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ANTONIO (TONY) TASCONA

By CAITLIN MULLAN

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**Biographical Sketch:** Antonio (Tony) Tascona was born in Saint Boniface, Manitoba on March 16, 1926. He lived in Winnipeg for the majority of his life aside from a brief period between 1962 and 1964 when he lived in Montreal.

Tascona attended the Winnipeg School of Art and received his diploma in 1950. From 1950 to 1953 he took post-graduate studies at the School of Fine Art at the University of Manitoba.

Between 1953 and 1971, Tony worked as an electroplating technician. With this newfound knowledge and experience in industrial materials, he left this position to work full-time on his art. Tony has produced many high-profile commissions throughout his career including murals, stabiles, sculptures, prints and paintings for buildings from coast to coast in Canada. Among the most notable public venues are the Manitoba Centennial Concert Hall in Winnipeg, Saint Boniface Hospital, Winnipeg Centennial Library Garden, Manitoba Law Courts Building, Windsor Public Library, Montreal Via Rail Park Car and many other sites in Winnipeg.

Tascona exhibited extensively throughout Canada since his first one man exhibition at the University of Winnipeg in 1958. Aside from the thirty-plus solo shows he has participated in over fifty-five group exhibitions dating back to the 1950's. Tascona's work has been shown in galleries in every major Canadian city, as well as Minnesota, Connecticut, and Michigan in the United States.

Over the years Tascona's contributions to the arts have been recognized through multiple awards and honours. Between the years of 1970 and 1990 he received medals from the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, The Canadian Silver Jubilee Medal given by the Government of Canada, the Gold Medal awarded by the Academia Italia Del Arti e Del Lavoro, Parma, Italy, and the Primio D'Eccellenza Award. During this time he also received monetary grants from the Canada Council and the Manitoba Arts Council. He was made an Honourary Fellow from Saint John's College at the University of Manitoba and received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Saint Boniface Hospital Research Foundation soon after. The University of Winnipeg awarded Tascona with an Honorary Doctor of Laws (LL.D.) in 1994 and in 1996 he was made a Member of the Order of Canada. In 2002 Tascona was honoured with three major awards: he was inducted into the Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame Museum, then awarded both the Eccellenza Award from the Italian Canadian League of Manitoba, and finally the Queen Elizabeth Royal Jubilee Medal.

Tony's generous spirit motivated him to donate valuable artworks to organizations throughout his life, and in 2000 he inaugurated and sponsored the annual Tony Tascona Bursary at the University of Winnipeg. This scholarship was awarded to University of Winnipeg students studying Canadian Art History.

Tascona served many boards and committees including the Manitoba Department of Public Works Art Advisory Board, the Board of Governors for the Winnipeg Art Gallery, and the Board of Directors for the School of Architecture Endowment Fund at the University of Manitoba. He also served on the Steering Committee of Main Access Gallery, Artspace, and acted as the Visual Arts Representative on the Board of Directors for the Canadian Conference of the Arts. He was also a member of multiple committees for the National Gallery of Canada from 1997-1999.

Tony was a member of several professional associations: he was a founding member of the Canadian Artists Representation (CAR) from 1968 to 1980, a member of the Canadian Conference of the Arts from 1972 to 1974 and 1992 to 1995, Vice-President, Prairie Region of the Royal Canadian Academy of Art from 1979 to 1981, Search Committee for a New Director of the Winnipeg Art Gallery in 1985, Lifetime Membership in the Art Gallery of Ontario, the Norman MacKenzie Art Gallery in Regina and Winnipeg Art Gallery, member Search Committee for a New Director of the National Gallery of Canada for 1997 to 1999 and member of the Acquisitions Committee of the National Gallery of Canada for 1997 to 1999.

Beginning in 1975 Tascona served on juries for art competitions in Western Canada and North Dakota. He has presented many lectures, workshops and slide and video presentations. He has been featured in

journals such as Border Crossings, Artswest Magazine, Canadian Art, Sphere Magazine and many others. Tony's art work has been collected throughout Canada, the United States and Japan by private collectors, corporations and private and public galleries. In 2006, Antonio (Tony) Tascona passed away in Winnipeg, Manitoba in 2006.

