

Gorman, Bob, GVAR and Richmond flyer collection

Bob Gorman GVAR and Richmond flyer collection

1992-2016

Title Statement

Gorman, Bob, GVAR and Richmond flyer collection A Guide to the Bob Gorman GVAR and Richmond flyer collection M 574

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

M 574

Unit ID

/repositories/5/resources/647

Unit Date

1992-2016

Mixed Materials [A11424376141]

Shared print box 1 (Oversize)

Language

English

source

Gorman, Bob (Artist)

Creator

Gorman, Bob (Artist)

Extent

1.6 Linear Feet 1 oversize folder in a print box housing multiple collections

Repository

VCU James Branch Cabell Library

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Gift of Robert "Bob" Gorman, 2018.

Preferred Citation

Bob Gorman GWAR and Richmond flyer collection, 1992-2016, Collection # M 574, Special Collections and Archives, James Branch Cabell Library, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA.

Biographical / Historical Information

Robert "Bob" Gorman has been working with GWAR, a heavy metal band with science fiction and mythological themes and a rotating line-up of musicians formed in Richmond, VA, since 1988. At first, his work consisted of prop fabrication and live character roles. Later, his contributions expanded to include stage management, and since 1997, he has served as the shop foreman for the fabrication department.

Since 1988, Gorman has also been heavily involved in an artist collective, production company, and independent record label named "Slave Pit" that was founded in 1984 and originally housed in the Richmond Dairy building in Jackson Ward in Richmond, Virginia. [1] Gorman has been a contributing writer, penciler, inker, and colorist for Slave Pit's self-published "Slave Pit Funnies." Besides GWAR, the collective also worked with Death Piggy, Dave Brockie Experience, X-Cops, Locus Factor, and Mensrea.

[1] - This collective of mostly (or entirely) white artists chose to name their company "Slave Pit" when, in the 1840s and 1850s, Richmond was the largest market for the sale of enslaved people in the upper South, and the Jackson Ward area they operated out of is a historically Black neighborhood that white business owners and the Virginia General Assembly disenfranchised through red lining, strategic condemnation of thousands of houses and apartments, and by building a highway through the middle of the neighborhood in the 1950s.

In a 2015 TEDxRVA Talk titled "GWAR and Regional Identity in Richmond, VA," Michael Bishop (a GWAR bassist and singer) discussed the name of the production company. In it, he argued that the collective's use of the word "slave" was meant as a "DIY ethic of punk rock" and "voluntary devotion to art" that "represents the freedom to create." However, he also stated that "we can't divorce that word from the concept of slavery, especially not in Richmond, Virginia," and that the name "betrays privilege, it betrays GWAR identity in that in our narrative, slavery is an option, just like it was an option for us to live and work in Jackson Ward, and it might not have been that way for the other people who lived there." Although the record label is now named "Pit Records," the name for the artist collective and production company has not been changed (as of July 2025).

Content Description

Collection includes original art by Bob Gorman; promotional flyers from Metal Blade Records on GWAR shows and album releases, as well as other acts signed to Metal Blade Records; promotional flyers for events at Hardywood Brewery, and two Richmond newspapers discussing GWAR.

The majority of the collection materials were created in the early 2000s, with some materials created as far back as 1992 and as late as 2016.

Keywords

Heavy metal (Music) -- Virginia -- Richmond

Rock groups -- Virginia -- Richmond

Music posters

posters

flyers (printed matter)

printed ephemera

Gorman, Bob (Artist)

GWAR (Musical group)

Metal Blade Records (Firm)

Description of Subordinate Components

Art by Bob Gorman**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/76862**The "Art" of GWAR****Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/76863**Unit Date** 2003**Mixed Materials [A11424376141]** Shared print box 1 (Oversize)**Container** 1 (folder)**Container** 1 (item)**Scope and Contents**

Poster consists of a decapitated head wearing a beret with various pens, pencils, and paint brushes stabbed through it. The words "The 'art' of" are written on a banner at the top of the print, with the word "GWAR" appearing illustrated in blood at the bottom.

Bob Gorman shows disappointingly mediocre work @ Sweetwater**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/76864**Unit Date** January 12-February 9, year unknown**Mixed Materials [A11424376141]** Shared print box 1 (Oversize)**Container** 1 (folder)**Container** 2 (item)**Scope and Contents**

Poster features a coat of arms with a welding helmet, bicycle crankset on a wrench, crossed paintbrush and hammer, and fish on it.

