

**Department of Rare Books and Special Collections
Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library**

University of Toronto



**Kyo Maclear
Papers**

2024

MS Coll. 268C

Contents

Kyo Maclear Papers..... 1
Biographical note: 3
Scope and content: 3
Notes: 4
Series 1: 2017 Accession 5
Series 2: Children’s literature10
Series 3: Nonfiction12
Series 4: Early writing and professional records.....12

Gift of Kyo Maclear, 2017 and 2024

Dates: 1987-2023

Extent: 24 boxes and items (6 metres)

Biographical note:

Kyo Maclear is an essayist, editor, novelist, and children's author. She was born in London, England, and moved to Toronto, Canada when she was four years old. Maclear completed a B.A. in fine arts and an M.A. in cultural studies at the University of Toronto and holds a doctorate in environmental humanities from York University. Maclear's works have been translated into eighteen languages, published in over twenty-five countries, and received nominations for several awards including the Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Prize for Nonfiction and Governor General's Literary Awards. In 2023, Maclear was awarded the Vicky Metcalf Award for Literature for Young People for her body of work in children's literature. She teaches writing at the University of Guelph Creative Writing MFA and Humber School for Writers.

Works referenced:

Maclear, Kyo. "About." 2024. <https://www.kyomaclear.com/about/>.

Maclear, Kyo. "Kyo Maclear – Author." 2016.

<https://www.kidscanpress.com/Creators/kyo-maclear/>.

Scope and content: This fonds consists of a 2017 accession and a 2024 accession. It contains records related to Maclear's work as a writer, including materials pertaining to her children's books: *The Good Little Book*; *The Wish Tree*; *Specific Ocean*; *Julia, Child*; *Spork*; *Mr. Flux*; *The Liszts*; *The Fog*; *Yak and Dove*; *Bloom*; *Operatic*; *It Began with a Page*; *Story Boat*; *The Big Bath House*; *Hello Rain!*; *If You Were a City*; *Kumo: The Bashful Cloud*; and *A Ghost in the Garden*. Also includes material related to Maclear's novels *The Letter Opener*; and *Stray Love*; and her nonfiction books *Birds Art Life*; and *Unearthing*; as well as various magazine articles and essays. Records include manuscript drafts, proofs, notes, promotional material, contracts, and grant applications; as well as original artwork by Maclear produced for *Birds Art Life*, and *Unearthing*. The fonds also contains early work by Maclear, including juvenilia and early newspaper articles.

Contains series:

1. 2017 Accession
2. Children's literature
3. Nonfiction
4. Early writing and professional records

Notes: Shorthand notations are used throughout the finding aid and are translated as follows:

- WP: Word processed (computer)
- WP with holograph revisions: computer generated with handwritten revisions in the hand of the author
- ANS: Autograph note signed (shorter note, card, postcard, etc.)

Series 1: 2017 Accession

Dates: 2005-2017

Extent: 17 boxes

Scope and content:

Includes drafts and notes for novels *The Letter Opener* (Boxes 1, 5, 6, 7, 10); *Stray Love* (in Canada; early titles: 'Blinking', 'A Million Tiny Hammers', 'A Thousand Tiny Hammers'), also known as *A Thousand Tiny Truths*, in Australia (Boxes 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7); *Birds, Art, Life* (Boxes 5, 6, 14). Also contains print appearances; drafts, notes, promotional, contracts and other material related to Maclear's books for children, including: *The Good Little Book*; *The Wish Tree*; *Specific Ocean*; *Julia, Child*; *Spork*; *Mr. Flux*; *The Liszts*; *The Fog*; *Yak and Dove*. The majority of materials related to Maclear's children's books can be found in box 8 and 9, with some additional material in boxes 10, 15, 17.

Box 1 30 folders	<i>The Letter Opener</i> Drafts: December 2005 and January 2006 With Phyllis Bruce editorial notes
Folder 1	<i>The Letter Opener</i> Editorial comments by Phyllis Bruce, December 2005
Folders 2-14	<i>The Letter Opener</i> December 2005 Word processed draft with holograph editorial notes by Phyllis Bruce
Folder 15	<i>The Letter Opener</i> Reader's comments and comments by Phyllis Bruce
Folders 16-30	<i>The Letter Opener</i> January 2006 word processed draft
Box 2 26 folders	<i>Stray Love</i> (early title 'Blinking') 2009 drafts
Folders 1-20	'Blinking' Rough draft one
Folders 21-26	'Stray Love' September 2009 draft with extensive holograph notes
Box 3 20 folders	<i>Stray Love</i> September 2009 draft continued February 2011 draft

