

**Colin McCahon Files in the E.H. McCormick Research Library**

\*From November 2025, newly published items are no longer printed for the hardcopy artist file and will be available from the artist e-file only.

**Folder 1.**  
**Manuscript Material**

1. Notebook with notes, sketches, etc by McCahon
2. Manuscript note by McCahon re Northland Panels
3. Manuscript 'Chronology of Events' (biographical and exhibition history) by McCahon, to 1959
4. Letter, McCahon to Mrs Lore Auburn, April 6 196-?, with deposit receipts for works on loan from the Auburn collection to the ACAG
5. Letter and photocopy, McCahon to David Armitage, 25. 11. 70
6. Photocopy of letter, McCahon to Mr Wiles, 3. 2. 72
7. Photocopy of letter, McCahon to Kees Hos, 15. 12. 78
8. Photocopy of letter, McCahon to Tony Mackle, 17. 5. 81
9. Letter, Alex Sutherland to Alexa Johnston accompanying gift of correspondence from McCahon. 11. 4. 88.
10. Letter, McCahon to Alex Sutherland 11. 5. 81
11. Letter, McCahon to Alex Sutherland, 17. 5. 81
12. Letter, McCahon to Alex Sutherland, June 1981
13. Letter, Doris Lusk to McCahon, n.d.
14. Letter Mollie [Ryburn?] to McCahon, 23. 12. 54 [ or 59 ]
15. Letter, Ron O'Reilly to McCahon, 18. 4. 56
16. Letter Toss Woollaston to McCahon, 5. 11. 59
17. Letter, Charles Brasch to McCahon, 10. 9. 59
18. Letter, Ron O'Reilly to McCahon, 24. 12. 59
19. Letter, Ron O'Reilly to McCahon, 6. 1. 60
20. Letter, Peter Tomory to Chris Cathcart, McCahon & Frank Sargeson (directors of the New Independent Theatre), 26. 6. 62
21. List of exhibitions by McCahon [only p.1 to 1959]
- 22.
23. 3 sketches with notes by McCahon
- 24.
- 25.\* Manuscript by McCahon of first draft of catalogue for survey exhibition, ACAG 1972, [28 leaves]
- 26.\* Typescript with handwritten notes by McCahon of second draft of catalogue for survey exhibition, ACAG 1972, [44 leaves]
27. Letter, McCahon to Brenda Gamble, 27. 7. 58
28. Letter, McCahon to Brenda Gamble, 16 April 19--?
29. Photocopy of letter, McCahon to Malcolm Ross, 8. 3. 72 with covering letter Malcolm Ross to Ron Brownson
30. Photocopy of letter, McCahon to Malcolm Ross, 27. 3. 72
31. Letters (4) Colin McCahon to Agnes Wood. Dates vary.
32. Letter (2 copies) Dear John? re Peter Hooper, n.d.
33. Photocopy of letter, Charles Brasch to McCahon, 3.8.61
34. Letter, McCahon to Shirley Smith n.d.

35. Letter, Agnes Wood, 18.5.05 re McCahon works' photos in File 13
36. Photocopy of letter, McCahon to Wystan Curnow, 9.10.75
37. Letter, McCahon to [Jim Barr and Mary Barr], 8.9.78
38. Letter, McCahon to Jim Barr 17.9.79
39. Letter, McCahon to Jim Barr and Mary Barr 30/ 31.1. [80]

[ See also manuscript items in Folder 7 (Catalogues 1950s)]

\* See Folder 18c for photocopies of these drafts

### **Folder 1a**

1. The second Gate Series, 1962. Caselberg's original text [with explanatory note from Peter Simpson 29. 1. 02]
2. Typescript of description of 16 panels of the first Gate Series, 1961. Compiled by R.N. O'Reilly, 13. 9. 63

### **Folder 2.**

Biographical information including:

- typescript of article by Charles Brasch, 1956
- typescript of article by Lois McIvor: 'Colin McCahon – A Tribute', 29. 5. 87
- correspondence re works of art by McCahon, especially memorandum, Eric Young to Mr Hirsch re permanent loan of works to the ACAG, 26. 11. 73

### **Folder 2a.**

Miscellaneous material relating to Colin McCahon.