Gormania! Art & shit by Bob Gorman**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/76865**Unit Date** May 6-June 2, year unknown**Mixed Materials [A11424376141]** Shared print box 1 (Oversize)**Container** 1 (folder)**Container** 3 (item)**Scope and Contents**

Poster shows a zombie standing outside and wearing a striped shirt while holding a beer can in one hand and a hammer in the other.

GWAR skull**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/76866**Unit Date** undated**Mixed Materials [A11424376141]** Shared print box 1 (Oversize)**Container** 1 (folder)**Container** 4 (item)**Scope and Contents**

Poster shows a skull with braces and an exposed brain stuck full of nails.

Nitro burnin' funny bong**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/76867**Unit Date** undated**Mixed Materials [A11424376141]** Shared print box 1 (Oversize)**Container** 1 (folder)**Container** 5 (item)**Scope and Contents**

Poster shows an alien/monster in armor, driving a two-wheeled vehicle made out of a bong.

Richmond's first underground art fest

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/76868

Unit Date November 15, 2003

Mixed Materials [A11424376141] Shared print box 1 (Oversize)

Container 1 (folder)

Container 6 (item)

Scope and Contents

Poster shows a zombie crawling out of a grave.

GWAR show, album, and other Metal Blade Records promotional flyers

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/76869

GWAR flyer, blank location and date

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/76870

Unit Date 1992

Mixed Materials [A11424376141] Shared print box 1 (Oversize)

Container 1 (folder)

Container 7 (item)

Scope and Contents

Black and white poster with orange accents depicting GWAR members in a swirling vortex.

Vote Sleazy P. Martini for President or You're Wacked

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/76871

Unit Date 1992

Mixed Materials [A11424376141] Shared print box 1 (Oversize)

Container 1 (folder)

Container 8 (item)

Scope and Contents

Poster has an American flag-themed background with a figure in a purple suit with gold chains smoking a cigarette and pointing a gun.

Slave Pit Inc. Presents X-COPS To Protect and Entertain

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/76872

Unit Date 1995

Mixed Materials [A11424376141] Shared print box 1 (Oversize)

Container 1 (folder)

Container 9 (item)

Scope and Contents

Poster is printed with a blue and white background and red text reading "X-COPS" in the crosshairs, evoking imagery from the show Cops.

GWAR, Misfits, Murphy's Law, Speedealer on November 4, 1999, at Electric Factory in Philadelphia, by Marco Almera

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/76873

Unit Date 1999

Mixed Materials [A11424376141] Shared print box 1 (Oversize)

Container 1 (folder)

Container 10 (item)

Scope and Contents

Poster is printed in orange, yellow, green, and black. It features green plastic toy soldiers lined up in a row, with two being melted with a match and stabbed by two children. The print is numbered 291 out of 510 by the artist Marco Almera.

GWAR, Violence Has Arrived album flyer

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/76874

Unit Date 2001

Mixed Materials [A11424376141] Shared print box 1 (Oversize)

Container 1 (folder)

Container 11 (item)

Scope and Contents

Poster features GWAR's "Violence has Arrived" album cover.

GWAR Metal Blade Records catalog flyer

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/76875

Unit Date 2002

Mixed Materials [A11424376141] Shared print box 1 (Oversize)

Container 1 (folder)

Container 12 (item)

Scope and Contents

Poster advertises 3 GWAR DVDs and 1 CD available for purchase.

GWAR, Live From Mt. Fuji album flyer

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/76876

Unit Date 2005

Mixed Materials [A11424376141] Shared print box 1 (Oversize)

Container 1 (folder)

Container 16 (item)

Scope and Contents

Poster of GWAR's "Live From Mt. Fuji" album cover.

GWAR, Beyond Hell album flyer

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/76877

Unit Date 2006

Mixed Materials [A11424376141] Shared print box 1 (Oversize)

Container 1 (folder)

Container 17 (item)

Scope and Contents

Double-sided poster featuring GWAR's "Beyond Hell" album cover on one side and a photo of the band on the reverse.

