

February 6, 2015

Guide to the Thomas S. Macaione Collection

New Mexico Museum of Art Library and Archives

Processed by Rebecca Potance, 2014

Extent: 2.25 linear feet (3 small boxes)

Dates: 1948-1992

Language: English

Biography

Thomas Silvestri Macaione was born in New London, CT on November 13, 1907 to Italian immigrant parents. When Macaione was 7 years old his parents separated and he moved to Sicily with his mother. It was in Italy that his interest in art developed. In 1922 he returned to New London, and started receiving private art instruction from a Yale graduate named Frank Zozzora. He studied at the Rhode Island School of Design from 1943-45 before going to the Art Student's League in New York. During World War II he served as a US Army Signal Corps.

Macaione moved to Santa Fe in 1952. Here he became an integral part of the art community of the time, known for his eccentric personality and habit of painting and sketching outdoors. Locals affectionately called him "El Diferente" and "Macaroni." He often supplemented his income working as a barber and doing odd jobs. An outspoken critic of government, he waged several unsuccessful political campaigns for mayor of Santa Fe, City Council, U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, Governor of New Mexico and President of the United States, often on the professed "Mutual Happiness Society" ticket.

Macaione exhibited in several commercial galleries in Santa Fe as well as the New Mexico Museum of Art. His work was included in alcove shows here in 1954, 1958, 1960 and 1964 as well as group exhibitions held in 1953, 1954, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1968 and 1976. The Governor's Gallery held an exhibition of his works in 1982. In 1987 Macaione celebrated his 80th birthday at this museum with a gala party open to the public and a showing of his works. Macaione died on October 26, 1992. Since 1995 the city of Santa Fe has named a park in his honor at Marcy Street and Paseo de Peralta which holds a bronze sculpture of Macaione made by Mac Vaughan.

Scope and Content

The collection documents the artistic and political career of Thomas Macaione, mostly during his time in Santa Fe. It includes photographs of Macaione and his art, correspondence to and from Macaione, VHS videos of Macaione and one sketchbook with his illustrations and writings. Materials are arranged chronologically when dates are known and by material type.

Access and Use

No restrictions

Acquisition information

Gift to the Museum by Editions Gallery on November 8, 2005

Related Material

Macaione's work is mentioned in the museum's exhibition history files and catalogs. In addition to owning several works made by Macaione, the museum also owns a photograph of Macaione taken by artist Joan Myers as part of the art collection.

The museum library has two books featuring Macaione. Eli Levin's *Desert Bohemia : The Santa Fe Art Colony, 1964-1980* [Call number 709.7895 LEV 1987] mentions the artist and Michael James' *Come With Me: A Different Guide to the City Different* [Call number 917.8956 JAM 1961] uses Macaione as a model. The museum library also has an artist biographical file on Macaione.

Contents

Box 1 : Correspondence and Photographs

Folder 1	School and Political records, 1948-1978
Folder 2	Correspondence to Macaione, 1957-1992
Folder 3	Letter handwritten in 1990 to Greer Garson by Macaione with black and white photo of two
Folder 4	Photographs of Macaione n.d.
Folder 5	Color photographs of Macaione's paintings n.d.
Folder 6	Black and white photographs of Macaione's paintings and sculpture n.d.

Box 2 : Videos

1. November 13, 1987 Tom S Macaione 80th Birthday Celebration
2. Tommy Macaione Impressions and Expressions 4/24/1987 (2 copies)
3. Tommy Macaione July 1987 Ten 20 min 3/4" tapes
4. Tom S Macaione 80th Birthday celebration/Flag presentation/Birthday gifts/Impressions of the artist (3 copies)
5. Fiesta Parade and torch presentation to governor September 10. 1989
6. Tommy Macaione Show November 1991 (2 copies)

December 23, 2014

7. Signing of Buffalo Poster Inn at Loretto-Sweeney Center n.d.
8. Tommy Macaione Fiesta Parade n.d.
9. Proposal for Japanese n.d.
10. Tommy Macaione's video letter to Japan n.d.
11. Tommy Macaione's Show at Laurel Seth's Gallery

Box 3 : Oversized Materials

1. Undated black and white photograph of Macaione by Harold D. Walter
2. Sketchbook with writing and illustrations by Macaione ca. 1985-1986
3. Official Proclamation by Mayor of Santa Fe, Sam Pick, declaring November 13, 1987 as "Tommy Macaione Day"
4. 11 x 14 inch black and white photo of Macaione with Jesse Jackson dated June 1988