Folders 1-9	<i>Stray Love</i> September 2009 word processed draft
Folders 10-20	<i>Stray Love</i> February 2011 word processed draft
Box 4 25 folders	<i>Stray Love</i> Drafts 2011
Folders 1-9	<i>Stray Love</i> March 2011 word processed draft
Folders 10-17	<i>Stray Love</i> June 2011 Word processed draft
Folders 18-25	<i>Stray Love</i> Word processed draft with holograph revisions
Box 5 22 folders	<i>Birds, Art, Life</i> Copy-edited drafts <i>Beclouded Visions</i> - reviews
Folders 1-6	<i>Birds, Art, Life</i> May 2016 Canada copyedit
Folder 7	<i>Birds, Art, Life</i> Copy-edit, notes, page design
Folder 8	<i>Birds, Art, Life</i> Rejected cover designs
Folder 9	<i>Birds, Art, Life</i> Editorial correspondence
Folders 10-15	<i>Birds, Art, Life</i> April 27, 2016 Doubleday Canada edit - Martha Kanya-Forstner
Folder 16	Clippings
Folders 17-18	<i>Beclouded Visions</i> Reviews
Folder 19	Kyo Maclear in conversation with Rebecca Caldwell, 1 audio CD
Folder 20	<i>The Letter Opener</i> Promotional
Folder 21	Kim Hunter Award
Folder 22	Grants received for '88 Specks'
Box 6 15 folders	<i>Birds, Art, Life</i> Grant applications <i>The Letter Opener</i> Contracts Publishing correspondence

Folder 1	<i>Birds, Art, Life</i> Funding applications
Folder 2	<i>Birds, Art, Life</i> Grant applications
Folders 3-4	Contracts/ reviews
Folder 5	Reviews/media
Folders 6-7	'A Thousand Tiny Hammers' Contracts -Australia
Folders 8-15	'The Letter Opener/ A Thousand Tiny Hammers' Publishing correspondence
Box 7 24 folders	Contracts -various <i>Stray Love</i> Correspondence and other <i>The Letter Opener</i> reviews
Folders 1-14	Contracts
Folder 15	<i>Stray Love</i> Novel edit - notes and correspondence
Folder 16	'A Thousand Tiny Hammers' [later <i>Stray Love</i>] Production
Folders 17-19	<i>Stray Love</i> Promotional and reviews
Folder 20	<i>Stray Love</i> Reviews and international sales
Folders 21-24	<i>The Letter Opener</i> reviews
Box 8 19 folders	Children's books, includes manuscripts, notes and other material for: <i>The Wish Tree</i> <i>Specific Ocean</i> <i>The Good Little Book</i> <i>Julia, Child</i> <i>Mr. Flux</i> <i>Pictures of Awful</i>
Folders 1-3	<i>The Wish Tree</i> Word processed and holograph draft with extensive editorial comments
Folders 4-5	<i>Specific Ocean</i> Word processed draft
Folder 6	<i>The Good Little Book</i> Text and poster

Folder 7	<i>The Good Little Book</i> Illustrations (print) and text
Folder 8	<i>The Good Little Book</i> Text with editorial revisions
Folder 9	'Julia and Simca' Second draft, August 8, 2016
Folder 10	<i>Julia, Child</i> Promotional
Folders 11-12	<i>Julia, Child</i> Tv show development 2015
Folders 13-14	<i>Julia, Child</i> Drafts with editorial revisions and notes
Folder 15	<i>Julia, Child</i> Script
Folder 16	'Kid's Lit. - <i>Julia, Child</i> ' drafts
Folder 17	<i>Mr. Flux</i> Drafts, email, promotional
Folder 18	<i>Pictures of Awful</i> Word processed text with editorial revisions
Folder 19	Holograph notebook
Box 9 19 folders	Children's books: Contracts, print, promotional, reviews for <i>Mr. Flux Virginia Wolf Spark</i> <i>The Fog</i> <i>Yak and Dove</i> <i>The Liszts</i>
Folders 1-2	<i>Mr. Flux</i> Contracts and print
Folders 3-4	<i>Virginia Wolf</i> Promotional and reviews
Folder 5	<i>Virginia Wolf</i> "Wolfish" contract
Folder 6	<i>Virginia Wolf</i> Draft text with editorial comments
Folder 7	'Spark Alphabet' Drafts and notes
Folder 8	<i>Spark</i> - ink drawing
Folders 9-10	<i>Spark</i> fall 2008 Various
Folders 11-13	<i>Spark</i> Reviews

