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Description & Finding Aid: Murray Favro fonds

LA.SC158

Prepared by Camille McDayter, 2023

Fonds overview

Dates of creation:

[195-]-[200-]

Extent and medium:

60 cm of textual records and graphic material
17 photographs : col. and b&w
3 drawings : ink on paper
3 posters
1 optical disc
1 watercolour ; 38x43 cm

Name of creator:

Favro, Murray

Biographical history:

Murray Favro (1940-) is a multi-disciplinary visual artist, sculptor, and musician based in London, Ontario. He is known for his multimedia installations and his work with the Nihilist Spasm Band, of which he is a founding member.

Favro was born in Huntsville, Ontario where he lived until moving to London, Ontario in 1957 with his mother. Here he attended the H.B. Beal Technical and Commercial School (1958-62), where he studied art and became acquainted with a number of other artists in the area. In 1968 Favro married Judith Bryon, and their son, Mark, was born in 1969. After receiving a Canada Council Arts Bursary in 1970 he was able to leave a job as a commercial artist at a printing company and begin working on creating and exhibiting his art full time.

Throughout his career Favro has worked with a diverse range of materials and mediums, including paint, sculpture, projections, film, instruments, and machinery, although he is perhaps best known for his projected reconstructions and technical objects, which cross the borders between art and invention. Much of his work reflects a strong interest in perspective, the relationships between art and science, and technology, and is known to challenge traditional categorization. Two major retrospective exhibitions of Favro's work have been held to date, the first by the Art Gallery of Ontario in 1983 and the second by the London Regional Art and Historical Museums and the McIntosh Gallery in 1998.

In addition to his artistic career, Favro is the guitarist for the Nihilist Spasm Band, which he founded alongside John Boyle, John Clement, Greg Curnoe, Bill Exley, Art Pratten, Archie Leitch, and Hugh McIntyre in 1965. Favro has described his work with the band as influential and parallel to his work as an artist, noting the band's lack of hierarchy and their music's lack of structure as intentional and significant. The instruments he plays as guitarist for the band are of his own creation, as are a number of the instruments played by other members of the band. They have performed shows across Canada and internationally, including an appearance at the Paris Biennale in the 1970s and at least two Japan tours in 1996 and 1999.

Throughout his career Favro has given artist talks and lectures at institutions across Canada, including the National Gallery of Canada, and taught classes at the Ontario College of Art in the 1970s. Together with a number of other artists who were active in London in the 1960s and 70s, such as Jack Chambers and Tony Urquhart, he was involved with some of the first artist-run galleries in Canada, namely the 2020 Gallery, which existed from 1966-1970 and the Forest City Gallery, founded in 1973.

Favro's work is held and has been exhibited by many major art institutions and private collections across Canada, including the National Gallery of Canada, the Art Gallery of Ontario, and the Montreal Fine Arts Museum. He has been represented variously by the Carmen Lamanna Gallery and the Christopher Cutts Gallery in Toronto. Favro received the Gerhson Iskowicz Award in 1997 and the Governor General's Award in Visual and Media Arts in 2007.

Sources:

- Fleming, Marie. 1983. *Murray Favro: A retrospective*. Art Gallery of Ontario.
- Fones, Robert, Helga Pakasaar, Matthew Teitlebaum and Peter White. 1998. *Murray Favro*. Virago Press.
- Doherty, Nida Home. "Aiden Urquhart interviews London artist Murray Favro." Interview by Aiden Urquhart. *Centred.ca*, April 25 2020. <https://centred.ca/aidan-urquhart-interviews-london-artist-murray-favro/>.

Archival history:

The materials now constituting the Murray Favro fonds were transferred directly from the artist to the Art Gallery of Ontario in 2007.

Immediate source of acquisition or transfer:

Gift of Murray Favro, 2010.

Scope and content:

Fonds consists of the personal and professional records of Murray Favro, documenting his life and activities as a multimedia artist and musician, as well as his personal interests and pursuits. It includes such textual records as notebooks, correspondence, contracts, grant applications, newspaper clippings, meeting notes, invitations, and records from Favro's involvement with the 2020 Gallery and Forest City Gallery. Also included are records relating to exhibitions of Favro's work, including two major retrospectives in 1983 and 1998. Throughout the fonds there are extensive notes and writings by Favro including installation instructions, project notes and ideas, drafts of documents and correspondence, and journal writings recording the artist's thoughts on a wide range of topics. There are also textual records that were likely used for research and reference in Favro's work, such as articles, photocopied pages from textbooks, catalogues, and other printed materials, often relating to technology and technical equipment such as projectors, computers, film and photography. Visual materials in the fonds include a watercolour painting, posters, photographs, drawings, and rough sketches and diagrams. Personal records include materials such as membership cards, schedules, and records from Favro's interests and activities, such as flying lessons and motorcycles. Materials capturing his activities as a musician with the Nihilist Spasm Band include promotional posters and flyers, itineraries, set lists, expense lists for tours and performances, and other textual records. The fonds also includes one optical disc with samples from Favro's digital projects.

The fonds has been arranged into a single series comprised of 64 files. The materials within each file may span a range of years and reflect a variety of activities. Details about the contents of each file can be found in the scope and content notes.

Accruals:

Further accruals are expected.

System of arrangement:

Fonds has been arranged in a single series, following the creator's original order as much as possible.

Conditions governing use:

Open. For access to the digital records in File 5-16: Computer Samples, please contact the archivist for assistance. Access to Special Collections is by appointment only. Please contact the reference desk for more information.

Conditions governing reproduction:

Copyright is held by the creator. Copyright belonging to other parties, such as that of photographs, may still rest with the creator of these items. It is the researcher's responsibility to obtain permission to publish any part of the fonds.

