



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Jorge Tacla Papers, 1966-2019,
bulk 1980-2009, in the Archives of American Art

Jennifer E. Neal

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Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Jorge Tacla papers
Date:	1966-2019 (bulk 1980-2009)
Identifier:	AAA.tacljorg
Creator:	Tacla, Jorge, 1958-
Extent:	5.05 Linear feet
Language:	The collection is in English and Spanish.
Summary:	The papers of Chilean born painter Jorge Tacla measure 5.05 linear feet and date from 1966-2019. Included are biographical material; letters from friends and other artists; project and exhibition files; photographs consisting of snapshots of Tacla, friends, and paintings; eleven illustrated journals; and printed material. The papers document Tacla's creative process and his relationships with other artists.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated in 2019 by Jorge Tacla.

Processing Information

The collection was processed and a finding aid prepared by Jennifer E. Neal and Lewis Tio in 2020.

Preferred Citation

Jorge Tacla papers, 1966-2019. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

This collection is open for research. Access to original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center. Researchers interested in accessing born-digital records or audiovisual recordings in this collection must use access copies. Contact References Services for more information.

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Biographical / Historical

Jorge Tacla (1958-) is a Chilean born painter who lives in and primarily works in New York, New York.

Tacla attended the Escuela de Bellas Artes, Universidad de Chile and moved to New York in 1981. Throughout his career, Tacla has been awarded numerous grants and fellowships including the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship in 1988. His paintings often present half-imaginary landscapes, such as a disintegrating urban site or a pristine desert. Tacla's work has been included in numerous group and solo exhibitions at galleries and museums around the world.

Scope and Contents

The papers of Chilean born painter Jorge Tacla measure 5.05 linear feet and date from 1966-2019. Included are biographical material; letters from friends and other artists; project and exhibition files; photographs consisting of snapshots of Tacla, friends, and paintings; eleven illustrated journals; and printed material. The papers document Tacla's creative process and his relationships with other artists.

This collection documents source material for Tacla's paintings, the creative process through which he makes paintings, his career as an artist working in New York and Chile, and his friendships with other artists. Materials include immigration papers; resumes; an artist bio; an oral history interview transcript; personal and professional correspondence; draft essays; sketches; drawings; sketchbooks; exhibition announcements, catalogs, posters, checklists, and press packets; clippings related to major world events and reviews of Tacla's work; and photographs of Tacla with other artists and colleagues, friends and family, installations, his studios in New York and Chile, and his work.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 7 series.

- Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1980-circa 1992 (0.2 linear feet, Box 1)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1981-2013 (0.7 linear feet, Box 1, 7)
- Series 3: Exhibition Files, 1991-2009 (0.1 linear feet, Box 1)
- Series 4: Legal Records, 1996 (0.3 linear feet, Box 1-2)
- Series 5: Printed Material, 1980-2019 (2.3 linear feet, Box 2-3, 7-10)
- Series 6: Artwork, 1986-2019 (0.9 linear feet, Box 3, 5-6, 10)
- Series 7: Photographic Material, 1981-2018 (0.55 linear feet, Box 3-4)

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Types of Materials:

Drawings
Interviews
Sketchbooks

Names:

Díaz, Gonzalo, 1947-
Jaar, Alfredo

Occupations:

Painters -- New York (State) -- New York

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1980-circa1992

0.2 Linear feet (Box 1-5)

Scope and Contents: Biographical material provides a snapshot of Tacla's career through immigration papers, his artist bio, an oral history interview transcript, and resumes. Also included are an ex-ray of Tacla's head, two sonograms, correspondence, and a photocopy of his ID card.

Box 1, Folder 1 Artist Bios, X-ray, Sonograms, Sketches, 1987-circa 1992

Box 1, Folder 2 [Drafts, Universidad de Chile, circa 1980-1989](#)

Box 1, Folder 3 Immigration Documentation, circa 1980

Box 1, Folder 4 [Transcript of Oral History Interview with Jorge Tacla, 1987-1988](#)

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Series 2: Correspondence, 1981-2013

0.7 Linear feet (Box 1, 7)

Scope and Contents: Correspondence, mainly in Spanish, include personal and professional letters with friends and fellow artists, and letters from curators and dealers about exhibitions. Many of the letters are illustrated and highlight Tacla's close friendships with other artists in New York and Chile. Artists of note include Alfredo Jaar, Gonzalo Diaz, and Nuri Gonzales.

