

# Gordon Adaskin fonds

Compiled by Alan Doyle (2002)

Revised April 2002

University of British Columbia Archives



a place of mind  
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



The Library

# Table of Contents

- **Fonds Description**
  - Title / Dates of Creation / Physical Description
  - Biographical Sketch
  - Scope and Content
  - Notes
  
- **Item List**
  
- **Catalogue entry** (UBC Library catalogue)

# Fonds Description

**Gordon Adaskin fonds.** – [1961].

11 audio tapes.

## Biographical Sketch

Born the brother of musician Harry Adaskin, Gordon was adopted by Harry and his wife Frances at the age of five, after the death of his father. Although Gordon's birth mother, Rifke, was still alive, she allowed the Adaskins to adopt Gordon, in accordance with the elder Adaskin's dying wish. Gordon moved to Vancouver in 1946, and attended University Hill Junior School. He would forego his final year at University Hill in order to attend the Vancouver Art School. Subsequently, Gordon toured Europe, paying particular attention to the museums and galleries of Italy. Upon his return to Canada, Adaskin went to the Alberta College of Art, and was soon hired to teach at the University of Manitoba, in the Faculty of Architecture, where he remained for over twenty-five years. His artwork was regularly exhibited at the university, as well as in touring shows, two of which visited Vancouver, the home of his parents.

Adaskin, besides being a visual artist, was also an interviewer and commentator on art and artists. He interviewed many of the leading Canadian artists of the mid-twentieth century, including B.C. Binning and Jack Shadbolt. In the early 1990s, Gordon moved to Gibsons, British Columbia and married Jan Busch, his second wife in April 1997. Gordon Adaskin died in December 2001.

## Scope and Content

The fonds consists of eleven audio tapes, comprising over four hours of interviews with well-known Canadian artists, including B.C. Binning and Jack Shadbolt. The fonds consists of a single audiotape series, arranged alphabetically. In these interviews Adaskin examines each artist's unique creative process through probing and often unorthodox questions.

## Notes

Researchers are strongly advised to check with the University Archives regarding permission to publish or otherwise use materials from this fonds.

File list available.

Related materials can be found in the [Harry Adaskin](#) and [Frances Marr Adaskin](#) fonds.

## Item list

### AUDIO TAPES

#### UBC AT 2577

1 audiotape, marked "B.C. Binning, Reel #1", as well, the tape is numbered "nv 307" - plastic- 1200 feet- magnetic tape (7.5 I.P.S.)

Discussing artist's early art education, influences, as well as some discussion of his architectural designs. (28 minutes) (n.d.)

#### UBC AT 2578

1 audio tape, marked "B.C. Binning: Great Artist, Reel #2", as well the tape is numbered "nv 308" -plastic- 1200 feet- magnetic tape (7.5 I.P.S.)

Discussing the artist's artistic philosophy, travels, and future artistic directions. (23 minutes) (n.d.)

#### UBC AT 2579

1 audio tape, marked "E.J. Hughes, Reel #1", as well , the tape is numbered "nv 319" - plastic- 1200 feet- magnetic tape (7.5 I.P.S.)

Discussing artist's artistic philosophy, mysticism, as well as his interest in other artists. (30 minutes) (n.d.)

#### UBC AT 2580

1 audio tape, marked "E.J. Hughes, Reel # 2", as well, the tape is numbered "nv 320" - plastic- 1200 feet- magnetic tape (7.5 I.P.S.)

Discussing the artist's approach to creation, religion, and his battles with depression.

#### UBC AT 2581

1 audio tape, marked "Gordon Smith, Reel #1", as well, the tape is numbered "nv 309" - plastic- 1200 feet- magnetic tape (7.5 I.P.S.)

Discussing the early life of the artist, art school, his experiences in World War II, and his relationships with other artists (30 minutes) (n.d.)

UBC AT 2582

1 audio tape, marked "Gordon Smith, Reel #2", as well, the tape is numbered "nv 310" - plastic- 1200 feet- magnetic tape (7.5 I.P.S.)

Discussing art, the role of the artist, as well as the artist's sculpting work (30 minutes) (n.d.)

UBC AT 2583

1 audio tape, marked "Gordon Smith, Reel #3", as well, the tape is numbered "nv 311" - plastic- 1200 feet- magnetic tape (7.5 I.P.S.)

Discussing the artist's latest works, as well as his future directions (20 Minutes) (n.d.)

UBC AT 2584

1 audio tape, marked "Tacko(?) Tanabe, Reel #1", as well, the tape is numbered "nv 314" -plastic- 1200 feet- magnetic tape (7.5 I.P.S.)

Discussing early life of the artist, including his internment in 1942 (30 minutes) (n.d.)

UBC AT 2585

1 audio tape, marked "Tanabe, Reel #2", as well, the tape is numbered "nv 315" -plastic- 1200 feet- magnetic tape (7.5 I.P.S.)

Discussing artist's art, spirituality, interest in Japanese culture (17 minutes) [1961]

UBC AT 2586

1 audio tape, marked "Tanabe, Reel #3", as well, the tape is numbered "nv 316" -plastic- 1200 feet- magnetic tape (7.5 I.P.S.)

Discussing spirituality and Japanese influence on art (3 minutes) (n.d.)

UBC AT 2587

1 audio tape, marked "For Gordon Adaskin: B.C. artist Shadbolt", as well, the tape is numbered "ngv 398" (although the box is marked "ngv 397") -plastic- 600 feet- magnetic tape (7.5 I.P.S.)

Gordon Adaskin interviewing Jack Shadbolt on a variety of topics (15 minutes) (n.d.)