

Cameron MacLeod fonds

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University of British Columbia Archives



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THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



The Library

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Fonds Description

Cameron MacLeod fonds. – 1964-1985, 2004.
43 cm of textual records and other material.

Biographical Sketch

Cameron MacLeod was born in Vancouver, British Columbia on February 20, 1958. He was a talented artist from an early age, and produced the main body of his work from 1967-1981. He underwent open-heart surgery at the age of three, which, according to those close to MacLeod, affected him psychologically for the rest of his life. MacLeod became particularly involved in art during his high school years at St. George's School, where his art teacher Edward Gale was an important mentor. Gale helped to stage MacLeod's first exhibit in 1976 at the school. Jack Shadbolt was also a significant supporter of MacLeod during this time. After graduating from St. George's, Cameron MacLeod completed an Honours B.A. in Fine Arts at the University of British Columbia, and also studied in London, Trois Rivières, and at The Banff School. At The Banff School MacLeod studied under Takao Tanabe and Alan Wood, who were important influences on his art. He also spent time travelling through Europe in the late 1970's and early 1980's. MacLeod won various awards and scholarships, and showed six exhibitions of his work during his lifetime.

Cameron MacLeod's art can be divided into four periods. The first period, from his time in high school and at UBC, consists mainly of paintings of landscapes and graveyards. This period was influenced by the Group of Seven and Emily Carr, and the time MacLeod spent in Haida Gwaii. The second period spans his time at The Banff School. It is comprised of landscapes and depictions of native teepees, which were influenced by the Fauve School, Gordon Smith, Allen Jones, and Alan Wood. MacLeod's third period of work, completed during his travels in France and England, is made up of landscapes influenced by Cezanne and Van Gogh. His final period was heavily influenced by Francis Bacon and Giacometti. MacLeod used charcoal and oil to create black and white pieces that often reflected the trauma of his open-heart surgery, and represented, as curators Caroline Riedel and Meredith Temple described, a "final journey inward."

MacLeod died of heart failure at age 25 in 1983, following a long struggle with anorexia. His work has been shown several times after his death. His family put on an exhibit in Vancouver in 2004 titled "Beyond Presences: An Exhibition of Cameron Ian MacLeod (1958-1983)," and in 2008-2009 the McPheson Library Gallery in Victoria put on an exhibit titled "In Search of Lost Time: The Art of Cameron Ian MacLeod, 1958-1983."

Custodial History

Cameron MacLeod's records were kept by the creator until his death in 1983. After that date the creator's mother, Celeste Shannte (MacLeod), had custody of the records until they were donated to the UBC Archives. The bulk of these materials were donated in 2014; three bound journals were donated in 2016.

Scope and Content

This fonds contains records relating to Cameron MacLeod's schooling, personal life, and work as an artist. The majority of the material spans from his childhood until his death in 1983, but the fonds also contains records relating to posthumous exhibitions of his artwork. Included in the fonds are schoolwork, personal reflections and journals, correspondence with family and friends, photographs, and examples of his artwork.

Notes

Title based on content of the fonds.

The dates on some of the records are not written in MacLeod's hand. It is probable that these were supplied by his mother, Celeste Shannte.

The fonds also includes 119 drawings, 22 paintings, 3 watercolours, 6 prints, 3 collages, and 25 colour and b&w photographs.

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

File List available.

No further accruals are expected.

Series Descriptions

Journals and Personal Notes series. - 1976-1983.

15 cm of textual records.

This series includes Cameron MacLeod's journals from 1978 to 1983, and loose-leaf personal notes dating from 1978-1979. Also included are ephemera from his highschool years until 1982. MacLeod's journals give insight into his personal life and influences upon his art. The loose-leaf notes largely contain reflections on the artistic performances he attended while travelling in Britain.

The travel journal and 1983 journals in Box 4 were donated in March 2016.

Correspondence series. – [1966?]-1985.

11 cm of textual records.

This series contains letters and cards sent to Cameron MacLeod from friends and family, and some letters sent from MacLeod to his family while he was travelling. It also contains sympathy cards and letters sent to MacLeod's family after his death in 1983, and letters sent to Celeste Shannte from Shanti Panchal (with whom MacLeod stayed during his time in London) before and after MacLeod's death.