#### **Folder 2a.i (access restricted)**

Miscellaneous material relating to Colin McCahon. Includes transcript 1949 Rodney Kennedy Kaleidoscope Stocklist, Peter Leavey Gallery (1987); William McCahon's notes on McCahon's Painting of Titirangi, 1953 to 1959 (2003) and Cilla McQueen's Salt Wind poem for McCahon (2003) ; transcript of Sarah Hillary interview with Gordon Brown on the subject of "Colin McCahon: Materials and Techniques" (recording held by E.H McCormick Research Library); photocopies of letters to the Town Clerk, City of Auckland , signed by McCahon as Acting Director from 1955 to 1956 and from 1959 to 1960; photocopies of letters and press clipping re McCahon's visit to the USA on a Carnegie Trust Grant 1958. Card from Christchurch Art Gallery embargoed until such times as the Gallery reopens after the 2011 earthquake.

### **Folder 2b.**

Material related to McCahon's involvement with theatre and theatre design

### **Folder 3.**

Photographs of McCahon and his family including photographs from the collection of:

- Gordon Brown
- McCahon family
- Ron Brownson
- Pat Hanly

**Folder 3a.**

Photographs – General and ACAG

see also: photographs by Arne Loot of the opening of McCahon Survey Exhibition, ACAG, 1972 in ACAG archives – exhibition files, Mar-Apr 1972

**Folder 4.**

Photograph of McCahon (1940s), collection of Ron Brownson

**Folder 5.**

Photographs of McCahon taken of him teaching at Elam by S. Pilkington, January 1967

**Folder 6.**

Published articles/ writing on McCahon before 1980

**Folder 6a**

Published articles/ writing on McCahon 1980 – 2000

**Folder 6b.**

Published articles 2001 – 2009

**Folder 6c.**

Published articles 2010 – 2025

**Folder 6d.**

Articles on McCahon published in Art New Zealand

**Folder 7.****Catalogues 1950s**

Fifteen New Zealand Painters, Irving Galleries, London, organised by Helen Hitchings, 1952

New Zealand Artists 1954: Harry Miller, Colin McCahon, Toss Woollaston, Victoria University College, Regional Council of Adult Education, Wellington, 1954

Manuscript list of works by McCahon re exhibition, 1956 –1957

Colin McCahon: Recent Oils, Peter Webb Gallery, Argus House, Auckland, 1957

A Private Collection of New Zealand Painting – Thirty Seven Paintings from the Collection of Charles Brasch and Rodney Kennedy, ACAG, 1958

Typescript list of works for Colin McCahon: Recent Paintings, Nov 1958 – Aug 1959

Recent Paintings by Colin McCahon, Public Library Lecture Hall, Dunedin, 1958 (4 copies)  
 [two of these catalogues have names and addresses of American museum personnel in McCahon's handwriting]  
Louise Henderson, Colin McCahon and Kase Jackson, ACAG, 1959

### **Folder 7a**

The Wake, 1958 (exhibited in 1959)  
 Exhibition catalogue, newspaper clippings, etc

### **Folder 8**

Photographs of works, 1930's, 1940 - 1942

### **Folder 9**

Photographs of working drawings for Otago Peninsula paintings, 1940. Hocken Library Collection