Box 1, Folder 5	Personal, 1981-1996, undated
Box 1, Folder 6	Personal, 1981-1990
Box 1, Folder 7	Personal, 1981-1993
Box 1, Folder 8	Personal, 1981-1993, undated
Box 1, Folder 9	Personal, 1981-1993, undated
Box 1, Folder 10	Personal, 1981-1994, undated
Box 1, Folder 11	Personal, 1981-1996, undated
Box 1, Folder 12	Personal, 1982-1994, undated
Box 1, Folder 13	Professional, No Freedom No Culture Conference, 1998
Box 1, Folder 14	Professional, Bronx Housing Court, 1991-1997
Box 1, Folder 15	Professional, 1981-1997, undated
Box 1, Folder 16	Professional, 1982-1989
Box 1, Folder 17	Professional, 1981-2013
Box 1, Folder 18	Professional, 1992-circa 2014
Box 1, Folder 19	Professional, 1998, 2001
Box 7, Folder 1	Personal, 1983-1986, undated

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Series 3: Exhibition Files, 1991-2009

0.1 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Exhibition files document Tacla's work with curators through correspondence, draft essays, posters, sketches, checklists, floor plans, and press packets including a project with the High Museum of art in the early 1990s. Exhibitions of note include "Jorge Tacla Senal de Abandono" (2000), "Kill the Song" (2008), and "Propuesta Conceptual: Obra Permanente Museo de la Memoria" (2009).

Box 1, Folder 20 High Museum of Art, 1991-1992

Box 1, Folder 21 [Jorge Tacla: Senal de Abandono \(2000\), 2000](#)

Box 1, Folder 22 [Kill the Song \(2008\), 2008](#)

Box 1, Folder 23 [Propuesta Conceptual: Obra Permanente Museo de la Memoria \(2009\), 2009](#)

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Series 4: Legal Records, 1966

0.3 Linear feet (Box 1-2)

Scope and Contents: Legal records include a lengthy deposition related to a lawsuit with the landlord of Tacla's studio in which Tacla describes in detail his artistic process.

Box 1, Folder 24	Deposition, 1996
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Box 2, Folder 1-4	Deposition, 1996
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Series 5: Printed Material, 1980-2019

2.3 Linear feet (Box 2-3, 7-10)

Scope and Contents: Printed materials highlight Tacla's career as a painter through exhibition announcements and catalogs, and newspaper and magazine clippings of reviews or articles about his work. The clippings also include major events that inspired Tacla's artistic process, including the 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center, the 2008 election of Barak Obama, the death of Osama Bin Laden in 2011, the 2008 Chaiten volcano eruption in southern Chile, and the Bali bombings of nightclubs and bars in 2002.

Box 2, Folder 5	Articles, 1998
Box 2, Folder 6	Notes and Post Cards, circa 1983-1987
Box 2, Folder 7	Clippings, 1985-2005
Box 2, Folder 8	Clippings, 1998
Box 2, Folder 9	Clippings, 2001
Box 2, Folder 10	Clippings, 2003-2005
Box 2, Folder 11	Clippings, Annotated, 2011-2012
Box 2, Folder 12	Exhibition Announcements, 1983-1986
Box 2, Folder 13	Exhibition Announcements, 1988-1993
Box 2, Folder 14	Exhibition Announcements, 1995-2019, undated
Box 2, Folder 15	Exhibition Catalogs, 1986-1989
Box 2, Folder 16	Exhibition Catalogs, 1991-1992
Box 2, Folder 17	Exhibition Catalogs, 1993
Box 2, Folder 18	Exhibition Catalogs, 1993-1995
Box 2, Folder 19	Exhibition Catalogs, 1996-1997
Box 2, Folder 20	Exhibition Catalogs, 1997
Box 2, Folder 21	Exhibition Catalogs, 1999-2000
Box 3, Folder 1-7	Exhibition Catalogs, 2008-2017
Box 7, Folder 2	Clippings, 1980-2012

