From Clay to Cloud: The Internet Archive and Our Digital Legacy

On View at the Laband Art Gallery

January 23 – March 20, 2016

Talks by Brewster Kahle, Founder of Internet Archive and Artist Nuala Creed

& Opening Reception, Saturday, January 23, 2-5pm

Los Angeles, December 16, 2015, *From Clay to The Cloud* explores the human impetus to preserve our knowledge, our memory, and our cultural heritage. Twenty years ago, the Internet Archive took on the challenge of creating a digital repository—a 21st-century Library of Alexandria—where swaths of our lives from the Internet and other sources will be stored for generations to come. In order to be useful, this unfathomably vast collection of data (over 20 petabytes and growing) needs to be explored and activated by humans who seek to tell stories and make sense of it. The exhibition looks at past and present archival practices and asks what are we saving, how will others be able to access it, and what will our cultural legacy be for the future?

Ancient clay cuneiforms will be on view as well as Nuala Creed's ceramic portraits of the Internet archivists that remind us of the crucial human involvement in this digital archive. Hands-on displays will offer visitors the opportunity to dive into the vast "storerooms" of the Internet Archive. We also will be digitally archiving items from the William H. Hannon Library and the Laband every afternoon using the Table Top Scribe, a state-of-the-art scanner.

The exhibition asks the following questions:

Where does the Internet Archive Come From?

A selection of ancient cuneiforms and Egyptian papyrus—some of the oldest forms of human archiving/documentation from LMU's Archaeology Collection will introduce ideas around the human desire to record its knowledge and culture. The exhibition will also include a display of the varied sources of information the Internet Archive is turning to—books, floppy discs, VHS tapes, cassette tapes, television news, operation manuals, and computers—to create its immense bank of knowledge.

Who is the Internet Archive? Nuala Creed's Internet Archivist Sculptures

To remind visitors of the crucial role of humans in the Internet Archive's activities, a selection of over thirty of Nuala Creed's ceramic sculptures of individual archivists from the Internet archive will be displayed. Every archivist who has worked at the archive for three years is eligible is eligible for a ceramic portrait. The sculptures will be accompanied by a video featuring interviews with some of the portrayed archivists where they share more about their particular contribution to the Internet Archive.

What is Internet Archive?

From Clay to the Cloud will present a number of visually intriguing and hands-on displays that explore varied aspects of the Internet Archive. Brewster Kahle, founder of the Internet Archive likes to say that the entire contents of World Wide Web could fit in a 20 x 8 x 8 foot shipping container. To visually convey this idea, the exhibition will include a shipping container flanked by two server racks representing the deceivingly small storage space of this vast contemporary digital archive. Inside visitors can view a film by Jonathan Minard that introduces the Internet Archive and its headquarters in San Francisco.

A wall of monitors wlil convey both the unfathomable vastness of the archive and shine a spotlight on different specific aspects of the archive (pulling needles out of the haystack). Visitors will be able to choose which particular section of the Internet Archive they want to explore and will be able to dig deeper and access more information. A listening stationing made up of music from the Internet Archive's collection can be perused in comfortable chairs. A gaming station will offer visitors the

opportunity to play a handful of video games archived on the Internet Archive. These games span the history and evolution of video gaming from Pong to PacMan to today. There will also be an 3-D Occulus Rift demonstration station.

The Laband Art Gallery is partnering with LMU's William H. Hannon Library and the Internet Archive to bring the mystery of archiving out into the open. During the course of the exhibition, Laband staff and Hannon staff will be using a Table Top Scribe—a state-of-the-art book scanner in the gallery to digitally archive rare materials from the library's special collections and Laband exhibition catalogues

Lastly, one of the Internet Archive's driving missions is to make knowledge freely accessible to everyone. This point will be made throughout the gallery. We also plan to take the exhibition outside the gallery to offer Free Exchange Libraries at different spots on campus. Looking a bit like an oversized birdhouse, each library will offer a dozen or so books that people are free to take and keep. People will also be invited to contribute a book to the library.

Nuala Creed's Bio

Nuala Creed, was born in Dublin Ireland, moved to the U.S. as a young adult, and now lives in Petaluma, California. In 1999 she earned a BFA with high distinction from California College of the Arts. Since then her work has been exhibited both nationally and internationally, in Korea, Finland, France, Hungary, and Ireland. Nuala has also completed four public ceramic murals. She has received many awards for her work, which is represented in both private and public collections, such as Pro Artibus Foundation Collection, Finland. For the past few years she has been working on a collection of ceramic figures for the Internet Archive in San Francisco. To date there are 113 of them exhibited in the Great Room of the archive. Her work has been featured in books such as *Ceramics and The Human Figure*, by Edith Garcia, *Confrontational Ceramics* by Judith Schwartz, *500 Figures in Clay*, by Lark Books. Articles about her work appear in several art magazines, which include *Ceramics Art and Perception*, *Ceramics Monthly* and *Ceramics Ireland*. www.nualacreed.com

About the Internet Archive

The Internet Archive is a San Francisco-based nonprofit digital library with the stated mission of "universal access to all knowledge." It provides free public access to collections of digitized materials, including web sites, software applications/games, music, movies/videos, moving images, and nearly three million public-domain books. To date, its collection topped 20 petabytes. In addition to its archiving function, the Archive is an activist organization, advocating for a free and open Internet.