Language/scripts of material:

Majority of the fonds is in English.

Related units of description:

Greg Curnoe fonds – Related material in the Greg Curnoe fonds includes records in Series 1: Writing Files, relating to the Nihilist Spasm Band and journals from trips taken together with Favro. Also see Series 2: Correspondence Files and Series 22: Photographs.

John Boyle fonds – Related material in the John Boyle fonds includes records in Series 2: Nihilist Spasm Band.

Notes:

Provenance access point:

Favro, Murray, (1940-)

How to cite this fonds:

Murray Favro fonds, LA.SC158. Edward P. Taylor Library and Archives, Art Gallery of Ontario.

File list:

Title	Extent	Scope and content	Dates of creation	Box-folder
Installation drawings and instructions: Synthetic Wave and Van Gogh's Room	1 folder textual records and graphic material	File consists of 29 pages of sketches, installation drawings and instructions for "Synthetic Lake 1972/73" and "Van Gogh's Room (1973/74)."	1972-1974	1-1
1990s Projects, materials related to "Railway Tracks," and catalogue print-outs	1 folder textual records and graphic material	File consists of approximately 95 loose pages of textual records and graphic material, and 1 stapled catalogue booklet. Materials mainly concern Favro's works and projects from the 1990s. Also includes colour and B&W print-outs of Favro's works, mainly installation pieces, possibly photocopied from a published catalogue. Also included are notes, sketches, and installation instructions pertaining to "Railway Tracks (1995-1996)," a printed email from Don Wherry to A. Pratten about the lineup for the 1996 Sound Symposium, a draft from 1971 of Favro's writings on "Mechanology," a copy of a published Spanish-language catalogue titled "Casa de las Americas" from 1988, a photocopy of a French-language biographical sketch from 1973, a photocopy of a magazine article about Favro in English and French from 1995, printed information on the Forest City Gallery, including its mission statement, and a colour printout of "Snow on Steps (1994)."	1971-[199-]	1-2

Handwritten notes on 1972-3 projects and sketches	1 folder textual records	File consists of 14 pages of handwritten notes and sketches. The handwritten notes include "Projects planned for the 72-73 Application," July 1973 reflections on consciousness, philosophy and other ideas, and undated notes on "Inverse Universes" and other topics. File mainly contains materials from the early 1970s, with some undated materials.	[197-?]	1-3
Hand-drawn circuitry diagrams, correspondence, and other materials	1 folder textual records	File consists of approximately 30 pages of textual records. Included are 13 pages of hand-drawn circuitry diagrams and notes for a "Digital Identification Unit (DIU)." There are also approximately 14 pages of handwritten notes covering a variety of Favro's thoughts and ideas, including those about technical progression, knowledge and intelligence, patents, and more. There is also a legend of symbols concerning "Wing sections and characteristics." Lastly, also included is a letter from Alvin Balkind, AGO Curator of Contemporary Art, to Favro, dated 8 August 1973 regarding a possible acquisition, a handwritten draft of Favro's reply, and 1 page of questions for a patent attorney.	[197-?]	1-4
Professional correspondence and other materials	1 folder textual records and graphic material : 3 col. and 1 B&W photographs; 15x10 cm, 28x21.5 cm, and 25.5x20 cm	File consists of textual records and graphic materials. The majority of the textual records are personal and professional correspondence spanning a range of years, including the 1970s and 1980s and amounts to approximately 40 pages. This correspondence covers a range of topics and activities, including artist talks, installations, exhibitions, grants, and the Nihilist Spasm Band. Additionally included is a postcard for an exhibition at the Forest City Gallery, a Slate Gallery Guide from 1998 with Favro's "Air Compressor and Turbine" on the cover, a matching postcard for a Favro exhibition at the LRAHM & McIntosh Gallery from 1998, an installation sketch and instructions for "Synthetic Lake,"	[197-?]- [198-?]	1-5

and promotional material for an exhibition titled "Track Records: Trains and Contemporary Photography" at Oakville Galleries. Also included is a sheet of paper with real-estate information about a house, a postcard for the opening of a Royden Rabinowitch exhibition at the Forest City Gallery, a photocopy of a magazine article about "The Flying Flea," meeting notes from a London Regional Art Gallery meeting, a biography and list of exhibitions up to 1977 for Favro, a blank artist questionnaire from Visual Arts Ontario, a photocopy of an article titled "Rubber - Fundamentals of its science and technology," a purchase agreement from the Carmen Lamanna Gallery, promotional material for "Engel," a purchase order from 1973, a 2-page typed article on Favro, a photocopy of 3 versions of Van Gogh's "Bedroom in Arles," installation instructions for "Van Gogh's Room," an exhibition schedule, and approximately 30 pages of notes and sketches by Favro covering a variety of topics, including "Approaches in Writing and Pictures," and "History of Work Done (Evolutions)." Lastly, also included are three colour photographs of an unknown installation piece, a child in a rowboat on a lawn, an aircraft in a gallery and one B&W photograph printed on hard-backed board of an unknown artwork.

1970s correspondence, personal licences and memberships, and other materials

1 folder textual records and graphic material : 1 B&W photograph ; 13x10 cm

File consists of textual records and graphic material. Includes approximately 16 pages of professional and personal correspondence, largely from the 1970s, a doctor's invoice from 1971, a Motorcycle insurance certificate, a Men's Canteen membership card, an invitation to a show opening at La Galerie de France from 1969, a 1969 bulletin for the London Public Library and Art Museum, 2 copies of a program for the 1969 Biennale in France, and a photocopy of a 1971 Globe and Mail article. Also included are approximately 40 pages of handwritten notes and sketches, covering a variety of topics and projects including a description of a possible projections show, a list of Favro's exhibitions up to 1971, problems on viewing

[196-]-[197-
?]