Box 7, Folder 3	Clippings, 1982-1991
Box 7, Folder 4	Clippings, 1985-2010
Box 7, Folder 5	Clippings, 1984-2013
Box 7, Folder 6	Clippings, 1984-2001
Box 8, Folder 1	Clippings, 1985, 2005-2017
Box 8, Folder 2	Clippings, 1986- 2001
Box 8, Folder 3	Clippings, 1984-2008
Box 8, Folder 4	Clippings, 1986-2017
Box 8, Folder 5	Clippings, 1988-2008
Box 8, Folder 6	Clippings, 1988-2013
Box 8, Folder 7	Clippings, 1988-2017
Box 9, Folder 1-9	Clippings, 1989-2017
Box 10, Folder 1-2	Clippings, 2002-2016
Box 10, Folder 3-4	Exhibition Catalogs, 1994-2001
Box 10, Folder 5	Exhibition and Event Posters, 1985, 2010, undated

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Series 6: Artwork, 1986-2018

0.9 Linear feet (Box 3, 5-6, 10)

Scope and Contents: Artwork demonstrates preliminary work for Tacla's paintings from the 1980s and 1990s to 2018 through eleven notebooks containing drawings, paintings, and writings; two of Tacla's zines; and select drawings. One of the sketchbooks documents a trip Tacla took to Amsterdam in 1986.

Box 3, Folder 8	Drawings, 2010
Box 3, Folder 9	Loose Drawings, 1991
Box 3, Folder 10	Selected Drawings from "Identidades Ocultas" Notebook, 2011-2018
Box 3, Folder 11	Selection of Drawings from "Roma" Notebook, 2003
Box 3, Folder 12	Selected Drawings, Pencil on Paper, 2012
Box 3, Folder 13	Sketchbooks, Amsterdam Travels, 1986
Box 3, Folder 14	Sketchbooks, 1986-1987
Box 3, Folder 15	Sketchbooks, 1989-1991
Box 3, Folder 16	Sketchbooks, 1989-1992
Box 3, Folder 17	Sketchbook, 1989
Box 5, Folder 1	Sketchbooks, 1988
Box 6, Folder 1	Sketchbooks, 1989-1990
Box 10, Folder 6	Sketchbooks, 1990
Box 10, Folder 7	Zines, 1984, 2016

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Series 7: Photographic Material, 1981-2018

0.55 Linear feet (Box 3-4)

Scope and Contents: Photographic material highlights Tacla's career and his relationships with artists, curators, and dealers. Materials include color and black and white photographs, and slides depicting installations, Tacla's paintings and studios in New York and Chile, and personal snapshots of Tacla with friends, family, and colleagues.

Box 3, Folder 18	Black and White Photos of Artwork, 1982-1989
Box 3, Folder 19	Color Photos of Studio in New York 32nd Street and Camila, 1998-1999
Box 3, Folder 20	Low Resolution Phone Images of Studio, Installations, and Friends, 2013-2018
Box 3, Folder 21	Photos of Artwork, Bronx Housing Court, 1990
Box 3, Folder 22	Photos of Tacla, Studio, and Nature, 1994
Box 3, Folder 23	Photos of Friends and Family, 1980-2000
Box 3, Folder 24	Photos of Friends and Family and Studio, 2002-2007
Box 3, Folder 25	Photos of Friends and Family and Studio in Chile, 1987-1989
Box 3, Folder 26	Photos of Friends and Family, Studio, and Exhibitions, 1982-2002
Box 3, Folder 27	Photos of Guggenheim Project in Atacama Desert, 1989
Box 3, Folder 28	Photos of Jorge Tacla, undated
Box 3, Folder 29	Photos of Jorge Tacla and Studio, 1981-1997
Box 4, Folder 1	Photos of Studios, 2000-2010
Box 4, Folder 2	Photos of Studio and Homes in New York City, 1982-2002
Box 4, Folder 3-4	Slides, Artwork, 1981-1994

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