Shield, axe, and warhammer GWAR print

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/76878

Unit Date October 13, 2008

Mixed Materials [A11424376141] Shared print box 1 (Oversize)

Container 1 (folder)

Container 18 (item)

Scope and Contents

Print features a black shield, warhammer, and axe on white paper. Numbered 233 out of 289 with the initials "CP."

GWAR at Newport Music Hall flyer by Miles Tsang

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/76879

Unit Date September 19, 2009

Mixed Materials [A11424376141] Shared print box 1 (Oversize)

Container 1 (folder)

Container 19 (item)

Scope and Contents

Coffee-stained poster print in red, white, and blue featuring a horned alien/monster wearing a spiked headband or diadem.

GWAR, Bloody Pit of Horror album flyer

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/76880

Unit Date 2010

Mixed Materials [A11424376141] Shared print box 1 (Oversize)

Container 1 (folder)

Container 20 (item)

Scope and Contents

Poster featuring artwork from the "Bloody Pit of Horror" album cover.

2nd annual GWAR-B-Q

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/76881

Unit Date 2011

Mixed Materials [A11424376141] Shared print box 1 (Oversize)

Container 1 (folder)

Container 22 (item)

Scope and Contents

Poster of a horned skeleton wearing an apron that reads "grill ghoul".

3rd annual GWAR-B-Q

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/76882

Unit Date 2012

Mixed Materials [A11424376141] Shared print box 1 (Oversize)

Container 1 (folder)

Container 23 (item)

Scope and Contents

Poster features a horned skeleton half-submerged in water wearing an apron that reads "Eat Meat."

4th annual GWAR-B-Q

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/76883

Unit Date 2013

Mixed Materials [A11424376141] Shared print box 1 (Oversize)

Container 1 (folder)

Container 24 (item)

Scope and Contents

Poster features a horned skeleton grilling a steak and a severed arm.

5th annual GVAR-B-Q

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/76884

Unit Date 2014

Mixed Materials [A11424376141] Shared print box 1 (Oversize)

Container 1 (folder)

Container 25 (item)

Scope and Contents

Poster features a horned skeleton wielding a bloody meat cleaver at a woman labeled with cuts of meat.

Hardywood event flyers

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/76885

Municipal Waste with Snacktruck and Earthling at Hardywood

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/76886

Unit Date September 26, 2014

Mixed Materials [A11424376141] Shared print box 1 (Oversize)

Container 1 (folder)

Container 26 (item)

Scope and Contents

Poster features a skeleton wearing a hazmat suit and stirring a bubbling vat of liquid.

Pig Destroyer with Iron Reagan, Mutilation Rites, and Burn/Ward

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/76887

Unit Date April 17, 2015

Mixed Materials [A11424376141] Shared print box 1 (Oversize)

Container 1 (folder)

Container 27 (item)

Scope and Contents

Poster features an illustration of a winged and horned skeleton standing in what appears to be a large cauldron full of heads.

Screaming Females with Aye Nako, Pleasure Leftists, and The James Badfellows

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/76888

Unit Date May 14, 2016

Mixed Materials [A11424376141] Shared print box 1 (Oversize)

Container 1 (folder)

Container 28 (item)

Scope and Contents

Poster features an illustration of an atomic bomb going off.

Streetmuse: Kenya film showing

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/76889

Unit Date 2014

Mixed Materials [A11424376141] Shared print box 1 (Oversize)

Container 1 (folder)

Container 29 (item)

Scope and Contents

Poster features a greyscale image (presumably) from the film Streetmuse: Kenya with an individual holding up a skull mask over their face.

Torche with Pontiak, Snack Truck, and Snakehole

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/76890

Unit Date October 16, 2015

Mixed Materials [A11424376141] Shared print box 1 (Oversize)

Container 1 (folder)

Container 30 (item)

Scope and Contents

Poster features a skull/octopus creature, printed in black, grey, purple, and green.

Weedeater with Inter Arma and Kings Destroy

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/76891

Unit Date August 7, 2015

Mixed Materials [A11424376141] Shared print box 1 (Oversize)

Container 1 (folder)

Container 31 (item)

Scope and Contents

Poster features a horned creature wearing spiked bracers and wielding a large scythe.

Newspapers

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/76892

Weekend - Culture Shock: The art behind the mayhem of GWAR

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/76893

Unit Date January 26-February 1, 2006

Mixed Materials [A11424376141] Shared print box 1 (Oversize)

Container 1 (folder)

Container 32 (item)