Schoolwork series. – 1964-1980.

12 cm of textual records.

This series contains MacLeod's schoolwork spanning from elementary school to his time at university. Included are school journals, reports, and class notes. The artwork from his school career is located in the "Artwork" series.

"Beyond Presences" series. – 2004.

3 cm of textual records.

This series related to the 2004 exhibit of Cameron MacLeod's paintings that was put on by his family. It includes a bound copy of excerpts of MacLeod's diary, the exhibit's guestbook, and a printed invitation to the opening reception. Photographs of the paintings displayed at the exhibit are located in the "Photographs" Series.

Artwork series. – 1964-1981.

3 cm of textual records.

119 drawings.

22 paintings.

3 watercolours.

6 prints.

3 collages.

This series contains examples of MacLeod's artwork from his childhood, including pieces completed in school, until his death. Of his later work, the series contains mainly sketches and preliminary work – none of his finished canvasses.

The series is arranged largely as received, though smaller items were removed from original order to be stored in Box 4, while the rest of the items are stored in the oversized folders. There were two separate files that were amalgamated into the oversized folders – labeled "Grade One," and "Grades 2,3 +4," which has been denoted in the file list.

Photographs series. – [197-? to 2004].

25 photographs : col., b&w.

This series contains photographs relating to MacLeod's personal life, as well as his art. Included is a set of photographs of the 2004 exhibit of MacLeod's paintings.

File List

JOURNALS AND PERSONAL NOTES SERIES

BOX 1

- 1-1 Black notebook – [1978-1979?]
- 1-2 Blue Notebook – [1978-1979?]
- 1-3 Black Notebook – 1982-[1983?]
- 1-4 Black Notebook – [1980?]
- 1-5 Green notebook – 1982
- 1-6 Black notebook – 1981-1982
- 1-7 [Europe Notebook] – [1981?]
- 1-8 [Notes] – n.d.
- 1-9 [London Reflections] – 1978-1979
- 1-10 [Travel Reflections] – 1978-1979

(continued)

CORRESPONDENCE SERIES

BOX 2

- 2-1 [Correspondence from Cameron MacLeod] – 1977-1982
- 2-2 [Correspondence] – 1979
- 2-3 [Correspondence] – [196-?] -1985
- 2-4 Cameron, Aug 31/83 – 1983

- 2-5 [Correspondence] – 1978-1982
- 2-6 [Miscellaneous] – 1976-1982
- 2-7 Cameron McLeod – 1978-1982
- 2-8 [Correspondence] – 1976-1982
- 2-9 [Correspondence] – 1978-1983

SCHOOLWORK SERIES

- 2-10 [St. George's School Reports] – 1973-1976

BOX 3

- 3-1 [School Work] – 1964-[1975?]
- 3-2 [UBC Class Notes] – 1979-1980
- 3-3 [Class Notes] – n.d.

“BEYOND PRESENCES” SERIES

- 3-4 Extracts from Cameron's Journal – 2004
- 3-5 [“Beyond Presences” Exhibit Opening Invitation] – 2004
- 3-6 Guest Book – [2004], 17.5x25cm