Folder 14	'The Fog/A Very Big Fog' Word processed draft with holograph and editorial revisions
Folders 15-18	<i>Yak and Dove</i> Word processed draft
Folder 19	<i>The Liszts</i> Cover design and word processed draft
Box 10 12 folders	<i>Spork</i> illustrations and other varia
Folders 1-9	<i>Spork</i> illustrations and text
Folder 10	'Our Happy Places' Thank you book made by Grade three students
Folder 11	<i>The Letter Opener</i> Dustjacket
Folder 12	'Emily Dickinson Shoes' Original illustration
Box 11 Items in box	Print appearances
Box 12 Items in box	Print appearances
Box 13 Items in box	Print appearances
Box 14 Items in box	<i>Birds, Art, Life</i> Proof
Box 15 Items in box	Children's books Proofs
Box 16 Items in box	Print appearances
Box 17 Items in box	<i>Spork</i> Illustrations and large painted boards

Books:

1. *A Thousand Tiny Truths*. Australian edition of *Stray Love*. Sydney: Pan Macmillan Australia, 2012.
2. *Stray Love*. Toronto: Harper Collins, 2012. Uncorrected proof.
3. *The Letter Opener*. Toronto: Harper Collins, 2006. Uncorrected proof.
4. "Movements in Exile" in *Intersecting Circles: the voices of hapa women in poetry and prose*. Honolulu: Bamboo Ridge Press, 1999.
5. *Private Investigators: undercover in public space*. Essays by Kathryn Walter and Kyo Maclear. Banff: WPG editions, 1999.

6. "The Walls Between Us Are Paper Thin" in *amerasia journal*. Volume 23, number 1, 1997.
7. "From the Seminal to the Sublime: A Richard Fung Videography" in *Like Mangoes in July: the work of Richard Fung*. Toronto: Insomniac Press, 2002.
8. "The Myth of the 'Model Minority', Rethinking the Education of Asian Canadians" in *Our Schools Our Selves*. Volume 5, Number 3 (#35), July 1994.
9. "Posting the Canadas" in *Tessera: Writing Nations*. Volume 18, Summer 1995.
10. "making tracks" in *West Coast Line: featuring a selection of recent South African writing*. Burnaby: West Coast Line, 1996. Number 20 (30/2) Fall 1996.
11. "What Sound is Made of, Too" in *The Capilano Review*. Series 2;33, Winter 2001.
12. "Race to the Future" in *Taking Risks: literary journalism from the edge*. Banff: Banff Centre Press, 1998.

Series 2: Children's literature

Dates:

2015-2022

Extent:

3 boxes

Scope and content:

Contains materials related to Maclear's books and graphic novels for young readers. Includes proofs, folded and gathered copies, and promotional material and publicity for *Spork* (2010), *Operatic* (2019), *Bloom: A Story of Fashion Designer Elsa Schiaparelli* (2018), *Story Boat* (2019), *It Began with a Page* (2019), *The Big Bath House* (2021), *Hello, Rain* (2021), *If You Were a City* (2022), and *There's a Ghost in the Garden* (2024).

BOX: FOLDER	CONTENTS	DATE(S):
18:1	Publicity material for Maclear's children's books, including ephemera and branded stationery.	2015-2020
18:2	Promotional poster for the <i>Spork</i> paperback release.	[2017]
18:3-18:6	<i>Operatic</i> edits, including holograph notes on rough sketches of the graphic novel and revisions of the text.	June 2018
23:7	<i>Operatic</i> proofs, with holograph notes.	3 August 2018