### **Folder 10**

Photographs of works, 1943 – 1946, 1947 – 1949

### **Folder 11**

Newspaper clippings, 1940's – 1959

### **Folder 12**

Photographs of works, 1950 – 1952, 1953 – 1955

### **Folder 12a**

15 Drawings Dec '51 – May '52, published by Hocken Library, 1976

### **Folder 13**

Photographs of works, 1956 – 1957, 1958 – 1959

### **Folder 14**

### **Catalogues 1960s**

Contemporary New Zealand Painting and Sculpture, ACAG, 1960

Invitation to Recent Paintings, The Gallery, Auckland, 1961 (x 2)

Invitations to The Gate Series, CSA Gallery, Christchurch, Sept 1962 (x 3)

Invitation and flyer to A Landscape Theme with Variations, Ikon Gallery, Auckland, May 1963, (x 2)

Invitation, Small Landscapes and Waterfalls, Ikon Gallery, Auckland, Sept 1964

Eight New Zealand Artists. Binney, Ellis, Garrity, Hanly, McCahon, Mrkusich, Ritchie, Twiss, ACAG, 1965? (1966?)

Invitation, Mid 65, Barry Lett Galleries, Auckland, 1965 (group show)

Invitations, The Gate Series 1960, Numbers 1965, Landscapes 1965, Barry Lett Galleries, 1965, (x 4)

Concerning the Fourteen Glass Panels over the Sanctuary in the Chapel of the Sisters of Our Lady of the Mission, Remuera, 1966

Invitation, Mid 66 Recent Painting, Barry Lett Galleries, 1966 (x2)

Invitations, McCahon Watercolours and Drawings, Barry Lett Galleries, 1966 (x 6)

Invitations, Drawings, Uptown Gallery, Auckland, 1967 (group show)

Invitation, This Land, Barry Lett Galleries, 1967, (group show)

Colin McCahon: North Otago Landscapes, Barry Lett Galleries 1967 (x 4)

Colin McCahon, Bonython Art Gallery, Sydney, July 1968 (x 3)

Colin McCahon. Bargain Basement and Visible Mysteries, Barry Lett Galleries, 1968 (x 4)

Face to Face, New Vision Gallery, Auckland, 1968 (group show)

McCahon's McCahons 1943 – 1963, Mollers Gallery, Auckland, March 1969 (x 2)

Colin McCahon, works from the collection of Ron O'Reilly, Peter McLeavey Gallery, Wellington, Aug 1969

Invitation, Colin McCahon, 50 written paintings and drawings, Barry Lett Galleries, Oct 1969 (x 4)

Group Exhibition, NZ Society of Sculptors and Painters, Auckland Institute and Museum, 1969

(Also a note recording that McCahon showed work with Peter McLeavey in October 1968 and July 1969)

#### **Folder 14a**

Catalogues, A Retrospective Exhibition: M.T. Woollaston and Colin McCahon, ACAG, 1963 (X 2)

#### **Folder 14b**

A.S.G. Green, 'McCahon's Paintings and Drawings at the Ikon Gallery', Bulletin of New Zealand Art History, vol. 2, 1974 [1961 – 1964]

### **Folder 15**

Photographs of works, 1960 – 1964, 1965 – 1969

### **Folder 15a**

Stained glass windows in the Convent Chapel of the Sisters of our Lady of the Missions, Auckland, 1965-1966

### **Folder 16**

Newspaper clippings, 1960 – 1964

Note especially material relating to:

Hay Prize controversy, 1960 – 1961

McCahon/Woollaston retrospective, ACAG, 1963

### **Folder 17**

Newspaper clippings, 1965 – 1969

### **Folder 18**

### **Catalogues 1970 – 1975**

List of works from an exhibition lent by Ron O'Reilly to Victoria University Library, Wellington, 1970 [group show]

Group Show 1970, paintings and sculptures by 18 artists, Mollers Gallery, Auckland, 1970

A Fair of Arts and Crafts, St Mark's Church Hall, Auckland, c. 1970 (with an auction of paintings including paintings by McCahon)

Invitation, Colin McCahon Recent Paintings: Victory over Death or Practical Religion, Auckland Festival exhibition, Barry Lett Galleries, 1970, (x 3)