ARTWORK SERIES

BOX 4

- 4-1 Sketchbook – [ca. 1971], 28x35.5cm

[Banff] – 1976

Drawing of teepees – [1976?], 30x22.5cm charcoal

Drawing of chairs – [1976?], 36x27cm pencil

Drawing of a sculptor working – [1976?], 36x27cm pencil

Drawing of two figures sitting by an easel – [1976?], 36x27cm pencil

Drawing of a figure sitting and painting – [1976?], 36x27cm pencil

Drawing of a figure sitting painting a landscape – 1976, 36x27cm pencil

Drawing of a figure sitting constructing a frame – [1976?], 36x27cm pencil

Drawing of a figure sitting at an easel – [1976?], 36x27cm pencil

Drawing of a figure sitting at an easel – [1976?], 36x27cm pencil

Drawing of figure sitting at a desk drawing – [1976?], 36x27cm pencil

Drawing of figure sitting at a desk – [1976?], 36x27cm pencil

Drawing of 2 figures sitting, one drawing - [1976?], 36x27cm pencil

Drawing of figure sitting behind a chair – [1976?], 36x27cm pencil

Drawing of figures sitting drawing a man standing – [1976?], 36x27cm pencil

Drawing of figure sitting and drawing – [1976?], 36x27cm pencil

Drawing figure sitting and drawing – [1976?], 36x27cm pencil

Drawing of figure sitting and drawing – [1976?], 36x27cm pencil

Drawing of figure standing and painting – [1976?], 36x27cm pencil

Drawing of figure sitting and drawing – [1976?], 36x27cm pencil

Drawing of legs – [1976?], 22.5x15.5cm blue pen

Drawing of a figure and a bird on a road – [1976?], 21.5x21cm black pen

Drawing of a figure and a tree – [1976?], 22.5x15cm charcoal

Drawing of a figure climbing a ladder – [1976?], 22.5x15cm charcoal and blue pen

Drawing of a toilet – [1976?], 21.5x18.5cm (folded) pencil

Doodles – [1976?], 21.5x14cm (folded) blue pen

Drawing of a man reaching up – [1976?], 22.5x15cm blue pen

Drawing of legs – [1976?], 22.5x15cm blue pen

Drawing of a person running – [1976?], 28x21.5cm pencil

Drawing of person sitting and a nude standing – [1976?], 28x21.5cm pencil

Drawing of three figures washing hands – [1976?], 25x20cm pencil

Drawing of a man sitting – [1976?], 28x21.5cm pencil

Drawing of a face (front; title unreadable)/ drawing of man standing (back) [1976?], 34x24cm charcoal

Drawing of a standing figure – [1976?], 34x24cm charcoal

Drawings of faces (front); “Maestoso” (back) – [1976?], 34x24cm pencil

Drawings of faces (both sides) – [1976?], 30x23cm pencil

Doodles – [1976?], 30x23cm pencil

Drawings of arms (both sides) – [1976?], 30x23cm pencil

- Drawings of figures (both sides; title unreadable) – [1976?], 30x23cm pencil
- Drawings of figures (front)/ drawings of shapes (back) – [1976?], 30x23cm pencil
- Drawings of limbs (front)/ “César Frank” (back) – [1976?], 30x23cm pencil
- Drawing of a framed painting (front)/ drawings of figures (back) [1976?], 30x23cm pencil
- Drawings of figures (front)/ drawing of a landscape (back) – [1976?], 30x23cm pencil
- Drawing of a person – [1976?], 15x7cm blue pen
- Drawing of faces and hands – [1976?], 23x15.5cm blue pen
- Drawing of a nude – [1976?], 23x15.5cm blue pen
- Drawings of figures and abstract shapes (both sides) – [1976?], 27.5x21cm pencil
- 4-3 [Sketches] – n.d.
- Drawing of hanging fish – [n.d.], 28x21.5cm blue pen
- Abstract painting – [n.d.], x 28x22cm pencil
- Abstract painting – [n.d.], 28x22.5cm colour
- Drawing and notes on lined paper – [n.d.], 28x21.5cm pencil
- 4-4 [School Art] – [ca. 197-]
- Print – [n.d.], 23x18cm b&w ink
- Drawing of a tree stump – [n.d.], 29x19cm colour pastel
- Block print – [n.d.], 36x28cm colour ink
- Block print – [n.d.], 19x19cm b&w ink
- Block print – [n.d.], 21x13.5cm b&w ink
- Print of a face – [n.d.], 29x24cm b&w ink
- Drawing of a face – [n.d.], 28x21.5cm pencil
- Drawing of a nude woman – [n.d.], 28x21.5cm pencil
- Still life drawing of baskets and candlesticks – [197-], 30x22cm pencil
- Drawing of driftwood – [197-], 30x18cm purple pencil
- Drawing of trees – [197-], 30x23cm pencil
- Watercolour of a fence – [197-] 30x25cm
- Print of a forest – [197-], 33x22.5cm brown ink
- Painting of branches – [197-], 30x23cm b&w
- Watercolour of a vase – [197-], 31x23cm

- 4-5 [Still Life] – [197-]
Still life drawing of a vase – [197-], 30x22cm pencil
Still life drawing of a jug – [197-], 30x22cm pencil
Still life drawing of a potted plant – [197-], 30x22cm pencil

(continued)

JOURNALS AND PERSONAL NOTES SERIES (cont.)