Founded by Brewster Kahle in 1996, the Internet Archive allows the public to upload and download digital material to its data cluster, but the bulk of its data is collected automatically by its web crawlers, which work to preserve as much of the public web as possible. Its web archive, The Wayback Machine, contains over 150 billion web captures. The Archive also oversees one of the world's largest book digitization projects. http://www.internet.org

Exhibition-Related Programs Presented by the Laband Art Gallery and The William H. Hannon Library (all events are free)

Talk: Nuala Creed & Brewster Kahle & Opening Reception
Saturday, January 23, 2-5pm
Artist's Talk (2-3pm) Reception (3-5pm)
Murphy Recital Hall and Laband Art Gallery
Internet Archive Founder Brewster Kahle and artist Nuala Creed offer insight into the archive and the unique artistic commission. The talk will be followed by reception. The talk is co-organized by the Laband Art Gallery and KaleidoLA: The Speaker Series of the Department of Art and Art History.

Ask An Archivist Panel
Wednesday. February 10, 5:30-7:00 pm
Von der Ahe Suite 322, William H. Hannon Library
Archivists from diverse archives across Southern California will discuss the relationship between researchers and the work of archivists.

DIY Archiving Workshop & Exhibition Tour
Saturday. February 13, 9:30am-12:30pm
Von der Ahe Suite 322, William H. Hannon Library
Learn how to best preserve your treasured documents, images, and objects, both print and digital. The workshop will be followed by a tour of the exhibition with curator Carolyn Peter.

Conversation: Gaming, Its Past and Its Future, Tracy Fullerton & Tom Klein
Tuesday, March 8, 7pm
LMU Von der Ahe Building, Room 190
USC Game Designer/Professor Tracy Fullerton and LMU Animation Professor Tom Klein will discuss how traditions of analog and digital game design inform the creative process of current video game development. This program is co-organized with the School of Film and Television.

Talk: The Dark Side: Your Personal Archive, Data Collection, & Privacy
Date and Time TBD
Location TBD
Other types of archiving and data collection are occurring on a daily basis around our shopping, browsing, and physical location. Where is this information going and how do citizens protect their privacy in a digital age? This program is co-organized with the Department of Communication Studies.

Free Little Libraries
Dotted across LMU's campus are Free Little Libraries where you can take a book and/or leave a book. Stop by the Laband or the Hannon Library for a map and go on a treasure hunt to locate them all.

For More Information
For current program and exhibition information, call 310-338-2880 or visit http://cfa.lmu.edu/laband.

Gallery Information

Hours: Wednesday through Sunday, noon to 4 p.m.; closed Mondays and Tuesdays.

Admission: Admission is free. Parking is available on campus for a charge on the weekdays and for free on the weekends.

Location/Parking: The Gallery is in the Fritz B. Burns Fine Arts Center on the LMU campus. Enter the campus at Lincoln and LMU Drive. A kiosk attendant will direct you to parking and the gallery. There is a charge for parking on the weekdays. Parking is free on the weekends. For a map of the school, visit: www.lmu.edu/maps.

About the Laband
The Laband Art Gallery opened in 1984 as part of the Fritz B. Burns Fine Arts Center with a generous gift from Walter and Francine Laband.

About Loyola Marymount University
Located between the Pacific Ocean and downtown Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University is a comprehensive university offering 60 major programs, 36 master's degrees and a doctoral degree in education from four colleges, two schools and Loyola Law School. Founded in 1911, LMU is ranked third in "Best Regional Universities/West" by U.S. News & World Report. LMU is the largest Jesuit Catholic university for undergraduates on the West Coast with more than 5,900 undergraduate students and more than 3,000 graduate students. For news and events, please more LMU visit www.lmu.edu/news

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Images: All sculptures by Nuala Creed**.** First Page: *June Goldsmith, Mario Murphy, and Andrea Mills.* 1. *Liam Kam, Jen Kujath, and Danny Bernstein* 2. *Ted Nelson, Mary Austin, Brewster Kahle, and Aaron Schwartz*. All sculptures from the Internet Archivist series, 2010-2015, ceramic stoneware. Collection of the Internet Archive. Photography by Don Felton. 3. Sumerian pre-cuneiform tablet listing fields and their produce, c. 3000 BC. Collection of the LMU Archaeology Center. Photo by Carolyn Peter. 4. Internet Archive Table Top Scribe, archival digital scanning system that will be used in the exhibition.