



Selection Guidelines

Version 4

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This document describes the criteria used to select photographic negatives for inclusion in phase 2 of the Archive of Malian Photography (AMP). Rather than focus solely on the oldest negatives, as was done in phase 1 of the project completed with funds from the British Library's Endangered Archives Programme, phase 2 prioritizes sampling across each photographers' career. The National Endowment for the Humanities has provided support for phase 2 of AMP.

General Selection Criteria

- 1) Images of artistic value, negatives that are interesting and inspiring;
- 2) Images relating to significant periods and events that are historical as well as artistic;
- 3) Medium-format, black-and-white negatives, color in the post 1980s;
- 4) Sampling across career (beyond favoring the oldest images, we will select a sample that spans the photographer's professional activity; for example, 1,000 negatives/year for a 20-year career);
- 5) Best of kind (the best among duplicate images will be selected to avoid redundancies);
- 6) Condition of negative – avoid compromised negative unless it is of high value.

Examining negative for orientation, condition concerns

- 1) Put on cotton gloves before handling negatives to prevent fingerprints on the negative;
- 2) Identify emulsion side vs. non-emulsion side, because emulsion side more delicate:
 - a. Emulsion side has a matte surface in image areas, glossy surface in non-image areas;
 - b. Non-emulsion side has a continuous glossy surface (positive side).
- 3) Identify possible condition concerns that would prohibit cleaning: flaking or lifting emulsion, tears in negative, adherence to other negative, paper etc.;
- 4) Flag negatives that have concerns in original box with acid free index card and note neg. # and condition concerns in log book.

Process of flagging, moving, and identifying negative in original and new boxes

- 1) Flagging negatives in original box – Insert index card before selected negative w/ information about the negative – based on text on original box and envelope like:
 - Year
 - Name
 - Other info
 - Write brief description of image
- 2) Process negative according to the AMP Conservation Workflow document.



If negative requires significant cleaning, do one of the following:

- Completely clean the negative immediately OR
- Dust off negative, fold it in acid free paper and insert it in new box in correct order and return to it for complete cleaning at the end of the day or week.

3) After negative is processed/scanned and moved to new box, add the following info to the index card in original box:

- New box number/name
- Sequence in new box
 - Location: Box AMP Sakaly 3
 - Sequence: negative 382 (this number will be reflected in the digital file number)