Colin McCahon Gate Series 1962, Dawsons Gallery, Dunedin, 1970

Invitation, Colin McCahon Necessary Protection, Barry Lett Galleries, 1971 (x 4)

Earth/Earth, Barry Lett Galleries, 1971 [group show]

Drawings: Group Exhibition, Barry Lett Galleries, 1972, (x 2)

Colin McCahon Paintings from this Summer, '71 – '72 Murawai and Kurow, Barry Lett Galleries, 1972 [group show] (x 8)

Invitation, Landscape: A Survey Exhibition, Barry Lett Galleries, 1973 [group show] ( x 2 )

Invitation, McCahon Paintings and Drawings: 'Jet Out from Murawai', Barry Lett Galleries, 1973 (x 5)

Invitation, Colin McCahon Jumps and Comets, Related Events in My World, Barry Lett Galleries, 1974 (x 4)

Invitation, Group Show 1974, Mollers Gallery, Auckland, 1974

Invitation, Colin McCahon Paintings, Peter McLeavey Gallery, Wellington, 1974 (x 3)

Invitations, McCahon 'Religious' Works 1946 – 1952, Manawatu Art Gallery, 1975 (x 3) & Barry Lett Galleries, 1975, (x 4)

Invitation, Colin McCahon New Paintings , 1975, Barry Lett Galleries , 1975 (x 6)

## **Folder 18a**

### **Catalogues 1976 – 1979**

Zonta Art Festival, ASA Gallery, Auckland, 1976 [group show]

Invitation, 5 Auckland Painters: Export Quality, Barry Lett Galleries, c.1976

Invitation, Colin McCahon Paintings, Barry Lett Galleries, 1976 (x 4)

Invitation, Screens, Auckland Festival exhibition, Barry Lett Galleries, 1976 [group show]  
(x 2)

McCahon's Necessary Protection, Govett Brewster Art Gallery, 1977, catalogue and invitations (GBAG & ACAG)

Invitation, McCahon Angels and Bed, Peter Webb Galleries, Auckland, 1977 (x 4)

Colin McCahon Numerals and Stations, Landscapes and Religious Subjects, ACAG, 1978

Invitation, Group Show 1979, Mollers Gallery, Auckland, 1979

Poster, McCahon, National Art Gallery, Wellington, 1979

Christmas Card, NAG to ACAG, with Northland Panels, 1979

Invitation, Works on Paper, Mollers Gallery, Auckland, 1979 [group show]

Undated catalogues, 1970s

Invitation, Colin McCahon Religious Paintings, New Zealand Academy of Fine Arts, Wellington, 197?

Flyer, Nine Artists Exhibition, Outreach, Auckland, 197-?

[also a note recording that McCahon showed work with Peter McLeavey Gallery in 1970, 1971, 1972 & 1974]

### **Folder 18b**

Drafts for 1972 survey exhibition catalogue:

Introductory notes by Gil Docking and Ron O'Reilly

\*McCahon's first draft for the survey exhibition catalogue [photocopy]

\*McCahon's revised draft for the survey exhibition catalogue [photocopy]

\* See Folder 1 for originals

### **Folder 18c**

#### **Survey Exhibition, 1972**

Colin McCahon Survey Exhibition, ACAG, 1972

Invitation, Colin McCahon Survey Exhibition, ACAG, 1972, (x 6)

\* See also AAG Archives: Exhibition files for opening night photographs

### **Folder 19**

Photographs of works, 1970 – 1975, 1976 – 1979

### **Folder 20**

Newspaper clippings, 1970 – 1972

Note especially clippings relating to McCahon's Survey Exhibition, ACAG (and touring), 1972

### **Folder 21**

Newspaper clippings, 1973 – 1976

Note especially clippings relating to McCahon's 'Religious' Works 1946 – 1952, Manawatu Art Gallery (and touring), 1975

