



**Description & Finding Aid:
Art Gallery of Ontario Biographical Questionnaires
Collection
CA OTAG SC027**

Prepared by Sylvia Lassam, 2003

Art Gallery of Ontario biographical questionnaires collection

Dates of creation:

1912-1984

Extent:

13 cm of textual records

2 audio cassettes

Administrative history:

The Art Gallery of Ontario Biographical Questionnaires Collection consists of written responses to forms requesting factual information pertaining to the careers of 372 Canadian artists. The Art Museum of Toronto began to solicit biographical material in 1912, a practice that was continued sporadically throughout the history of the institution. The importance of maintaining information files on Canadian artists was recognized by the first Curator, E.R. Greig who was appointed in 1912, the year the first questionnaires were sent out. Librarian Sybille Pantazzi reinstated the initiative in the 1970's, revamping the forms to include more detailed information. Peter Gale, Senior Education Officer in the Adult Programmes Department, used the questionnaire form to provide background material to the "Toronto painting '84" exhibit.

Scope and content:

The Collection consists of printed forms that have been completed and signed by Canadian artists between 1912 and 1979 and a group of 24 responses to questions posed by AGO staff in 1984. The final group is concerned more with the nature of the artist's work rather than factual and biographical information. The earliest forms were one page in length; basic information regarding birth date, education, exhibitions, awards, publications and a signature was requested. Forms sent out in the 1970's are two pages; the 1980's files consist of lengthy responses in essay format to 7 or 8 questions. Two of the artists from the final group submitted audio tapes that have been transcribed. An alphabetical listing of artists can be found in the administration file. Forms were completed in the following years (numbers in parentheses indicate the number of forms completed for a given year): 1912 (69); 1913 (43); 1914 (20); 1915 (16); 1916 (9); 1917 (7); 1918 (17); 1919 (6); 1921 (1); 1922 (1); 1923 (47); 1924 (22); 1925 (23); 1927 (34); 1928 (3); 1929 (1); 1930 (1); 1945 (1); 1974 (3); 1976 (1); 1979 (1); 1984 (24).

The collection is arranged in the following series:

1. Biographical questionnaires 1912-1979
2. Toronto Painting '84 questionnaires

Notes:

Variations in title proper:

Collection formerly known as Art Museum of Toronto: Artists' Questionnaires collection. The Toronto Painting '84 Questionnaires were treated as a separate collection prior to 2003.

Immediate source of acquisition:

Various.

Restrictions on access:

Open. Access to Special Collections is by appointment only. Please contact the reference desk for more information.

Terms governing use and reproduction / publication:

Various copyright holders. It is the researcher's responsibility to obtain permission to publish any part of the collection.

Finding aids:

A detailed finding aid is available for this collection. A list of artists represented in Series 1 is available in the administration file.

Accruals:

No further accruals are expected

General note:

Forms dated from 1912-1918 refer to the Art Museum of Toronto, at which point the institution was renamed the Art Gallery of Toronto. Forms published after 1966 reflect the name change to the Art Gallery of Ontario.

Provenance access point:

Art Gallery of Ontario. E.P. Taylor Research Library and Archives.

SERIES 1: Biographical questionnaires 1912-1979

Dates of creation:

1912-1979

Physical description:

10 cm of textual records

Scope and content:

Series consists of files containing forms published by the Art Gallery of Ontario and filled in by artists. The early forms (1912-1930) contain the following fields:

- Name (in full)
- Born (Date)
- Studied
- Have received awards as follows:
- Am represented in the following collections:
- Member of
- Refer to published articles, books, etc., as follows:
- Date
- Post Office Address
- Signature

Many of the forms have been pasted onto larger sheets and in some cases letters, clippings and death dates have been added. In a few cases there are two forms of different dates for one artist. Forms from the 1970's additionally ask for art dealer, technique, works in private collections, works in public collections and positions held. The forms are arranged alphabetically by author's last name.

File listing:

Title	Start date	End date	File No.
A-Bo	1912	1945	1.1
Br-Col	1912	1979	1.2
Com-E	1912	1927	1.3

F-J	1912	1927	1.4
K-M	1912	1974	1.5
N-W	1912	1976	1.6

SERIES 2: Toronto Painting '84 questionnaires

Dates of creation:

1984

Physical description:

2 cm of textual records

2 audio cassettes

Scope and content:

Series contains files compiled in preparation for a show of Toronto painters by the Adult Programs Department at the Art Gallery of Ontario. Letters from Peter Dale with questions attached were sent in May 1984 to the 24 artists involved in the show. There were three slightly different questionnaires, each with 7-8 questions. The letter and lists of questions can be found in the administrative files. The responses are arranged alphabetically.

File listing:

<u>File No.</u>	<u>Artist</u>
2.1	Brian Burnett Graham Coughtry Lynn Donoghue Andy Fabo Oliver Girling Sybil Goldstein Paul Hunter D. Kirton Harold Klunder Jamie Lyons
2.2	Catherine MacTavish Ron Martin Sandra Meigs Bruce Parsons Andy Patton Jaan Poldas Gordon Rayner Howard Simkins Joanne Tod Renee Van Halm Robert Youds John Yudelman
2.3	Tapes of the interviews with: Ron Martin John Yudelman