1-6

films, and possible ideas for projects. Also included is a B&W photograph, possibly of a desk and a postcard of Ibiza, Spain.

Exhibition invitations and other materials	1 folder textual records	File consists of textual records that mainly relate to Favro's work and exhibitions from the 1960s and 70s. Includes an invitation to a show opening at La Galerie de France from 1969, 3 copies of an invitation to a joint exhibition for Favro and Ron Martin, and an invitation to a Favro exhibition at the Carmen Lamanna Gallery. Also included is a print-out of an article titled, "The Emergence of Modern Art" by Rudolf Nadassky, a receipt from 1971 from the City of London, Ontario for an instructor's fee, a pamphlet from the London Public Library and Art Museum for 1964-65, a postcard of a work of art titled "For Martin," and a collage-style card from the Carmen Lamanna Gallery staff to Favro. Lastly, there are six pages of professional correspondence spanning the 1960s-1990s.	1964-1995	1-7
Jet engine and turbine design project notes and other materials	1 folder textual records	File consists of approximately 64 pages of textual records, mainly comprised of handwritten notes covering a variety of topics. The topics covered include jet engine design, turbine design and methods, synthetic photography, machinery, art and machines, surface movement in painting, reflections on his art and artistic approach, and more. Some writings have been dated to approximately 1978 and 1979. Also includes a printed page titled "Listing of Games on PET Computer," a handwritten to-do list, a copy of a letter sent from Mildred Friedman to Michael Hayden in 1973, three pages of handwritten drafts of letters, and a contact list for "Video Ring" which includes Favro as a contact.	1973-[198-?]	1-8
Aircraft design notes and sketches	1 folder textual records and	File consists of approximately 27 pages of notes and sketches mostly relating to aircraft design. Some pages have dates between	[197-?]-[19--]	1-9

	graphic material	1972-73, but many are undated. Also includes two sketches of aircraft components on tracing paper.		
National Museums of Canada contracts and reflective notes	1 folder textual records	File consists of approximately 29 pages of textual records relating mainly to Favro's work in the late 1970s. Included is a sales receipt from 1977 from the Carmen Lamanna Gallery, 15 pages of contracts between Favro and National Museums of Canada from 1977 and 1978, and a letter to Favro from the National Gallery of Canada from 1977. Also included are 11 pages of handwritten notes, in which Favro discusses a variety of topics and reflects on art and his work. Some of these pages are from July 1979, but not all of them are dated.	1977-[198-?]	1-10
Video Ring and Projekt '74 materials and other materials	1 folder textual records	File consists of textual records relating to a variety of Favro's work and interests between the 1960s and early 2000s. There are approximately 8 pages of correspondence from between 1973 and 2001, including a letter requesting permission to include Favro's work in a children's book titled "A First Book of Canadian Art." Also included are 2 pamphlets from the 2020 Gallery in London, ON, a 1967 letter and Bulletin from the Nortown Motorcycle Club, an installation sketch for "Synthetic Lake," handwritten notes and drafts, a newspaper article clipping titled "Unreasonable demands of artists criticized" [Note: related material in file 1-8, Favro's reply to the article], a notice for a Community Computing meeting, an page of information regarding an Arts Bursary from the Canada Council, a list of contacts and equipment requests for the Ontario Arts Council regarding "Video Ring," notes from a 1971 Canadian Artists' Representation (C.A.R.) meeting, typewritten notes on "Projekt '74," an announcement for "Slides Eye View – London," and an empty envelope from Queen's University Art Centre.	1967-2001	2-1

Nihilist Spasm Band 1996 Japan tour	1 folder textual records	File consists of approximately 18 pages of correspondence relating to Nihilist Spasm Band's Japanese tour in 1996. There are 3 pages of correspondence from Alchemy Records from 1995, and 7 pages of duplicates. There are also two pages of correspondence from Forest City Gallery regarding the 1996 Japan tour, and 4 pages of duplicates.	1995	2-2
Installation instructions, Nihilist Spasm Band materials and other materials	1 folder textual records and graphic material : 1 B&W photograph ; 28x21.5 cm	File consists of textual records and graphic material relating to Favro's professional work and projects. Included are approximately 20 pages of professional correspondence, largely from the Carmen Lamanna Gallery, but also includes a 1995 letter in French from Patrice Carre and printed emails from 2001. Also included is an invitation from the 2020 Gallery, a Pit Crew pass for the Deutscher Automobil Club for a 1967 race, two postcards, a Notification of Award for a Canada Council Bursary from 1970, 3 pages of song lists for Nihilist Spasm Band from 1998, approximately 16 pages of notes and sketches relating to installation instructions for at least 5 different works including Hydro Pole (1995-96), Washing Machine (1970), Still Life (The Table) (1970), Van Gogh's Room (1973-74), and Studio Window (1989), and a B&W photo of the Nihilist Spasm Band printed on a poster for "Construction Limited London."	1967-2001	2-3
Film and photography information and reference material	1 folder textual records	File consists textual records mainly relating to film and photography. The contents of the file are wrapped in a Film House informational booklet cover, which Favro has handwritten notes on. The file includes approximately 10 sheets listing film, print, and equipment prices at Film House, Toronto, 2 photocopies of pages of camera film prices, a 2000-2001 Program from a Panamarenko installation at the Dia Center for the Arts, New York, a 1973 letter to Favro from DSC Limited regarding slides storage, 12 sheets of 1973 Film House price lists, and a 2002 flyer from Oakville Galleries for the exhibition "Construction Compulsion: Reconfiguring the Permanent Collection"	1969-2002	2-4

featuring an image of Favro's work "Railway Tracks, 1996-96."