- 4-6 Green notebook [European travel journal] June 11 – August 22 [no year given]
- 4-7 Black notebook May 20 – July 23, 1983
- 4-8 Black notebook July 23 – August 30, 1983

ARTWORK SERIES (cont.)

(Over-size Folder 1)

- 1-1 Drawing of English Bay and the North Shore – [n.d.], 89x58.5cm pencil
Drawing of hanging fish – [n.d.], 28x21.5cm blue pen (**removed to file 4-3**)
- 1-2 Drawing of a skeleton – [n.d.], 64x48cm pencil
- 1-3 Drawing of a courtyard fountain – [n.d.], 56cmx29.5cm pencil
Abstract painting – [n.d.], x 28x22cm pencil (**removed to file 4-3**)
- 1-4 Drawing of a drying fish – [n.d.], 61x45cm charcoal
- 1-5 Drawing of a tree and a figure – [n.d.], 61x45cm charcoal
- 1-6 Drawing of a man's face – [n.d.], 54x44cm charcoal
- 1-7 Drawing of a person and a skeleton sitting back to back – [n.d.], 58.5x45cm pencil
- 1-8 Drawing of a man's face – [n.d.], 54x44cm charcoal

- 1-9 Drawing of nudes – [n.d.], 101x68cm charcoal
- 1-10 Drawing of a nude statue – [n.d.], 60x45.5cm pencil
- 1-11 Drawing of a man's face – [n.d.], 60x45.5cm pencil
Abstract painting – [n.d.], 28x22.5cm colour **(removed to file 4-3)**
Abstract painting – [n.d.], 28x22.5cm colour **(removed to file 4-3)**
Abstract painting – [n.d.], 28x22.5cm colour **(removed to file 4-3)**
Abstract painting – [n.d.], 28x22.5cm colour **(removed to file 4-3)**
- 1-12 Drawing of male face – [n.d.], 48x45cm brown charcoal
- 1-13 Drawing of nudes – [n.d.], 84x60cm brown charcoal
Drawing and notes on lined paper – [n.d.], 28x21.5cm pencil **(removed to file 4-3)**
- 1-14 Drawing of a man – [n.d.], 36.5x26.5cm pencil
- 1-15 Clown Woman [n.d.], 45cmx30cm charcoal
- 1-16 Painting of a man being pulled by the feet by two men – [n.d.], 59x45cm b&w
- 1-17 Totem Monolith – [n.d.], 55x43cm charcoal
- 1-18 Drawing of a woman – [n.d.], 55x43cm pencil
- 1-19 Drawing of a man and a landscape – [n.d.], 55x43cm pencil
- 1-20 Drawing of 2 nude women – [n.d.], 60cmx46cm pencil
- 1-21 Brante 81 [drawing of a forest] – 1981, 43x35cm pencil
- 1-22 Drawing of a forest – b&w [n.d.], 45.5x30cm charcoal
- 1-23 Brante 81 [drawing of foliage on a hill] – 1981, 42x29.5cm charcoal
- 1-24 Drawing of plants and the moon – [n.d.], 60x45cm charcoal
- 1-25 Brantes 81[drawing of a town on a hill] – 1981, 53x44cm charcoal

- 1-26 Drawing of 2 figures in overlapping square frames – [n.d.], 60x45cm charcoal
- 1-27 I can't go on. I must go on. I go on [drawing of a forest] – [n.d.], 83cmx58cm charcoal
- 1-28 Drawing of a nude woman – [n.d.], 76x56cm pencil
- 1-29 Painting of trees – [n.d.], 54x44cm b&w
- 1-30 Painting of a person heading through door – [n.d.], 77x50.5cm colour
- 1-31 Abstract painting – [n.d.], 88x58.5cm colour
- 1-32 Painting of a tree – [n.d.], 60cmx44.5cm b&w
- 1-33 Collage – [n.d.], 88x58cm b&w paper, canvas, paint
- 1-34 Painting of a wave – [n.d.], 97x63cm colour