### **Folder 22**

Newspaper clippings, 1977 – 1978

Note especially clippings relating to:

Necessary Protection, Govett-Brewster Art Gallery (and touring), 1978

NZ Government's gift of Victory over Death to the Australian Government, 1978

### **Folder 23**

Newspaper clippings, 1979 – 1980

### **Folder 23a**



Brown, Gordon H.  
*Interview with Colin McCahon at his residence, 14 March 1979*  
 Transcription of tape recording and **access restriction** documents

## **Folder 24**

### **Catalogues 1980s**

Invitation, Colin McCahon New Works, Peter Webb Galleries, Auckland, 1980  
 (x 7)

Photocopies of sketches and notes made by G.H. Brown of McCahon works  
 at Peter Webb Galleries, 1980

Invitation, Colin McCahon paintings at Peter McLeavey Gallery, Wellington  
 1980

Invitation and press release, Major Works by Colin McCahon, Dowse Art  
 Museum, Lower Hutt, 1980

Invitation, Amnesty International, New Vision Gallery, Auckland, 1981 [group  
 show]

Colin McCahon, Victoria University Library, Wellington, 1981

Invitation, Colin McCahon Paintings, Peter McLeavey Gallery, Wellington,  
 1983

Colin McCahon: The Mystical Landscape, National Art Gallery, Wellington,  
 1983 (x 3)

Poster, Colin McCahon at the Hocken, Hocken Library, Dunedin, 1984

Poster, Colin McCahon from the collection of the National Art Gallery, NAG,  
 Wellington, 1984

Invitation, The Prospect Collection, Fisher Gallery, Auckland, 1985  
 (McCahon illustrated)

Notice re sale of paintings by McCahon, Hanly and Ellis, RKS Art, Auckland,  
 1986

Invitation, Colin McCahon: The Second Gate Series, Fisher Gallery,  
 Auckland, 1986

Invitation, Colin McCahon: Paintings from the Cocker Collection, Words and  
 Pictures, Auckland, 1986 (x 3)

A Tribute to Colin McCahon 1919 – 1987, Hocken Library, Dunedin, 1987  
 (and invitation)

The Folding Image, Fisher Gallery, Auckland, 1987 [group show of screens]

Notice in Friends of the Aigantighe Gallery Newsletter re The Word, Suter Art  
 Gallery exhibition at the Aigantighe Gallery, 1987

'Homage to Colin McCahon', Manawatu Art Gallery Newsletter, 1987

Australian Art Post – 1960, Deutscher Gertrude Street, Melbourne, 1988  
(group show)

### **Folder 24a**

I Will Need Words, 1984

Invitations, catalogues, flyers and reviews of the I Will Need Words exhibition of McCahon's word and number paintings organised by the National Art Gallery, Wellington and toured to the Sydney Biennale and the Edinburgh Festival, 1984

### **Folder 25**

Photographs of works, 1980s, 1990s

### **Folder 26**

Newspaper Clippings, 1981 – 1983

### **Folder 27**

Newspaper clippings, 1984 – 1985

Note especially clippings relating to I Will Need Words exhibition and tour to Sydney Biennale and Edinburgh Festival, 1984

### **Folder 28**

Newspaper clippings, 1986 – 1988

Note especially clippings, etc re McCahon's death, 27 May 1987

### **Folder 29**

Newspaper clippings, 1989 – 1993

### **Folder 29a**

Newspaper clippings, 1994 – 1996

### **Folder 29b**

Newspaper clippings, 1997

### **Folder 29c**

Newspaper clippings, 1998

### **Folder 29d**

Newspaper clippings, 1999

**Folder 29e**

Newspaper clippings, 2000 - 2001

**Folder 29f**

Newspaper clippings, 2002 – 2003

Note especially clippings re Auckland Art Gallery venue of A Question of Faith, 2003. See also AAG exhibition files: Colin McCahon: A Question Faith, 29 Mar 03 – 15 Jun 03.