Aircraft and flight notes and other materials	1 folder textual records	File consists of textual records pertaining mainly to Favro's activities between 1970-1975, and especially regarding flight and aircrafts. Includes a letter from Carmen Lamanna to Dr. Manfred Schneckenburger regarding "Projekt '74," a letter from Favro to the Experimental Aircraft Association, and a letter from the Auckland City Art Gallery, New Zealand. It also includes a printed 30-page article titled, "A Computer-Based Alternative for Scientific and Technical Publishing," a 1974 invitation to an exhibition opening featuring Favro's work at the Gallery of the London Public Library and Art Museum, and approximately 20 pages of notes and sketches from 1971-72 detailing possible projects and ideas for a project titled "Flight" and a number of other undefined projects.	1971-1975	2-5
Carmen Lamanna letter to the editor of <i>Carot</i>	1 folder textual records	File consists of 13 pages of textual records, comprised of a 1977 letter sent by Carmen Lamanna to Dennit Tourbin, the editor of <i>Carot</i> regarding a recent article, "L'affaire Lamanna." Also includes a manuscript of the response to the article which Lamanna requests be published in the next issue of <i>Carot</i> .	1977	2-6
Correspondence, teaching schedule, and other materials	1 folder textual records and graphic material : 1 B&W Photograph ; 25.5x20 cm	File consists of textual records and graphic material concerning Favro's work and projects from predominantly the late 1960s to early 1970s. It includes correspondence from Carmen Lamanna, the Agnes Etherington Art Centre at Queen's University concerning a possible exhibition, Laurent Lamy concerning the 1973 Paris Biennale, and Alvin Balkind at the AGO concerning a reference request for a Canada Council grant. Also included is a page discussing the increasing size of Favro's art dealer's signature, a fundraising poster for the Nihilist Spasm Band's appearance at the Paris Biennale, and a 1971 description of the Nihilist Spasm Band's influences, printed on Carmen Lamanna letterhead. It also	1968-[198-?]	2-7

includes a 1972 letter from Louise Tremblay to Carmen Lamanna, a 1968 cheque receipt from Standard Life Assurance Company, a letter from Cecile Valin at the National Gallery from 1969, a handwritten page listing expenses in London, England, a B&W photograph of a television, 2 copies of a 1980 advertisement for Favro's "Seproject," a list of classes at the Ontario College of Art, taught by Favro between 1973-74, as well as a letter and timetable. It also includes a number of pages of handwritten notes and sketches by Favro, including those for "Theoretical Machines," and 2 sketches of a bicycle wheel component.

Printed computer data, operating system information and other materials	1 folder textual records	File consists of largely undated textual records, mostly containing written and printed data and information for computer programs. There are extensive written notes in the margins and spaces on many of the printed pages. Included are approximately 39 pages of written notes, information, diagrams and sketches relating to a number of undefined ideas and projects, including a number of sketches of bicycles. Also included is a folded 1990 poster for the Forest City Gallery with handwritten lists of codes on the front, a blank order sheet for M&M Insta-Print Ltd., an information sheet for the Superbase 64 operating system, a letter from Compacc software dealer, a typed list of "Plans for 1985," 3 copies of a printed list of Favro's Exhibitions, 5 pages of statements of business income and expenses from 1989, 2 copies of a letter from Favro to Macy Dubois, a letter from Favro to Jim Adams, an advertisement for Integer Basic Compiler, and a Petspeed basic compiler information form.	[198-?]- [199-?]	2-8
Military funeral instructions, Crumlin Summer Camp and other materials	1 folder textual records	File consists of textual materials from the 1960s and 70s. It includes 4 copies of instructions for a military funeral from 1962, a set of instructions for Crumlin Summer Camp from 1962, 2 1974 letters to Favro from National Gallery and an accompanying contract for payment of an artist fee. Also included are 3 copies of a Vehicle/Equipment Daily Work Ticket from Signal	1962-1974	2-9

Regiment Training from 1962 and an undated program for Campus Players Summer Theatre.