**Scope and Content:** This collection consists of 2.53 meters of textual records, photographs, slides, videos, compact disks. There are 12 oversize items and 6 artifacts. The date ranges from the 1950's to 2006, predominantly throughout the 1990's and 2000's. The collection also includes three-dimensional art works – one by Tony, and two by other artists. There are multiple works on paper represented in various fundraising folios and sketchbooks, as well as the collection of hand-printed art cards. Many of the awards Tascona received throughout his career are contained within this collection. The A/V materials total 271 photographs, 681 slides, 14 VHS tapes, 8 cassette tapes, and 19 CD's containing digital images.

**Note on Arrangement:** The majority of the materials arrived in titled folders, organized by the donor previous to shipping. These original file titles and papers have been unchanged for the most part, though the files have been re-grouped under various series. They include: Art Card Collection, Awards, Correspondence, Drawings, Finances, Other Artist's Work, Personal, Professional Activities, Publications, Sketchbooks, A/V materials and Oversize materials.

There were some instances where materials representing significant events in Tascona's career were removed from their original files and re-grouped to be more easily located by future researchers. Wherever possible, the filing system, as developed by Doreen Millin (Tony Tascona's wife), has been maintained.

**Custodial History:** This accession was transferred to the archives by the Tony Tascona estate.

**Legal Agreement:** The legal agreement was signed in April 2012.

**Related Accessions:** Related accessions are 88-74, 94-80 and 2001-37, 2007-14.

**Future Accruals:** Future accruals are not expected.

**Access Restrictions:** There is one Restricted file in this collection - Box 12, File 130.

## ART CARDS

		By Tony Tascona	
Box 1	1	2000's	
	2	1990's	
	3	1980's	
		Collection (by other artists)	
	4	2005	
	5	2004	
	6	2003	
	7	2002	
	8	2001 (includes Photograph #1)	
	9	1990's	
	10	1980's	
	11	1960's - 1970's	

## AWARDS

	12	Art Culture Award, Dante Alighieri Cultural Society (Artifact #1)	2006
Box 2	13	Excellenza Award (includes Photographs #2, #3, #4, #5)	2002
	14	Queen Elizabeth Medal in original case (Artifact #2)	2002
	15	Order of Canada Medal in original leather case (Artifact #3)	1996
	16	Royal Academy of Arts Centennial Medal (Artifact #4)	1980
	17	The Royal Architectural Institute of Canada Allied Arts Medal (Artifact #5)	1970

## CORRESPONDENCE

	18	80 <sup>th</sup> birthday letters/notes (includes Compact Disk #10)	2006
		Cards and Invitations	
	19	2006	
	20	2005	
Box 3	21	2004	
	22	2003 (includes Photograph #6)	
	23	2002 (includes Photograph #7)	
		General	
	24	2001	
	25	2007-2010	
	26	2006 (includes Photographs #8 - #11 Compact Disk #11, #12)	
	27	2005 (includes Photographs #12, #13)	
	28	January - June 2004	
Box 4	29	July - December 2004	
	30	2003 (includes Photographs #14, - #16)	
	31	2002 (includes Photographs #17, #18)	
	32	2001 (includes Photograph #19)	
	33	1985 - 2000 (includes Photographs #20 - #25)	
Box 5	34	1970's	

	35	1960's	
		DRAWINGS	
	36	Loose drawings (9) on various sized sheets of paper	1996,1999, 2004, 2001, 2005
		1 inkjet print of a drawing	2006
		FINANCES	
		2005	
	37	Financial statements	
	38	Income tax	
	39	Investments	
		General	
	40	January - April	
	41	May - August	
	42	September - December	
		2004	
	43	Financial statements	
	44	Income tax	
		General	
	45	January - April	
Box 6	46	May - August	
	47	September - December	
	48	Receipts	
		2003	
	49	Business Deposit Slips	
	50	Donations	
	51	Financial statements	
	52	Income tax	
	53	Insurance	
		General	
	54	January - April	
	55	May - August	
	56	September - December	
Box 7	57	GST	
		2002	
	58	Banking receipts	
	59	Financial statements	2002
	60	Income tax	2002
	61	Income tax payments	2002
		General	
	62	January - April	2002
	63	May - August	2002
	64	September - December	2002
		2001	