**Folder 29g****A Question of Faith**

Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, 2002.

City Gallery, Wellington, 2003

National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, 2003

Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, 2003

**Folder 29h**

Newspaper clippings, 2004 – 2005

**Folder 29i**

Newspaper clippings, 2005 – 2006

**Folder 29j**

Newspaper clippings, 2007 – 2009

**Folder 29k**

Newspaper clippings, 2010 – 2015

**Folder 29l**

Newspaper clippings, 2016 – 2025

**Folder 30**

Catalogues 1989 - 1997

**Folder 30a**

Catalogues 1998 – 2003

**Folder 30b**

Catalogues 2004 – 2008

**Folder 30c**

Catalogues 2009 - 2025

**Folders 31, 31a, 31b**

Luit Bieringa Thesis:

- photocopies of catalogues, etc
- photocopies of notes re McCahon's notebooks, etc
- photocopies of data compiled on individual works, 1930s – 1950s

**Folder 32**

Negatives and proof sheets - (includes 2 proof sheets of David Moore's photographs of McCahon taken at the ACAG c. 1963 and also includes negatives by John McIver, AAG photographer for Gates and Journeys exhibition – various collections 1988?)

**Folder 33**

Unrelated McCahon works

**Folder 34**

McCahon Research and Publication Trust

**Folder 34a**

McCahon Database 2000 – (McCahon Trust/Te Papa)

**Folder 35**

Labels

**Folder 36**

Hocken Library holdings:

Photocopy of notebook kept by Colin McCahon on his American travels – 1958 on deposit from William McCahon 1990 (as at 2018 original forms part of MS-4251/032 from the Colin and Anne McCahon Papers (ARC-0772))

Finding aid for ARC-0772 McCahon, Colin and Anne: Papers 1914-1989

Finding aid for ARC-0778 Parsloe, Beatrice and Noel: Papers 1926-1987, 1998

**Folder 37**

Unlabelled/Untitled McCahon Works

**Folder 38**

McCahon's Writings 1954 – 1979

**Folder 39**

Auction Catalogues 1990's – 2003

**Folder 39a**

Auction Catalogues 2004 - 2010

### **Folder 39b**

Auction Catalogues 2011 - 2025

### **Folder 40**

McCahon House Trust, formed 1998  
(McCahon family home 1953-1960, French Bay, Titirangi)

### **Folder 41**

Miscellaneous large format material relating to McCahon  
(Box located on shelves in Research Library)

### **Additional resources**

As well as the material stored in the main McCahon artist's files listed in this inventory, additional material relating to Colin McCahon can be found in the E.H. McCormick Research Library:

- **RC 2001/23** Ikon Gallery Records (see separate inventory)
- **RC 2002/01** Malcolm Ross Archive of material relating to New Zealand Art (Box 1)
- **RC 2001/19** ACAG exhibition files and curator's notes Colin McCahon: Gates and Journeys, 1988 – 1989
- **RC 2001/21** 1974 notes prepared by Luit Bieringa in preparation for his thesis. Photocopies in files 31, 31a, 31b
- **Auckland Art Gallery Archive Files** see AAG Correspondence and AAG General for 1954 – 1964 (when McCahon was a permanent member of staff at the Gallery) including Dept of Works and Services Workshop Job Order pad (AAG General 1963)
- Selected material copied from the following archives from the **Hocken Collections Uare Taoka o Hakena, University of Otago**: McCahon Papers ARC-0772; Parsloe Papers ARC-0778; Brasch Papers ARC-0124 and RKS Art [Barry Lett Galleries]

### **Acknowledgments**

Inventory originally compiled by Christina Barton in 1990. Updated in 2002 and 2005 by Liz Duhs, and subsequently by Caroline McBride. Updated in 2023 onwards by Tamsyn Bayliss.

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