

Art and the Armed Forces

Whether art mirrors life, or life mirrors art could be the grist for endless philosophical discussion. The two are so interrelated that they are almost inseparable. The military would not normally be thought of as a major patron of the arts by the highbrows of culture, but in fact the Canadian Armed Forces have commissioned over two hundred works by twenty-five artists since 1968. Even before that, Lord Beaverbrook modelled a programme for Canada (on earlier British schemes) which produced some 6,500 paintings depicting life in the Canadian Armed Forces from 1917 onwards.

In this issue of Canada Today we reproduce a selection of the Armed Forces' more recent acquisitions. They illustrate typical aspects of operations within the Armed Forces as seen through the sensitive eyes of the artist rather than the clinical eye of the camera.

Sea King Helicopter by Ken Bradford 1973.
(Watercolour)

Centurion by Charles Gosbee 1969.
(Watercolour)