	65	Financial Statements	2001
	66	GST	2001
	67	Income tax	2001
	68	Income Tax (Doreen Millin)	2001
	69	Insurance	2001
	70	Investments	2001
		General	
Box 8	71	January - April	2001
	72	May - August	2001
	73	September - December	2001
	74	Transaction register	2001
		2000	
	75	Banking Statements	2000
	76	Duplicate receipt book	2000
	77	Expenses	2000
	78	Financial Statements	
		General	
	79	January - April	2000
	80	May - August	2000
Box 9	81	September - December	2000
		1999	
	82	Financial Statements	
	83	Income Tax	
		General	
	84	January - April	1999
	85	May - August	1999
	86	September - December	
		1998	
	87	Cheque register	
	88	Financial statements	1998
	89	Income tax	
	90	Insurance	
		1997	
Box 10	91	Financial statements	1997
	92	Transaction register	1997
	93	Business deposit slips	2003-2004
	94	Cheque register	1998
	95	Cheque register	1995
	96	Deposit slip book	2000-2001
	97	Deposit slip book	1998-1999
	98	Invoice book	2002-2004
	99	Invoice book	2000-2001
	100	Invoice book	1998-1999
	101	Ledger	2000-2004

## OTHER ARTISTS WORK

Colleen Helgeson Nelson - (8) Folios of prints gifted to Tony

		Tascona	
	102	British Birds	2003
	103	European Birds	2003
	104	Five Plants and a Fungus	2003
	105	Greater Scaup Muscovy Duck Ruddy Ducks	2003
	106	Massachusetts Birds	2003
	107	Minnesota Birds	2003
	108	Prairie Birds	2003
	109	Swans and Whistling-ducks	2003
	110	Dora de Pedery-Hunt: <i>Homage to Edvard Munch</i> medal (Artifact #6)	n.d.
Box 11	111	Ewa Tarsia	2003-2005
	112	Pat Martin Bates	
	113	Various (contains birchbark)	Various
		PERSONAL	
	114	Bequests 2008 (includes Photographs #26 - #45, CD's #13, #14)	
	115	Business Card book	n.d.
	116	Guest book from Tony Tascona's Wake/funeral	2006
	117	Memorial/Birthday donations made in honour of Tony Tascona	2006
	118	Obituaries/Memorial	2006
Box 12	119	Studio Photographs - Tascona Wake (includes Photographs #46 - #55)	2006
	120	Sympathy letters/Notes (includes Photograph #56)	2006
		PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES	
		Commissions	
	121	Bill Grey Residence (includes Photographs #57 - #75, Compact Disk #15)	2000
	122	Canada Conference of the Arts	1992
	123	Manitoba Law Courts(Oversize Item # 11)	1983 - 1984
	124	Millenium Library – "Rising Form" restoration (includes Photographs #76- #90, Slides #1-#17)	2005
		The Royal Canadian Academy of Arts	2002
	125	Playing Card Collection	1998
	126	Portfolio Fundraiser (includes Photograph #91)	2002
	127	Thermal Insulation Association of Canada ("On Target" packaged silkscreen print)t	2004
	128	VIA Rail (includes Photographs #92, #93, Slide #18)	1993 - 1994
		Contracts	
	129	Exhibitions/Consignments (includes Compact Disk #16)	1992- 2002
Restricted	130	Jay Mustapha (accountant)	1987 - 2006
	131	MacKenzie Art Gallery Permanent Collection Forms	1978
	132	Marjory and Sam Drache Art Collection Donation to University of Manitoba (includes Photograph #94, Slides #19-#35)	1974 - 2007
Box 13	133	Studio Insurance	2004-2005