Student Militia materials and other materials	1 folder textual records	File consists of textual records relating to Favro's work, activities and interests, spanning a range of decades. Included is a driver's report of a vehicle accident, a Vehicle/Equipment Daily Work Ticket from Signal Regiment Training from 1962, 6 copies of an advertisement for the Nihilist Spasm Band performance at The Black Swan, a Canadian Motorcycle Association 1967 calendar of events, a Department of National Defence envelope containing a student militia training timetable, a Royal Canadian Signals menu, a letter to Favro from a commanding officer, and an Annual Range Classification sheet from 1961. Also includes a blank entry form for the Mosport Indian Summer Trophy Races, an advertisement for an exhibition at the McIntosh Memorial Gallery, 2 postcards for a Royden Rabinowitch exhibit at the Carmen Lamanna Gallery, a handwritten note regarding rolls of film to be developed, an undefined form concerning the Nihilist Spasm Band, correspondence from Carmen Lamanna, a 1992 contract between Favro and Bell Canada regarding a sculpture for the Canniff Switching Centre, a letter from the University of Calgary concerning a presentation to be given by Favro, a photocopy of a newspaper clipping of a 1989 article titled "McMaster art collection on view," a 1959 letter from Parker's Bread regarding summer employment, and a number of other pages of professional correspondence. Also included is an envelope from the Taxation Data Centre containing T4 receipts and a blank tax return form. Further, there is also a list of results from a 1967 motorcycle race, a note regarding an upcoming High School Art Workshop visit to Favro's studio, a 1963 Signal Regiment Annual Range Classification, and a sketch or diagram of an undefined object, possibly an aircraft.	1959-1992	2-10
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Aircraft sketches, handwritten notes and other materials	1 folder textual records and graphic material	File consists of largely undated textual and graphic materials, mainly comprised of Favro's handwritten notes and sketches. A number of sketches depict or are related to aircrafts and jets, and others relate to undefined projects and ideas. A number of handwritten notes are included, which relate to potential and existing projects, Favro's thoughts on different topics, and drafts of correspondence. Also included is a 1971 letter to Favro from Dennis Young at the AGO, a map of the Paris Metro system, and a 1970 catalogue for the 2020 Gallery.	[1970?]-[19- -]	2-11
20th Anniversary Forest City Gallery Catalogue and other materials	1 folder textual records	File consists of textual records including a number of handwritten notes and diagrams for a project (possibly "Synthetic Wave"), two copies of a printed diagram of an aircraft and its internal components, and a 20th Anniversary Issue of the Forest City Gallery catalogue for 1973-1993. Also includes a 3-page letter from Carmen Lamanna to Shonan McKay at Macleans Magazine from 1979, a handwritten letter from Nairn Publishing House from 1974, and a 2-page letter from Carmen Lamanna to Cathy Arthur with artscanada from 1981.	1974-1993	3-1
Lord Roberts School Sketches	3 drawings : pen on paper ; 35.5x21.5 cm and 30.5x21.5 cm	File consists of 3 ink drawings completed by Favro in 1957-1958. One of the sketches depicts a classroom, and on the back is written "Lord Roberts School London, Ontario 1957" and "drawn from memory." The second sketch depicts the interior of a home, possible a living room or office, and is dated to 1958. The last sketch is undated and depicts the inside of an industrial workspace, possibly Parker's Bread.	1957-[195- ?]	3-2
Personal and professional invitations and other materials	1 folder textual records and graphic material : 1 col. photograph ; 10x15 cm	File consists of textual records and graphic material, spanning from approximately 1963 to 2002. Included is an invitation to Favro and Judith Mae Byron's wedding from 1968, a brochure for the Cape Spear National Historical Site, 2 copies of an invitation to the opening of "Murray Favro: A Retrospective" at the National Gallery of Canada from 1984, an invitation to the Members' Preview of "Murray Favro: A	1963-2002	3-3

Retrospective" at the Art Gallery of Ontario, an invitation to "Murray Favro: Air Show" at the Carmen Lamanna Gallery, an invitation from the Canadian Ambassador in France, 9 postcards, a 1963 Vehicle/ Equipment Daily Work Ticket, a sketch on an aircraft, a small black notebook with notes and calculations from 1971, a program for "Kinotek" at the London Public Library and Art Museum, an invitation to a joint Murray Favro and Ron Martin exhibit at the McIntosh Gallery, a 1998 receipt for a delivery from the London Regional Art Gallery, a page of California Legislature from 1970, a number of pages of professional correspondence, a receipt from Fanshawe College, London, an advertisement and promotional booklet for the 2002 exhibit "Construction Compulsion" at Oakville Galleries, a Royal Canadian Academy of Arts bulletin from 1999, a photograph (possibly of an installation piece), and a number of pages of hand-drawn circuitry diagrams and other notes and sketches.

February 1995 schedule and notes	1 folder textual records	File consists of a 2-page schedule for February 1995, which Favro has annotated. It also includes an advertisement for a Rollei slide projector and 4 pages of undated handwritten notes.	[199-?]	3-4
Floorplans, Robert Fones article, and other materials	1 folder textual records	File consists of largely undated textual records, relating to both Favro and his son, Mark. Included is Mark Favro's 1973 library card and a 1973 letter from Lord Roberts School regarding parent volunteers for an activity. There is also a floorplan of the Carmen Lamanna Gallery, a photocopy of a camera supply catalogue page, a receipt from Trans Canada Couriers, an oversized folded piece of paper with hand-drawn floorplans for a Toronto building, 2 copies of "The Blank-Faced People of Iden Moor" by Robert Fones. Also includes a 2-page draft of a biography for Favro, a number of diagrams and notes for an undefined circuitry project, and photocopied instructions for operating a Rollei slide projector.	[1973?]-[19- -]	3-5

Grant applications, and other materials	1 folder textual records	File consists of textual records relating mainly to grant and bursary applications, as well as correspondence. Included is a 1985 letter to Favro from Michael Mundhenk, a 1967 application for a Canada Council Arts Bursary, 2 invitations to "Track Records: Trains and Contemporary Photography" at Oakville Galleries, a note from the 2020 Gallery, an insurance memo from 1998 from AON Reed Stenhouse Inc., 3 pages relating to "Sproing (1965)," a 1991 Grant application, a handwritten note to the Arts Awards Service, a handwritten project cost report, a report noting that a grant allowed Favro to complete specific projects, a typed project cost report from 1991, a request for a third installment to the Arts Awards Service from 1992, and an empty envelope.	1967-1998	3-6
Posters for Nihilist Spasm Band Japan 1999 tour	3 posters: col and B&W ; 21.5x28 cm	File consists of 3 different posters for the Nihilist Spasm Band's 1999 Japanese tour printed on paper.	1999	3-7
Nihilist Spasm Band 1996 Japan itinerary and expenses and other materials	1 folder textual records	File consists of textual records largely relating to the Nihilist Spasm Band's 1996 Japanese tour (originally scheduled for 1995). Includes an itinerary, related correspondence, a 1994 Alchemy Records Catalog, and a list of expenses and revenues for the Nihilist Spasm Band. Also included is a blank grant application to the Ontario Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Recreation and a checklist for an "Arts Abroad Programme" grant application. There are also 2 copies of a 2002 advertisement and booklet for "Construction Compulsion" at Oakville Galleries and a number of pages relating to the Forest City Gallery, including a "Structure and Objectives" document and a 1994 general ledger. Lastly, there are also 2 pages of hand-drawn sketches of an unidentified object and a circuitry diagram.	1994-2002	3-8
Schedule for work on projects and other materials	1 folder textual records	File consists of textual records relating to Favro's work and projects from a range of dates, possibly largely from the 1970s. It includes a sketch of two cat collars, a variety of sketches of unidentified objects or components, possible instructions for	[1967?]- [197-?]	3-9