BOX: FOLDER	CONTENTS	DATE(S):
23:8	<i>Operatic</i> finals pre. press.	17 August 2018
18:7	<i>Operatic</i> press notes on plot, setting, themes.	[2019?]
18:8	Groundwood Books Rights Catalogue, with synopsis of <i>Operatic</i> .	2018-2019
23:9	<i>Story Boat</i> roughs.	11 November, 2018
24:1	<i>Bloom</i> first proofs.	14 April 2017
18:9-18:11	Folded and gathered copies of <i>Bloom</i> , mailed from Harper Collins.	28 July, 2017
18:12	Notebook containing early notes on <i>It Began with a Page</i> .	[201-?]
24:2	<i>It Began with a Page</i> proofs with illustrations only.	10 September, 2018
24:3	<i>It Began with a Page</i> proofs with illustration and text.	27 December 2018
18:13-18:17	Folded and gathered copies of <i>It Began with a Page</i> , with ANS from Jill and team at Harper Collins.	January- April 2019
18:18	<i>The Horn Book Magazine</i> , January/February 2021 edition, with a feature on <i>It Began with a Page</i> .	2021
18:19	<i>Story Boat</i> press notes.	[2020?]
18:20	First roughs of <i>If You Were a City</i> , with holograph notes from Maclear.	July 2020
18:21	<i>Milky</i> editor's comments, containing WP revisions and feedback from 'Tara.'	September 2020
23:4	Folded and gathered copy of <i>The Big Bath House</i> .	2021
23:5	2 Folded and gathered copies of <i>Hello Rain!</i> .	2021
23:6	Oversize proofs of <i>Hello Rain!</i>	2021
18:22	<i>A Ghost in the Garden</i> editor's comments including WP revisions from Claudia Bedrick, and email correspondence between Bedrick and Maclear.	2021-2022

Series 3: Nonfiction

Dates:

2017-2023

Extent:

4 boxes

Scope and content:

Contains materials relating to Maclear's nonfiction work, including her memoirs and newspaper and magazine articles. Series includes manuscript drafts as well as original art produced by Maclear for *Birds Art Love Death* (2017) and *Unearthing* (2023).

BOX: FOLDER	CONTENTS	DATE(S):
19:1-19:4	<i>Birds Art Love Death</i> draft, with feedback from 'Martha,' WP editor's comments and holograph revisions from Maclear.	[2017?]
19:5-19:8	<i>Birds Art Life</i> draft with revisions.	[2017?]
22:1-22:22	Original art by Maclear for <i>Birds Art Life</i> , includes 22 watercolours of birds.	[2017]
19:9	Notes on <i>Birds Art Life</i> talks.	[2017?]
19:10	'Plant life' grants, includes letters confirming funding from the Canada Council for the Arts to work a project that would eventually become <i>Unearthing</i> .	2000-2002, 2019
19:11- 19:18	Early draft of <i>Unearthing</i> with holograph revisions, then titled <i>MA/Plant Life</i> .	December 2021
20:1-20:7	<i>Unearthing</i> draft with holograph revisions.	2022
21:1-21:63	Original art by Maclear for <i>Unearthing</i> . Including: 17 'herbarium portraits,' 18 'collage gardens', 5 linocuts of the cover image of <i>Unearthing</i> , and 94 linocuts of plants.	[2023]
20:8	Newspaper and magazine articles promoting <i>Unearthing</i> .	2023

Series 4: Other writing and professional records

Dates:

1987-2019

Extent:

2 boxes

Scope and content:

Series contains early work by Maclear including high school assignments, magazine articles, essays, publications that Maclear edited, and notes on Maclear's first novel *The Letter Opener* (2007). Series also includes other professional records such as more recent magazine and newspaper articles, materials related to awards Maclear has received, and correspondence from participants in a literacy program.

BOX: FOLDER	CONTENTS	DATE(S):
20:9	Work diary produced by Maclear as part of high school coursework.	1987-1988
20:10- 20:12	Early writing by Maclear, including articles in <i>Nikkei Voice</i> , <i>The Canada Times</i> , <i>Absinthe</i> , and <i>C</i> .	1992-1997
20:13	<i>an annotated falling</i> by Tadao Nakada, single edition made for Maclear.	11 September 1994
23:1	<i>Everywoman's Almanac</i> (Women's Press, 1994), includes illustrations by Maclear.	1994
20:14	<i>MIX: The magazine of artist-run culture</i> (vol. 23 no. 1), Summer 1997 issue edited by Maclear.	Summer 1997
20:15- 20:16	Assorted essays by Maclear with commentary on art exhibitions.	1997-2004
20:17	Early notes towards <i>The Letter Opener</i> , includes holograph notes and research.	[2000?]
23:3	<i>RBC Canadian Painting Competition – Ten Years</i> .	2008
20:18	Syllabus for an independent reading course taken by Maclear.	Fall 2015
20:19	Programs and congratulatory notes for awards received by Maclear.	2018-2024
20:20- 20:21	Letters from participants in the Intergenerational Literacy Program (ILP) in Boston who read Maclear's work.	2019
23:2	<i>Reaching for Dreams</i> , a collection of writings by families of the Intergenerational Literacy Program.	April 2019
20:22	Magazine and newspaper articles written by Maclear.	2022-2023