	134	Studio Lease Agreement	2005
	135	Studio Lease Agreement	2003
	136	Studio Lease Agreement	2001
	137	Curriculum Vitae	1985-2002
	138	Damkjar-Burton Gallery	1975- 1976
		Donations	
	139	Art Gallery of Greater Victoria	1996
	140	Athabasca University	1996
	141	The Canadiana Fund (includes Photograph #95)	2008
	142	Centro Caboto Centre (includes Photograph #96)	2005
	143	Glenbow Museum	2004
	144	Glenbow Museum	2002
	145	MacKenzie Art Gallery	1993
	146	Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame (includes Photographs #97 - #102)	2002-2006
	147	Musee national des beaux-arts du Quebec (includes Photographs #103- #121, Compact Disk #17, Slides #36 - #52)	2005
	148	University of Manitoba(1 of 2)	2005
	149	University of Manitoba (2 of 2)	2005
	150	University of Manitoba	1993-1995
	151	University of Winnipeg - "Inverted Tee" restoration (includes Photographs #122 - #125)	1992-2007
	152	University of Winnipeg (includes Photographs #126 - #133, Slide #53)	1999-2006
	153	University of Winnipeg (includes Photographs #134 - #151, Slides #54 - #85)	1992-1998
	154	University of Winnipeg (Tony Tascona Bursary in Art History) (includes Photograph #152)	2001-2006
Box 14	155	St. Boniface College 2006 (includes Photograph #153 - #156, Compact Disk #18)	2006
	156	The Winnipeg Art Gallery	2003
		Exhibitions	
	157	Invites	1957-2006
	158	Catalogues 1 of 2	1953-1999
	159	Catalogues 2 of 2	1953 - 1999
	160	Drawing(s) II Winnipeg Art Gallery	2001
	161	Glenbow Museum Incoming Loan Agreement	2001
	162	The Sixties in Canada	2004
	163	"Tony Tascona: Prints" at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria	1998
	164	"Resonance" at the Winnipeg Art Gallery (includes Photographs #157 - #170, Compact Disk #19, Slides #86 - #121)	2001
	165	"The (re) Visiting Collection" - Gallery 1C03 at the University of Winnipeg	2008
Box 15	166	"Transformations" at centre cultural franco-manitobain (includes Slides #122 - #146)	2006
		Media Coverage	



167	2004-2008	2004-2008
168	1990's	1990's
169	1980's	1980's
170	1970's	1970's
171	1950's and 1960's	1950's & 1960's
172	CTV Documentary, "Transitions: The Art and Soul of Tony Tascona"	2006

## PUBLICATIONS

## Featuring Tony Tascona

	173	<i>Achieving the Modern: Canadian Abstract Painting and Design in the 1950's</i> The Winnipeg Art Gallery. 1993. <i>A Culinary Palette: Kitchen Masterpieces from Sixty-five Great Artists</i> by Joan Mackie (includes two letters from Joan Mackie). 1981.
Box 16	174	<i>Des toquades d'homme: Contes et fables</i> by Jean-Yves Bernier, signed by author. 2000. <i>Manitoba Chamber Orchestra</i> (card from Vikki Young included). 2006-2007. <i>Plaisir du texte, texte de plaisir: l'oeuvre de J.R. Leveille</i> by Gaboury-Diallo, Lide; Heidenreich, Rosmarin and Jean Valenti. 2005.
	175	<i>The 60's in Canada</i> by Denise Leclerc and Pierre Dessureault, catalogue for the National Gallery of Canada Exhibition (of the same name). 2005. <i>Style Manitoba Vol. 10 No. 2</i> . 2005. <i>Tableau</i> A Publication of the Winnipeg Art Gallery Vol 2005-3. May/June 2005. <i>Visions: Artists and the Creative Process</i> Viewers Guide to TV Ontario Documentary Series. 1983. Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra 1978 - 1979 season.
		Not Featuring Tony Tascona
	176	<i>Almost Poems</i> by George Swinton, signed by Author. 2000. <i>Canadian Journal of Political and Social Theory – Mediascape: The Postmodern Scene</i> . Vol X, No.'s 1 +2. 1986. <i>Children of my Heart</i> by Gabrielle Roy, includes card from "Caroline" and photo-copied attendance sheet from Gabrielle Roy. 1979.
	177	<i>Don Reichert: A Life in Work</i> . Catalogue by Winnipeg Art Gallery, edited by Meeka Walsh. Signed by the artist. 1995. <i>Eighty Years: Swinton</i> . The Art Collector's Club, Winnipeg. 1997. <i>Kelly Clark: Artist's Prints and Multiples</i> . Catalogue for joint exhibition by The Winnipeg Art Gallery and the University

