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91-68

VIC Cicansky

JANUARY 12, 1998

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Biographical Sketch by FAY HUTCHINSON,  
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REVISED  
MAY 2009

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**VIC CICANSKY FONDS**

1972 - 1974

11.5 cm of textual records

**Arrangement:** The records were collected and created by Vic Cicansky and arranged by Shelley Sweeney, University Archivist.

**Restrictions:** There are no restrictions on this material.

**Scope and Content:** This accession of the Vic Cicansky Fonds is divided into three series: Vic Cicansky, Works of Art by Vic Cicansky, and David Zack. The first series contains two files relating to the International Cup Show that Cicansky participated in, and a number of miscellaneous papers on a variety of topics. The second series is composed entirely of 15 sculptural works by Vic Cicansky, including some of the earliest works he created while studying at the University of California, Davis. The third series relates to art historian and artist David Zack. The material is mostly writing by David Zack, some for the Canada Art Writers, an advocacy group made up of a number of artists, and for whom Vic Cicansky was the lead spokesperson, and others for a project that was called "Art Cause Publishing." This includes an incomplete manuscript on English poet William Blake, and several works related to the Creative Playground Project in Silton, headed by artist Russ Yuristy, among others.

**Biographical Sketch:**

Sculptor Vic Cicansky was born in Regina, Saskatchewan in 1935. He completed a Bachelor of Education at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon in 1964, and a Bachelor of Arts at Regina Campus in 1967. He studied at the Haystack Mountain School of Art in Deer Island, Maine, and at the University of California, Davis, where he obtained a Master of Fine Arts in 1970. That same year he began teaching at Regina Campus, where he continued in the Department of Visual Arts until his retirement in 1994. He was granted Emeritus status from the University of Regina at that time.

Cicansky's work, chiefly ceramic sculptures and wall murals, has been shown in numerous solo and group exhibitions at public and commercial galleries across Canada and in the United States, England, France and China. He has undertaken several important commissions including "The Old Working Class" (1977) and "The New Working Class" (1981) in the Sturdy-Stone Building in Saskatoon, and "The Garden Fence" (1983-84) in the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation building in Regina. His work is represented internationally in numerous private and institutional collections.

Besides his teaching at the University of Regina, Cicansky has taught courses in Banff, Halifax, Davis, California, and Newfoundland, and has presented various workshops, lectures and slide presentations across Canada. He has been a member of several Canada Council and other art competition juries. He has also served on the Saskatchewan Arts Board, the Norman Mackenzie Art Gallery Board, the Wascana Centre Arts Advisory Committee, and the Applied Arts Advisory Committee of the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology, Woodland Campus.

Upon Cicansky's return from California in 1970, he resided in Craven, Saskatchewan, where he served several terms on the Village Council. He lived in Craven until 1989. Currently he lives in Regina where he continues to create sculptures at his Ceramsky Art Works studio.

Cicansky met American artist David Zack in San Francisco when Cicansky was studying at the University of California, in Davis. Zack lived in Rainbow House, a house he had painted entirely in rainbow colours, where informal monthly meetings of artists would take place. When a position for an art historian came up at the University of Saskatchewan, Regina Campus, Cicansky urged Zack to apply for it. Zack was successful in securing the position, and came to Regina in 1969 to teach. He taught various courses and classes at the University until 1974,

when he was not rehired. Zack left the community, but reappeared upon occasion until about 1988. It is unknown what subsequently happened to him.

**Notes:** See also Accession nos. 90-96, and 91-6 (A.V. Services Photos of Sculptures by Cicansky).

**Custodial history:** Cicansky obtained the papers by David Zack often by exchange with Zack himself. Sometimes Zack gave them to Cicansky because Cicansky was a member of Canada Art Writers, and sometimes for safekeeping.

**VIC Cicansky**

- Box 1
- 1 International Cup Show - 1972-1974
  - 2 Miscellaneous - n.d.
  3. Works of Art Sculpture
    - 1 "My Studio – Davis, California" – 1969
    - 2 Untitled –1969
    - 3 "Footed Jar" – 1970
    - 4 "Prairie Garden" – 1971
    - 5 "Outhouse Cup" – 1972
    - 6 "Satchel" – 1973
    - 7 "Studio Cup" – 1974
    - 8 "Studio Cup" – 1974
    - 9 "Green Thumb" – 1976
    - 10 "Garden Cup" – 1977
    - 11 "Salad Bowl" – 1980
    - 12 "Armchair Gardener" – 1984
    - 13 "Salad Bowl" – 1985
    - 14 "Salad Bowl" – [1985]
    - 15 "The Urbane Drain" - ?

**DAVID ZACK**

- 4 Curriculum Vitae - 1974
  - 5 Correspondence - 1972-1974
  - 6 Glitter Drawings - n.d.
  - 7 USRC: Art 100 - n.d.
  - 8 Articles - 1972-1976
  - 9 Nut Pot Bag by David Zack - 1971
  - 10 Fragment, Pages 2 to 29 - n.d. (possibly related to Nut Pot Bag)
  - 11 "Blake" by David Zack 1/2
  - 12 "Blake" by David Zack 2/2
  - 13 "Creative Playground" and "Creative Playground!" - 1974
  - 14 Silton Times – 1974
- 15 Photographs  
includes 15 photographs and 15 negatives of Cicansky sculptures