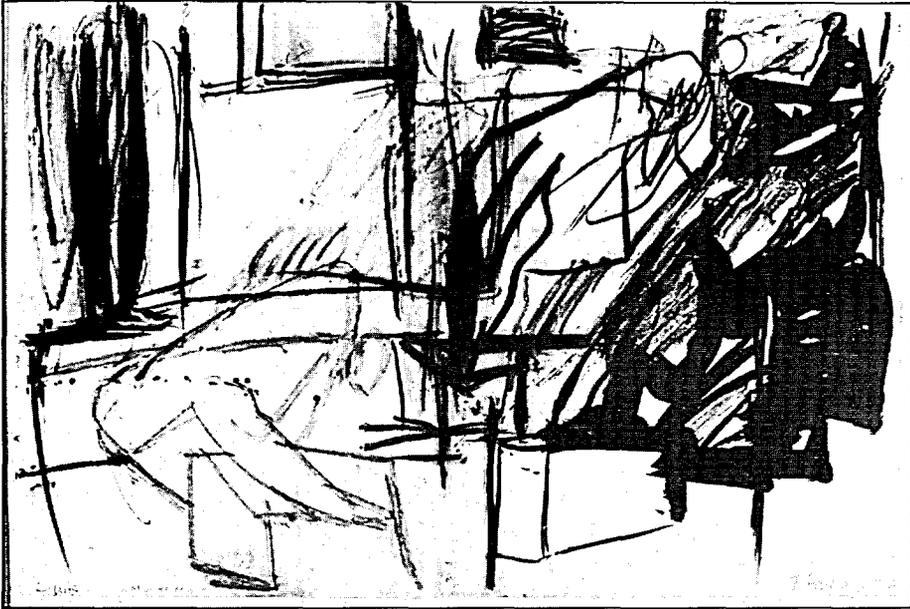


EXTERNAL AFFAIRS FINE ARTS COLLECTION (continued)

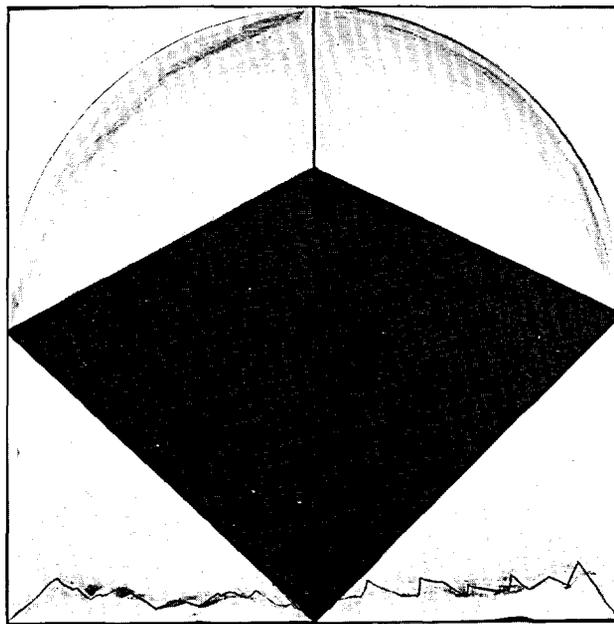


Francine Simonin, "Films d'Intérieurs I".

ferent opinion. Some liked abstracts, others landscapes and one person was sure his two year old could do as well. It seems there was no consensus. But the most telling observations were those which considered the artwork to be for their personal pleasure or as decoration. The broad cross section of Canadian art owned by the Department cannot satisfy all personal tastes nor is it intended as decoration. Instead, art is an integral component of an embassy's image, like its architecture and interior design, and as the Fine Arts Program develops each mission should be provided with a variety of Canadian images including figurative, abstract and native.

Contemporary Canadian artists are making strong statements about their identity and Canada's cultural development. In recent years, our artwork has won world acclaim for being progressive and exciting. The diversity of the Collection is illustrated by the examples which accompany this article.

The Fine Arts Program has few staff and it will be some time before all missions are adequately supplied with a representative selection of Canadian art.



Ric Evans, "Blue Pyramid".

However, great strides have been made in the past four years. There is now a computer information management system as well as the beginnings of a slide library and biographic files to assist missions with the proper display, safekeeping and inventory control of the Collection. A curatorial assistant has been hired to assist with technical and maintenance requirements for the artwork, and with approved policies for both the Program and the interdepartmental art acquisition Fine Arts Committee, a firm base has been established on which the Collection will grow □

B. C. Mack
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Fine Arts Program