		of Manitoba's Gallery 1.1.1. 1998.	
		<i>Medals</i> by Dora de Pedery-hunt, signed by author. Inserted are two small booklets on Dora de Perdery-Hunt's work and a postcard from her to Tony. 1977.	
Box 17	178	<i>New World Perspectives: Technology and The Canadian Mind</i> , by Arthur Kroker. 1984.	
		<i>Ron Bolt: Paintings, Drawings Constructions</i> . Catalogue for the Art Gallery of Northumberland, signed by the artist. 1994.	
		<i>Royal Canadian Academy of Arts Bulletin Arc 2005</i> .	
		<i>A Speaking Likeness</i> by Joseph Plaskett. 1999.	
		<i>Stryjek; Trying the Colors</i> . By Peter Millard. 1988.	
		<i>The Tenth Winnipeg Show</i> (catalogue). n.d.	
		SKETCHBOOKS	
	179	Black sketchbook with martini glass on cover 6 x 6", contains 27 drawings based on trip to Arizona	2000-2005
	180	Black sketchbook, 11 x 8" contains 15 drawings	1999
	181	Beige sketchbook, 10 x 7.5" contains 10 drawings	1998
	182	Pink 11 ½ x 8" sketchbook contains 15 drawings	1996-1997
	183	Green sketchbook, 5.5 x 6.5" contains 19 drawings	1995-1997
	184	Marble-cover sketchbook, 8.5 x 6" contains 3 drawings of Venice, (includes Photograph #172)	1990
		AUDIO VISUAL MATERIALS	
		Cassette tapes	
Box 18	185	(8) mixed tapes - compiled jazz music compiled by studio-mate Bill Chody for Tony Tascona	
		Compact Disks (9)	
	186	CD 1 Tony Tascona Studio Inventory.	March 27, 2007
		CD 2 Studio Inventory at time of death, photographs and compact disk by Doreen Millin.	July 2006
		CD 3 80th Birthday Exhibition/Party at the Franco-Manitoban Cultural Centre; photographer - Lorne Scharfe.	2006
		CD 4 "A Celebration of Life" (studio wake, June 2006); photographer - Lorne Scharfe.	2006
		CD 5 "Tony Tascona's Wake," Mike Linton, Centric productions.	2006
		CD 6 The Studio Photo Board, photographer, U of Manitoba Archivist, Shelley Sweeney.	2007
		CD 7 Tony Tascona's 79th Birthday Party, photographer - Lorne Scharfe	2005
		CD 8 Tony Tascona goes Zig Zag, CBWFT.	2004
		CD 9 Tascona's Christmas Studio Party, photographer - Lorne Scharfe	2004