computer programming or calculations, a list of the number of days Favro plans to allocate to specific projects, handwritten lists of daily tasks, and a 1968 contract with the National Gallery of Canada. Also includes a 1967 letter from the Ford Motor Company certifying employment, a 1968 letter from The University of Western Ontario, a postcard from Janey Hassan, 3 pages of correspondence with the London Public Library and Art Museum from 1971 from Greg Curnoe, and a 1970 letter from Carmen Lamanna.

Earth Physics Branch photographs and correspondence	1 folder textual records and graphic material : 8 B&W photographs ; 20x25 cm	File consists textual records and graphic material, comprised mainly of correspondence and photographs. Includes a 1977 letter from Carmen Lamana, a printout of a 1996 email from Yoshiyuki Hiroshige with Alchemy Records, a 1998 letter from Matthew Teitelaum with the AGO, and a 2003 letter from Gallery Stratford. Also included are 8 B&W photographs from 1972-73 from the Department of Energy Mines, and Resources - Earth Physics Branch. Lastly, there is a page of installation instructions for "Van Gogh's Room."	1972-2003	3-10
Nihilist Spasm Band Press Materials for Japan	1 folder textual records and graphic material	File consists of approximately 23 pages of press and promotional materials for the Nihilist Spasm Band's Japan presence. It includes a poster for a Nihilist Spasm Band CD release by Alchemy Records, a brief history of the band, printouts from a 1997 website featuring information about the band's shows, and printouts of reviews and articles of the band from 1997. Also included is a printed black and white poster featuring a picture of the band under the title "the world's first noise band."	1997	3-11
Graphex Catalogue, circuitry notes and other materials	1 folder textual records : 1 published catalogue	File consists of a 1998 newspaper clipping featuring a review of a Nihilist Spasm Band show in London, ON, a 1984 Graphex 9 Catalogue featuring one of Favro's works, 3 pages of sketches of aircrafts, a printout of an article titled "Build Improved ASCII Encoder" by Don Lancaster, a photocopy of circuitry instructions, handwritten notes,	1984-1998	3-12

		calculations, and sketches for an undefined circuitry project, and notes on thermodynamics.		
Murray Favro's 1983-84 Retrospective Exhibition: Press and Promotion	1 folder textual records	File consists of textual records relating to Favro's 1983-84 Retrospective exhibition, largely comprised of press and promotional materials. It includes Greg Curncoe's opening remarks at the 1984 opening of the exhibition at the National Gallery, a 1984 Art Gallery of Windsor bulletin, a 1983 issue of Artmagazine 66, a 1983 issue of The Art Post and a photocopy of the Art Post article on Favro's exhibition, clippings from a 1983 issue of the Globe and Mail, advertisements for the exhibition by the AGO, two copies of a review for the exhibition from a 1983 issue of <i>The Gallery</i> , an invitation to the Special Press Preview for Murray Favro: A Retrospective, a note to Marie Flemming from William J. Withrow regarding the opening of the Favro exhibition, a 2-page press release for the exhibition from the AGO, two printouts of reviews for the exhibition in French, and two invitations to the Members' Preview of Murray Favro: A Retrospective at the AGO.	1983-1984	3-13
Physics notebook	1 folder textual records : 1 notebook ; 21.5x28 cm	File consists of 1 lined exercise book with Favro's notes on physics.	1966	3-14
Efforts and Thought notebook	1 folder textual records : 1 spiral notebook ; 21.5x28 cm	File consists of 1 lined notebook with Favro's notes and reflections. "Efforts and Thought" is written on the front, and the writings inside cover a variety of topics and issues, including the Vietnam war, what it means to be an artist, and perception.	1967	3-15
Show at 2020 Gallery Plans notebook	1 folder textual records : 1 duotang notebook ; 23x29 cm	File consists of 1 exercise notebook in a duotang folder as well as a card for a 1977 Favro exhibition titled "Airshow" at the Carmen Lamanna Gallery. "67-68 season Show at 2020 Gallery Plans" is written on the front of the exercise book.	1967-1977	4-1