(Over-size Folder 2)

- 2-1 Abstract painting – [n.d.], 90x58cm colour
- 2-2 Abstract painting – [n.d.], 71x56cm b&w
- 2-3 Collage of a man sitting in a chair – [n.d.], 58x44cm colour paint and paper
- 2-4 Abstract painting – [n.d.], 88x59cm colour
- 2-5 Abstract painting – [n.d.], 88x59cm colour
- 2-6 Drawing of a nude woman – [n.d.], 75x56cm charcoal
- 2-7 Heidi's Window July 23 – [painting of a garden]– 1981, 54x44cm b&w
- 2-8 Painting of figures and a door – [n.d.], 75x56cm b&w
- 2-9 Drawing of Michelangelo's "David" from below – [n.d.], 76x55cm pencil

- 2-10 Drawing of hanging fish – [n.d.], 82x66cm pencil
 Block print – [n.d.], 23x18cm b&w ink **(removed to file 4-4)**
 Drawing of a tree stump – [n.d.], 29x19cm colour pastel **(removed to file 4-4)**
 Print – [n.d.], 36x28cm colour ink **(removed to file 4-4)**
 Print – [n.d.], 19x19cm b&w ink **(removed to file 4-4)**
 Print – [n.d.], 21x13.5cm b&w ink **(removed to file 4-4)**
 Print of a face – [n.d.], 29x24cm b&w ink **(removed to file 4-4)**
 Drawing of a face – [n.d.], 28x21.5cm pencil **(removed to file 4-4)**
 Drawing of a nude woman – [n.d.], 28x21.5cm pencil **(removed to file 4-4)**
 Still life drawing of baskets and candlesticks – [197-], 30x22cm pencil
(removed to file 4-4)
 Drawing of driftwood – [197-], 30x18cm purple pencil **(removed to file 4-4)**
 Drawing of trees – [197-], 30x23cm pencil **(removed to file 4-4)**
 Watercolour of a fence – [197-] 30x25cm **(removed to file 4-4)**
 Print of a forest – [197-], 33x22.5cm brown ink **(removed to file 4-4)**
 Painting of branches – [197-], 30x23cm b&w **(removed to file 4-4)**
 Watercolour of a vase – [197-], 31x23cm **(removed to file 4-4)**

“Grade 2,3 + 4”

- 2-11 Drawing of a windmill – [196-], 46x30cm colour pencil crayon
- 2-12 Drawing of a haunted house – 1966, 46x30cm colour pastel
- 2-13 Doll Show Room B203 Thurs., April 27th – [196-], 46x30cm colour = crayon drawing
- 2-14 Drawing of the ocean – 1966, 46x30cm colour pastel
- 2-15 Painting of a face – 1967, 46x30cm colour
- 2-16 Drawing of a flower vase – [196-], 30x22.5cm colour collage
- 2-17 Drawing of three flowers – [196-], 46x 15.5cm colour crayon
- 2-18 Drawing of a wolf – [196-], 46x30cm colour pencil crayon

“Grade One”

- 2-19 Drawing of a duck – 1965, 20x20cm colour crayon

- 2-20 Drawing of a garden – 1965, 20x20cm colour crayon
- 2-21 Drawing of a fish – 1965, 20x20cm colour crayon
- 2-22 Drawing of a snowman – [1964 or 1965], 20x20cm colour crayon
- 2-23 Drawing of a dragonflies – [1964 or 1965], 46x30cm colour crayon
- 2-24 Drawing of two girls – [1964 or 1965], 25x20.5cm colour crayon
- 2-25 Joey, our duck – [1964 or 1965], 30x22.5cm colour crayon
- 2-26 Drawing of a house and car in the snow – 1964, 20x20cm colour crayon
- 2-27 Drawing of a family in the woods – 1964, 30x22.5cm colour crayon
- 2-28 Painting of 2 dogs – 1964, 30x22.5cm colour
- 2-29 Drawing of a turkey – 1964, 30x22.5cm colour crayon
- 2-30 Drawing of a butterfly – 1964, 30x22.5cm colour crayon
- 2-31 Drawing of a house – 1964, 30x22.5cm colour crayon
- 2-32 Drawing of a policeman – [1964 or 1965], 30x22.5cm colour crayon
- 2-33 Painting of a flower – [1964 or 1965], 46x30cm colour
- 2-34 To you From Cameron Grade One Queen Elizabeth School - 1965, colour crayon 46x30cm
- 2-35 Mom – 1965, 46x30cm colour crayon
- 2-36 “Come here” – 1964, 24x9cm colour crayon
- 2-37 “See the farm” – 1964, 24x18cm colour crayon
- 2-38 “Parents come to school” – 1964, 24x18cm colour crayon

