, patrons may not have access to all items in FIU Special Collections

Digitize
- Work with local artists to provide workshops
- Work with professors and students to enhance research material for the multiple courses at FIU related to Cuban heritage
- Offer access through online exhibitions using open source Omeka
- Make more items accessible by including fine art in the library online catalog to items that we cannot physically display due to the size, value, or condition
- Use the collection to attract new donors and funding sources

Access
- Crowd sourcing to help with cataloging description
- Offer virtual/physical interdisciplinary space for collaboration, research, and digital scholar laboratories
- Due to the size, value, and condition, patrons may not have access to all items in FIU Special Collections
- Access to a wider variety of primary source materials in digital repositories
- Collaborate with the Cuban Research Institute to invite international experts in Cuban art to offer lectures

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