		Photographs (268)	
	187	"An Evening with Tony Tascona." Birthday celebration as conclusion of Winnipeg Art Gallery "Resonance" exhibition. (includes Photographs #173 - #188)	August 14 2001
	188	Closing of the Aberdeen Hotel Carlton St. (includes Photographs #189 - #192)	
	189	Family (includes Photographs #193 - #213)	
	190	First Exhibition of Drawings - Upstairs Gallery (includes Photographs #214 - #221)	1997
	191	School shots (includes Photographs #222, #223)	
	192	Sport shots (includes Photographs #224, #225)	
	193	Studio shots (includes Photographs #226 - #234)	
	194	Tony Tascona with other artists (includes Photographs #235 - #259)	
	195	Opening reception to "Musings" exhibition - centre culturel franco manitobain (includes Photographs #260 - #263)	July 1999
	196	Winnipeg Art Gallery Reception (includes Photograph #264)	1989
		Slides and Transparencies (682)	
	197	Drawings (includes Slides #148 - #291)	n.d.
Box 19 (1/2 box)	198	Paintings (includes Slides #292 - #455, Photographs #265 - #268)	
	199	Prints (includes Slides #456 - #511)	n.d.
	200	Resin works (includes Slides #512 - #681) Note one additional oversize transparency (Oversize Item #12) for the pendulum of the Manitoba Law Courts.	
		VHS (14)	
Box 20	Tape 1	"Transitions: The Art and Soul of Tony Tascona", hour-long documentary for Manitoba Moments, CTV. Centric Productions.	2006
	Tape 2	ZIG ZAG appearance, CBWFT	2002
	Tape 3	"Tony Tascona: Resonance", preview of Winnipeg Art Gallery exhibition - Robert Enright, CBC Television	2001
	Tape 4	"Tony Tascona: Resonance", Global Television interview, Lisa Best.	2001
	Tape 5	"Tony Tascona: Resonance", interview by Sylvia Kusyk, CKY Television, Winnipeg.	2001
	Tape 6	Marc Mayhew, St. Boniface boyhood friend in from New York for "Resonance" exhibition, house and studio parties and a look at his old neighbourhood.	2001
	Tape 7, 8, 9	The Art in "Tony Tascona: Resonance," three tapes produced by Break Productions, Winnipeg.	2001
	Tape 10	"Tony Tascona: Musings" exhibition of drawings at the Franco Manitoban Cultural Centre. Robert Enright CBC Television	1999
	Tape 11	Tony Tascona: Drawings and Paintings", Upstairs Gallery. CKY News clip.	1997
	Tape 12	Undated Compilations Tape: one appearance on Zig Zag, a	n.d.

	T.V.O. item and a sequence from CBC Winnipeg's "Seeing It Our Way".	
Tape 13	Temoignage de: Tony Tascona Maison Gabriel Roy	n.d.
Tape 14	My Big Fat Greek Wedding (Tascona painting in dining room scene in Toronto)	2002
201	OVERSIZE Inventory Sheet (15)	
	(1) Aluminum/resin sculpture by Tony Tascona ( 10.5" tall x 3.5" wide x 3" depth) note: sculpture rotates	
	(2) Ceramic sculpture by Jordan Van Sewell - portrait of Tony Tascona hanging out the upstairs window of his studio above the St. Boniface Post Office	
	(3) Eccellenza Award from Italian community in Winnipeg. (8.4" wide x 21" tall x 5" depth)	2002
	(4) Framed watercolour portrait of Tony Tascona painted by Wilf Perreault (26" wide x 32" tall x 2" deep)	1992
	(5) "La Cour Est Ouverte" Art Folio - box of larger paper art works gifted to Tony from various artists across the country (23" wide x 23" height x 2" depth)	various
	(6) Poster for Dynamics of Tony Tascona exhibition at Winnipeg Art Gallery (70" x 48")	1984
	(7) Poster for Tim Ray exhibition (signed by artist to Tony) (21" x 15")	1991
	(8) Poster for The RCA Playing Card Collection, mounted on coroplast (36" tall x 24" wide)	n.d.
	(9) Sculpture by Mike Bigger – portrait of Tony Tascona printed on plexi-glass housed in plex-glass sculpture resembling a Christmas tree (13.5" tall x 7" wide x 3" depth)	1994
	(10) The Royal Canadian Academy of The Arts/ Epson Painters' Portfolio (folio of 12 giclee method prints by 12 artists, including T.T.) (14" wide x 14" height x 1" depth)	2002
	(11) from Other Artists Work - File: Various – Drawing - plexiglass engraving, watercolor on BF Krines "Go Team Go" (sled dogs) by Doris Hamill.	1995
	(12) from Professional Activities – Commissions – Manitoba Law Courts – Transparency for pendulum.	1983-1984
	(13) Photograph: black and white, images of Tony Tascona with cowboy boots of Manitoba's Finance Minister, Eugene Kostyra. Photograph stamped Winnipeg Free Press Photo by: Gioliotti, Photograph Number 269	1986
	(14) Photograph: Colour colage of photographs making up Tascona's face. Photographer Unknown. Photograph Number 270	n.d.
	(15) Photographs: black and white, #1, Photographer signature unreadable. Photograph Number 271	31/05/06