- 2-39 The moon – [1964 or 1965], 30x22.5cm colour crayon
- 2-40 Painting of a giraffe – [1964 or 1965], 46x30cm colour
- 2-41 Horseback Riding – 1969, 58x45cm colour
- 2-42 Drawing of monkeys – 1967, 62x45cm colour pastel
- 2-43 Painting of people in sombreros – 1968, 58x45cm colour
 Still life drawing of a vase – [197-], 30x22cm pencil **(removed to file 4-5)**
 Still life drawing of a jug – [197-], 30x22cm pencil **(removed to file 4-5)**
 Still life drawing of a potted plant – [197-], 30x22cm pencil **(removed to file 4-5)**
- 2-44 4 watercolours of bottles framed in black cardboard – 1973, 76x40cm
- 2-45 2 still life drawings of potted plants framed in black cardboard – 1973, 69x34cm pencil
- 2-46 2 still life drawings framed in black cardboard – [197-], 57x37cm pencil
- 2-47 Still life drawing of a pinecone, shell, and woodcarving – 1974, 43x37cm pencil

PHOTOGRAPHS SERIES

- 176.1/1 Cameron MacLeod with a man and woman, sitting – [n.d.], 9x11 cm colour print.
- 176.1/2 Cameron MacLeod and a woman, sitting – [n.d.], 9x11 cm colour print.
- 176.1/3 Cameron MacLeod and a woman, sitting – [n.d.], 9x11 cm colour print.
- 176.1/4 Cameron MacLeod and a woman, sitting – [n.d.], 9x11 cm colour print.
- 176.1/5 Cameron MacLeod – [n.d.], 9x11 cm colour print.
- 176.1/6 Charcoal triptych – 2004, 10x15 cm colour print.

- 176.1/7 Black and white painting – 2004, 10x15 cm colour print.
- 176.1/8 Black and white painting – 2004, 10x15 cm colour print.
- 176.1/9 Drawing of drying fish – 2004, 10x15 cm colour print.
- 176.1/10 Drawing of a hanging shirt – 2004 10x15cm colour print
- 176.1/11 Drawing of a Fish and a tree – 2004, 10x15cm colour print
- 176.1/12 Self-portrait of Cameron MacLeod – 2004, 10x15cm colour print.
- 176.1/13 Painting of a carving of a bear – 2004, 10x15cm colour print.
- 176.1/14 Drawing of fish drying – 2004, 10x15cm colour print.
- 176.1/15 Drawing of a bishop (?)– 2004, 10x15cm colour print.
- 176.1/16 Drawing of fish drying – 2004, 10x15cm colour print.
- 176.1/17 Drawing of fish drying and a skeleton – 2004, 10x15cm colour print.
- 176.1/18 Cat – [n.d.], 12.5x9 cm colour print.
- 176.1/19 Cameron MacLeod(?) – [n.d.], 13x9 cm colour print.
- 176.1/20 Cameron MacLeod's paintings – [n.d.], 13x9 cm colour print.
- 176.1/21 MacLeod Family(?) at a restaurant – [n.d.], 13x9cm colour print.
- 176.1/22 Cameron MacLeod – 1981, 6.5x4.5 b&w print.
- 176.1/23 Human pyramid – [n.d.], 10x10 cm colour print.
- 176.1/24 Hand painting – [n.d.], 20.5x14 cm colour print.
- 176.1/25 Woman painting – [n.d.], 20.5x14 cm colour print.