1968 notebook	1 folder textual records : 1 notebook ; 21.5x28 cm	File consists of 1 lined exercise notebook with Favro's notes and sketches. "1968" is written on the front of the notebook. Inside it Favro writes and reflects on a range of topics, including his intentions as an artist, painting, and his thoughts on different types of artists.	1968	4-2
Revised Physics Ideas notebook	1 folder textual records : 1 spiral notebook ; 21.5x28 cm	File consists of 1 lined notebook with Favro's notes, mainly on science and physics. There are also a number of drawings of undefined shapes and curves throughout the notebook.	1968	4-3
Final Report 1970-1971 booklet	1 folder textual records : 1 duotang notebook ; 23x29 cm	File consists of 1 duotang of papers of handwritten notes, mainly concerning draft writings for a "Final Report" possibly for a grant or bursary. At the back of the duotang are also 2 letters from 1971 regarding a change to the property management of a residential building.	1970-1971	4-4
Notes from Books about Physics	1 folder textual records and graphic material : 1 spiral notebook ; 21.5x28 cm	File consists of 1 lined notebook and 2 pages of printed reproductions of art, possibly removed from a pamphlet or catalogue book. The notebook contains Favro's notes and reflections on a variety of topics beyond physics, as well as a number of sketches of guitars and other undefined works.	1968	4-5
Record Book	1 folder textual records : 1 hardcover notebook ; 18x23 cm	File consists of 1 hardcover notebook of lined paper with "Record" on the front. It includes Favro's notes on a range of topics including the concepts of sensitizing and desensitizing, recording devices, computers, and more.	1970	4-6
1971 Duotang notebook	1 folder textual records : 1 duotang notebook ; 23x29 cm	File consists of 1 duotang of papers from approximately 1971. The topics covered in the notebook are varied, but include notes on a project called "Poo Fly," notes on objects and the influences or forces that affect them, steps for a possible project, technology, and preparations for a speech in which Favro discusses the philosophy behind his work.	[1971?]	4-7

Idea Notes	1 folder textual records: 1 duotang notebook ; 23x29 cm	File consists of 1 duotang of papers with "Idea Notes" written on the front cover. The notes and sketches inside cover a variety of topics from abstract ideas to more concrete designs, and include notes about movie and slides projectors, "electronics music," and circuit design.	1972	4-8
1972 Spiral notebook	1 folder textual records : 1 spiral notebook ; 24x29 cm	File consists of 1 spiral notebook with Favro's notes and sketches from 1972 to approximately 1973. Notes on current projects, ideas, thoughts and sketches are included. Not all of the pages are titled, but some examples of titles from the notes include; "IDEA for a Wind Stringed Instrument," "Thermal Electric Cooling (for projectors)," "1973 Experiments," "Patent Application," "Ultrasonic Surface Waves," "The Concrete Example," "The Intelligent machine," and "A Type of Information Machine." A number of pages have also been drawn on by Mark Favro, with some labelled "Mark Favro's Drawings."	1972- [1973?]	4-9
The Blacksmith's Jet Engine notebook	1 folder textual records : 1 spiral notebook ; 21.5x28 cm	File consists of one spiral notebook with "The Blacksmith's Jet Engine" written on the cover. The sketches and notes relate to a variety of Favro's interests, projects, and ideas. Not all of the pages in the notebook are titled, but some examples of titles from the pages include; "Motorcycle - Evolution in Design," "A hypothetical engine," "Optics," "The Blacksmiths Jet Engine," and "Religion - Science - Invention." Engines, waves, turbines, and optical components are among the objects that are sketched throughout the notebook.	1973	4-10
Undated duotang notebook	1 folder textual records : 1 duotang notebook ; 24x28 cm	File consists of 1 undated duotang notebook of papers with Favro's notes, from approximately the 1960s-1970s. The topics discussed in the pages include, "A Critical General Analysis of Greg Curncoe - works from his studio windows," "Anti-Americanism," Favro's thoughts on articles from the morning paper, an "Analysis of Ron's Technology," "Visit to Toronto," "English Teacher I Remember," "Theory of Bugs for Brains," "Mark in the Morning at 1	[196-]-[197-]	4-11

year old," a draft of an article criticism, and more.

Undated duotang notebook	1 folder textual records : 1 duotang notebook ; 24x28 cm	File consists of 1 undated duotang notebook of papers with Favro's notes. Among the topics written about and sketched are recording devices, machines, farm machinery, salesmen, and a description of a show and associated expenses for the Carmen Lamanna Gallery involving projections.	[197-?]	5-1
Aircraft sketches duotang notebook	1 folder textual records : 1 duotang notebook ; 24x28 cm	File consists of 1 undated duotang notebook of papers primarily containing aircraft sketches. At the back of the notebook is also a draft of a letter to Peter Sepp requesting financial assistance from POCA for a show.	[19--]	5-2
Undated duotang notebook	1 folder textual records : 1 duotang notebook ; 24x28 cm	File consists of 1 undated duotang notebook of graph and lined paper containing Favro's notes and sketches. The sketches mainly relate to an undefined project labelled "Construction," and the notes cover Favro's possible ideas for shows, experiments, and a bus ride from London to Toronto.	[19--]	5-3
Undated exercise book	1 folder textual records : 1 exercise notebook ; 20x28 cm	File consists of 1 undated exercise book containing mainly sketches of undefined shapes, as well as some short biographical notes about Favro's education, present activities, and achievements.	[1970?]	5-4
Undated spiral notebook	1 folder textual records: 1 spiral notebook ; 21.5x28 cm	File consists of 1 undated spiral notebook containing Favro's notes and a few sketches of animals towards the back of the notebook. Many of the pages have scribbles over the writings, possibly done by Favro's son, Mark. Not all of the writings have headlines, but those that do include, "Criticism of Science," "Against Fashion," and "No Critics Allowed." Also included is a draft of a letter for Carmen Lamanna regarding changes to a contact.	[197-?]	5-5
Miscellaneous Writtings [sic]	1 folder textual records	File consists of approximately 51 loose pages of notes, which has "1972-1977 Miscellaneous Writtings [sic]" written on the first page. There are a variety of topics	1972-1977	5-6

covered and projects by the writings, including the relationship between art and science, what Favro referred to as "The Myth Process," desensitization, magic, the individual, the centralization of technical knowledge, the Blacksmiths Jet Engine, the migration of functions in machines, knowledge and intelligence, and more.

