

News of the arts

Art school marks anniversary

The Art Gallery of Ontario recently celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of its Gallery School.

"It is through the children that we wish for a new world, in which art and beauty may find a place in the common expression of living," said Arthur Lismer, an original member of the Group of Seven and founder of the Gallery School at the Art Gallery of Ontario.

Work by former students of the Gallery School was displayed as part of a multi-media celebration of the anniversary. Approximately 100 children's drawings, paintings and sculpture from the past 25 years was shown. Photographic displays highlighted the 1930s and 1940s; and a slide and video presentation on the history of the school, including interviews with instructors who worked with Lismer, were presented.

In his Children's Art Centre, Lismer advocated teaching children through art. His inspired techniques flourished in the 1930s and became widely practised. As the gallery's educational supervisor, Lismer also developed programs for the public which laid the foundation for the gallery's present-day education services such as tours, an audio-visual library, concerts, lectures and performances.

With the appointment of Jim William-



One of the gallery's classes for children being held on a Saturday early in May 1934. Arthur Lismer, a member of the Group of Seven and Supervisor of Education at the Gallery is shown standing in the midst of the students.

son as head of the Gallery School in 1954, more stress was placed on the instruction of fine art techniques and the training of students as artists. Williamson also instigated the school's scholarship programs for high school students and an expanded adult program.

The gallery program of a practical art education benefited considerably with the 1977 opening of the modern, well-equipped Activity Centre. Under the guidance of Williamson, now head of

education services, and Jim Thornton, head of the Activity Centre and Gallery School, all aspects of art education — studio classes, and special scholarship programs — are provided on a year-round basis.

In conjunction with the school's fiftieth anniversary celebration, Shirley Yanover, an Activity Centre art history instructor, has compiled a history: *The Gallery School, 1930-1980: A Celebration*, published this summer.

CFDC reinforces Canadian content in films

The Canadian Film Development Corporation (CFDC) has adopted new priorities aimed at reinforcing the Canadian content of feature films and at ensuring continued and rational development of the motion picture industry.

"Canadians (actors, directors, script writers, technicians, make-up artists and so on) are more involved than ever in making films. We now want to build on this foundation by setting a Canadian seal on the films in which we participate, while ensuring an annual level of production in keeping with the realities of the financial and manpower markets," said CFDC Chairman Michel Vennat.

More than 70 Canadian films had been produced in 1979, with an over-all budget of \$150 million.

Mr. Vennat emphasized that the priorities for the coming year would have an

effect on level of production, quality, Canadian cultural objectives, training and marketing.

French program a priority

The production and marketing of French-language films remains a CFDC priority. In order to maintain high quality and ensure an increasing number of French-language productions, and in order to encourage private investment in these films, the CFDC will continue to give its reimbursement policy second priority during the next fiscal year. Furthermore, the CFDC will set aside more than \$2 million for investment in French-language productions, which represents more than 75 per cent of its total regular investment program.

Seven additional policy components underline or reinforce the insistence on Canadian content in feature films:

— all producers (executive producers included) of films in which the CFDC in-

vests must be Canadian, except in the case of official co-productions;

— the corporation will not participate in a film in which the script writer and director are not Canadian;

— in order to encourage Canadian authors, the corporation will not invest in the development of scripts written by non-Canadians;

— the CFDC will only participate in films in which at least one of the leading roles is played by a Canadian;

— the CFDC continues to feel that no distinction should be made between a Canadian citizen and a landed immigrant;

— the corporation will not take part in films which disguise Canadian exteriors without valid reason. Films whose subjects require foreign exteriors will be exempt from this regulation; and

— in order to ensure that its limited funds are used judiciously, the CFDC will only take part in co-productions which are majority Canadian.