

# News of the arts

## Touring exhibitions mark National Gallery's anniversary

Fourteen new exhibitions are being sent from Ottawa to 27 centres throughout Canada from September 1977 to August 1978 to mark the sixtieth season since the National Gallery of Canada first began its program of touring exhibitions across the country.

Exhibits ranging from *Architectural Concepts for a New National Gallery* to the theatrical prints of *The Rake's Progress: Hogarth to Hochney*, lent by the British Council in London, will be displayed from Victoria, British Columbia to St. John's, Newfoundland.

Continuing the National Gallery's policy of circulating masterpieces from the national collection, the recent acquisition, *Salisbury Cathedral from the Bishop's Grounds*, by John Constable (1776-1837), and six accompanying sketches borrowed from the Victoria and Albert Museum, will travel to Hamilton, Edmonton, and Victoria; a small exhibition, one of a series shown regularly in Ottawa, *Exploring the Collections of the National Gallery of Canada: David Milne, "Painting Place"* travels to five galleries in eastern Canada; 60 works surveying the evolution of landscape painting from the fifteenth to the nineteenth centuries, *The Evolution of Landscape in Prints and Drawings: 1500-1900*, will tour to London, Edmonton, Fort Langley, Toronto and Fredericton; the more than 30 paintings from the Victorian era to the 1940s in *British Painting in the National Gallery of Canada*, representing the history of acquisition of British art by the National Gallery, is the fourth exhibition to feature the collections.

In addition to the Constable sketches, the Victoria and Albert Museum in London has loaned an exhibition entitled *Forty-Two British Watercolours. Contemporary American Photography*, from the Visual Studies Workshop, Rochester, New York, traces the development of American photography from 1970 to 1974.

The work by contemporary Canadian artists is given attention in exhibitions circulated by the national program to ensure that the achievements of artists in one part of the country are seen in another. Exhibitions in this context are: figurative and abstract paintings by the Montreal-born Paterson Ewen, in *Paterson*

*Ewen: Recent Works; Joyce Wieland: Drawings and Sketches for "The Far Shore"*, composed of material for her recent feature film loosely based on the life of Tom Thomson; *Ivan Eyre Drawings* by this Manitoba artist, and an exhibition of four especially constructed room-sized sculptures, by Michael Snow, Murray Favro, Norman White and Ian Carr-Harris, selected from the larger exhibition, *Another Dimension*, which opens in Ottawa in late October 1977.

A major exhibition opening in Ottawa in February 1978, *Peasant Paintings from Hu County, Shensi Province, China* will also be shown in Victoria, Saskatoon, Toronto and Halifax.

## Documentary on blacks

One of the most ambitious projects ever undertaken by the National Film Board has just been completed. It's an hour-long documentary history of the blacks in Canada, one of a series of films on minority groups in this country. There have been blacks in Canada since 1605, but their achievements in building the country have never been fully recorded.

Much of the film has been shot on location. Among the main incidents are the arrival of Loyalist blacks in Nova Scotia after the American Revolutionary War, the fleeing of thousands of blacks from the United States during the War of 1812, and the arrival of runaway slaves in Canada, which had outlawed slavery as early as 1793. The film is due for release early next year.

## Peter Schaufuss joins the National

Danish-born Peter Schaufuss, formerly of the New York City Ballet, has joined the National Ballet of Canada as a principal dancer. Schaufuss, described by artistic director Alexander Grant as "one of the world's most sought after guest artists", will perform during the National's fall season at the O'Keefe Centre in Toronto, during the spring season, the European tour and the New York engagement, while retaining guest appearance privileges elsewhere. He will make his Toronto *début* in *Coppelia* with Vanessa Harwood, followed by performances in *Bayaderka* with Mary Jago, and an all-star performance of *La Sylphide* with Galina

Samsova and Erik Bruhn.

Last year, the dancer appeared as a guest artist during the National's first New York engagement without Rudolf Nureyev. He has also danced with the Kirov and Bolshoi Ballets in the Soviet Union, and has been a principal dancer with the Royal Ballet and the London Festival Ballet.

## Canadian film-maker honoured

A major retrospective of the work of one of Canada's most distinguished documentary film-makers, Donald Brittain, was scheduled for Harvard University in the United States from October 28 to 30.

Nine of Brittain's films, all made for the National Film Board between 1963 and 1976, will be shown at the University Film Study Centre, which sponsored the event in collaboration with the Canadian Consulate General in Boston. The film centre is operated by Harvard, Yale and 11 other New England Universities.

Brittain's films have won 16 Canadian film awards and a host of international honours in Venice, San Francisco, Leipzig, Brussels, New York, as well as an Academy Award nomination this year for the feature documentary *Volcano: An Inquiry into the Life and Death of Malcolm Lowry*.

*Volcano*, which has been acclaimed at festivals in London, New York, Melbourne, Sydney and Edinburgh, opens the retrospective and will be seen in commercial theatres in New York in November.

Other films on the program include the documentary classics, *Bethune, Memorandum* and *Never a Backward Step*.

Brittain, whose most recent film is *Henry Ford's America*, a CBC-NFB co-production, is at present producing *The Champions*, a feature-length study of Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau and Quebec Premier René Lévesque for the CBC and NFB, to be released in February.

## Diefenbaker memoirs

The third volume of John Diefenbaker's memoirs was published recently by Macmillan of Canada, Toronto. *The Tumultuous Years* traces events of three general elections (1962, 1963 and 1965) and concludes with the Conservative party's replacement of Diefenbaker as leader with Robert Stanfield in 1967.