



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  
750 9th Street, NW  
Victor Building, Suite 2200  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Jorge Tacla papers
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.tacljorg
<b>Date:</b>	1966-2019 (bulk 1980-2009)
<b>Extent:</b>	5.05 Linear feet
<b>Creator:</b>	Tacla, Jorge, 1958-
<b>Language:</b>	Multiple languages  The collection is in English and Spanish.
<b>Summary:</b>	The papers of 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.

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## 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 temporarily closed to researchers due to archival processing. Contact References Services for more information.

### Conditions Governing Use

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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.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers of 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.

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## 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)

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## 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

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1980-circa1992

*0.2 Linear feet (Box 1-5)*

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
Box 1, Folder 3	Immigration Documentation, circa 1980
Box 1, Folder 4	Transcript of Oral History Interview with Jorge Tacla, circa 1980

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## Series 2: Correspondence, 1981-2013

*0.7 Linear feet (Box 1, 7)*

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 5-12	Personal, 1981-1996, 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 15-19	Professional, 1981-2013, undated
Box 7, Folder 1	Personal, 1983-1986, undated

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## Series 3: Exhibition Files, 1991-2009

### *0.1 Linear feet (Box 1)*

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)*

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

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)

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, 1986
Box 2, Folder 7-10	Clippings, 1985-2005
Box 2, Folder 11	Clippings, Annotated, 2011-2012
Box 2, Folder 12-14	Exhibition Announcements, 1983-2019, undated
Box 2, Folder 15-21	Exhibition Catalogs, 1986-2000
Box 3, Folder 1-7	Exhibition Catalogs, 2008-2017
Box 7, Folder 2-6	Clippings, 1980-2013
Box 8, Folder 1-7	Clippings, 1985-2017
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)*

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 14-17	Sketchbooks, 1986-1992, undated
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)*

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, 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, 1982-2000
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, 1983-2002
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, 1982-1993
Box 4, Folder 1	Photos of Studios, 2000-2010
Box 4, Folder 2	Photos of Studio in New York City, 1982-2002
Box 4, Folder 3-4	Slides, Artwork, 1981-1994

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