

News of the arts

Links to a tradition — Canadian Indian Art in Brazil

An exhibit of paintings, prints and sculptures by contemporary Canadian Indian artists opened at the Cultural Foundation in Brasilia on September 14. The 46-item exhibit is on display there until September 25 before moving on to the Museum of Modern Art in São Paulo from October 11 to 30. From there it will go to the Art Museum of Salvador from November 11 to 30 and will wind up in Rio de Janeiro in December at the Museum of Modern Art.

This tour marks the first time that contemporary Canadian Indian Art has been presented in major galleries in Brazil.

The exhibition, "Links to a Tradition", shows new art forms that have emerged in the last few years as Canadian Indian artists have increasingly infused their works with the spirit and traditions of their distinctive culture. The modern styles displayed are the product of interaction between traditional Indian artistic conventions and the influences of contemporary society.

The works include intricate stone sculptures as well as wood sculptures in the form of traditional Indian masks, rattles and bowls. The masks, probably



In a Sweatlodge, by Leonard McLeod, one of the works now on display in Brazil.

the most striking articles in the show, combine various types of wood with other natural materials, such as feathers, fur and human hair. They typify the cultural heritage of the Indians of Canada's North West Coast. The paintings and prints, on the other hand, are mainly the work of Indians from Central Canada.

The items selected for this exhibit are

part of the permanent collection of the Canadian Department of Indian and Northern Affairs. The cultural exchange program of the province of Ontario's Ministry of Culture and Recreation also provided assistance in arranging the showing. The exhibit is being presented to the people of Brazil under the auspices of the Canadian embassy.

Photo exhibit

The work of John Vanderpant, an innovative Canadian photographer living in Vancouver during the 1920s and 1930s, is on display at the National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa from September 2 until October 9.

Although influenced by Vancouver artists Jock Macdonald, and Frederick Varley (the latter a member of the Group of Seven), John Vanderpant's photographs are nevertheless a statement of his own and reflect his efforts to express the spirit of his environment. His abstract images of grain elevators and intimate studies of plants and vegetables explore the tenderness and beauty of texture and the design possibilities of form and shadow.

The 50 photographs by this leading pictorial photographer, who lived from 1884 until 1939, show the evolution of his work through the many stages of his career. The works have also been exhibited across Canada from Newfoundland to British Columbia.



John Vanderpant's Vera (1930).

Auditions at Canada House

John Wood, Artistic Director of English Theatre for the National Arts Centre, Ottawa, held general auditions and interviews at Canada House, in London, in late September. The auditions were open to Canadian actors currently working or studying in England.

Mr. Wood, who was appointed to his position at the National Arts Centre earlier this year, is currently completing casting for the National Arts Centre's 1977/78 theatre season as well as laying the foundations for the establishment of a permanent company at the National Arts Centre over the next few years.

Born in Montreal and a 1961 graduate of Bishop's University, Mr. Wood is one of Canada's most dynamic young directors. Over the last 15 years he has worked in theatres across the country as well as in radio and television. He was Artistic Director of the Neptune Theatre in Halifax from 1974 until June 1977 when he came to the National Arts Centre.