Notes on Invention and other topics	1 folder textual records	File consists of approximately 49 loose pages of notes and writings, which are undated but possibly from the 1970s. The writings cover a range of topics, and are not all titled, but some examples from pages that are titled include "2nd Look at Invention," "Myths, Illusions, and Social Workings," "Lets all get Liberated," "Evolution [machine] Cultural and Biological," "Anthropology," "Exhibition," "Invention," "Invention and art," "Passive Transmitter," "A Science Fiction Outline," "Flying Lessons," "Meeting of Media," "Dynamic View of the Machine," "Perpetual Motion Machine," and "My Work."	[197-?]	5-7
Journal 1977	1 folder textual records	File consists of approximately 32 loose pages of Favro's journal writings, beginning in January 1977. Also included is a photocopy of the floor plan for the Carmen Lamanna Gallery, 3 printed pages about turbines, and a photocopy of information about circuits. One group of papers is labeled "Ideas to be worked on."	1977	5-8
Notes on technical projects and other topics	1 folder textual records	File consists of approximately 72 loose papers, largely undated, with Favro's handwritten notes, writings and sketches. Also included are some photocopies of pages, possibly from a textbook, including a page of definitions, a page from a journal article about frequencies, two pages about the Aeolian Harp, and a page about audio devices. Also included are 4 pages from a 1964 issue of "Science and Mechanics," 3 pages of an article titled "Singing Louver," and a pamphlet of technical data and circuitry information. The writings and sketches cover a range of topics, but broadly relate to technical and mechanical projects, including details about a "teletype" project,	[197-?]	5-9

		an engine project, circuitry diagrams and sketches, thermal electricity, and a passive transmitter.		
Notes on 1970s Projects and Nihilist Spasm Band photo	1 folder textual records and graphic material : 1 B&W photograph on paper ; 20x28 cm	File consists of approximately 37 loose papers with typed and handwritten notes, as well as 1 B&W photograph printed on paper of the Nihilist Spasm Band. The writings include a draft of an article titled "The Rise and Fall of a Technology (1973)," "The 4th Level of Machines," "the concretization of Functioning," "Hypothetical engine #2," a diagram for a possible project called "Sound Optics," a list of topics to study "for acoustic optics," a movie idea from 1971, a draft of a letter to Manfred Schnechenburger, a draft of an "Explanation about Work and Intentions," a page of typed writing titled "Synthetic (1973)," notes on "Saw Tooth Evolution", a list of "Works to be Completed 1975," and some pages of notes relating to a "Hypothetical Chessboard" dated to July 1974.	[197-]	5-10
Tatlins Ornithopter notes and research	1 folder textual records	File consists of approximately 25 undated loose pages of textual records relating to a possible project called "Talins Ornithopter," which has been written on the front page. Included are photocopies of pages from an article titled "TALIN: Art out into technology," as well as typed and handwritten notes on Talin's Ornithopter.	[19--]	5-11
Letters from Banff Centre and notes	1 folder textual records	File consists of approximately 50 loose pages of textual records. Included are 2 letters from Pauline Martin of the Banff Centre from 1988 regarding a trip Favro took to Banff to give a lecture. Also included is a draft of a letter regarding a response to a (radio?) program, notes and diagrams regarding a "Teletype Project," and a variety of notes and diagrams for an undefined circuitry project.	[198-?]	5-12
Test Instruments - Building Oscilloscope AND - Notes on Scope Tube uses etc.	1 folder textual records	File consists of approximately 48 undated loose pages of textual materials, with "Test Instruments - Building an Oscilloscope [Oscilloscope?] AND Notes on Scope Tube uses etc." written on the front page. Circuit	[19--]	5-13

diagrams and handwritten notes make up the majority of the contents, with a few pages of photocopied textbook materials and some typed pages on mechanology. Also included are some handwritten notes regarding "Tatlin's Ornithopter."

Notes and Diagrams for Universal Projector	1 folder textual records	File consists of approximately 64 pages of largely undated textual materials, mainly relating to a "Universal Projector" project. Circuit diagrams and handwritten notes make up the majority of the materials, as well as some photocopied pages containing instructions to build an "8080 microcomputer." Also included are some notes and sketches relating to a spiral windmill project, an ultrasonic lift, an ornithopter, a hang glider, an Aeolian harp, a tilt windmill, and a photography experiment.	[197-?]	5-14
Project Design notes and ideas	1 folder textual records	File consists of approximately 44 pages of textual records, mainly comprised of notes, sketches and diagrams relating to a variety of Favro's ideas and projects. These include a sketch of an aircraft, a note titled "Dream about electronics" from 1976, a list of ideas from 1972, notes and sketches related to an undefined projection project, a sketch of a "Dipy-Bird Engine," a "One Element Turbo-Jet Engine," and notes for cutting tools. There are also notes, sketches and diagrams relating to a "Basic Machine Shop," a "Wind Powered Sculpture," metal working, and some undefined machinery project(s). Also included is 1 page of a handwritten draft titled "Story: Science Fiction: The inventor."	[197-]	5-15
Computer Samples	1 Optical Disc ; 184 MB	File consists of 1 CD titled "Computer Samples." On the cover is a digital rendering of a red train. Included are approximately 175 of electronic files relating to Favro's projects, including "Big Train," "Porch," and "Arow[sic]." Includes images, text files, records relating to "Netscape," and records relating to a possible movie project. Also contains a 16-bit version and a 32-bit	1991-2003	5-16

version of "PKZIP for Windows," a file archiving computer program.

The digital records in this file have been processed for preservation, and must be accessed with assistance from the archivist. The original optical disc has been retained in the folder for its material research value, and it is not to be used for playback or access to its digital contents.

3 F-86 Sabres [Oversize]	1 watercolour painting ; 38x43 cm	File consists of 1 watercolour painting of 3 aircrafts in flight.	1959	6-1
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