

Gallery exhibits Atget's obscure Parisian photos

IAN BAILEY

Our perceptions of Paris have been shaped by the magnificent, but now clichéd, images of such monuments as the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame Cathedral, and the Arc de Triomphe. The York University Art Gallery is featuring the work of a 19th-century French photographer whose vision of the city was more private and

therefore more satisfying for modern viewers.

Eugene Atget (1857-1927), a would-be actor and painter, discovered photography late in life. From 1898 until his death in 1927, he haunted churches, hidden courtyards, alleyways, bordellos, and other obscure Parisian venues.

According to Michael Greenwood,

the Curator of the Gallery, Atget was one of the first visual poets of the urban landscape, one who introduced a new spirit to architectural photography. "He was in love with every visual aspect of Paris and this gave his work tremendous warmth and feeling," said Greenwood.

Of the 60 prints displayed, human

subjects appear only when they coincide with the structures they inhabit. Atget did most of his work in the early hours, avoiding the urban crowds.

Greenwood says he jumped for the exhibit when it was announced two years ago in The International Program, a liaison between foreign governments and Canadian galleries and museums. The show was to have been held last year, but had to be cancelled because the York gallery

was in the throes of renovations.

The exhibition will conclude on February 10. On the 28th, the gallery will present a retrospective on the work of Canadian artist Eli Bornstein, a leading figure in structuralism, a form of relief sculpture. Bornstein will speak about the art on March 1 at 4 p.m. The Gallery is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and open until 7 p.m. on February 7 and 10. Admission is free.

Prostitution and Cruise Missiles

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Broadview-Greenwood, Reese was invited to speak at the convention "to get 1,200 people to understand the science of campaigning". Bird suggested that convention delegates were organizers and would go back to their riding associations with advice from Reese, whose name he feels "will become a buzzword around the Liberal Party". When asked why no Canadian strategist was asked to speak, Bird said that Reese offered "a new, different point of view simple because he's from the U.S."

Also, from the U.S. is the cruise

missile--which the Liberal government will allow to be tested in Alberta. This fact prompted a placard-bearing group of about 40 people to demonstrate outside the hotel's conference centre on Saturday afternoon. They were part of a coalition (called "Against Cruise Testing" or ACT) of various groups which includes the York Association for Peace.

One demonstrator told *Excalibur* that the aim of the exercise was "to let the Liberals know we don't like what they're doing...in case it's (the testing agreement) signed, hopefully the protest will have an effect." Few delegates, however, took notice of the protesters (partially due to the location of the demonstration.)

Organizers of the convention also ensured that the major T.V. and newspaper media did not dominate the attention of the federal cabinet ministers from Ontario. A special news conference for campus media--the majority of the questioners were from Metro high schools--was held and attended by Herb Gray, President of the Treasury Board; Mark McGuigan, Minister of Justice;

and Eugene Whelan, Minister of Agriculture.

There were questions on a wide spectrum of issues, ranging from post-secondary education to the recent Supreme Court decision on prostitution. When asked about federal cutbacks to post-secondary education through reductions in transfer payments to the provinces, Gray said there were two issues: a "necessary recognition of the fact to which the federal government funds post-secondary education in this country" and the fact that the "provinces are not living up to their responsibilities in education."

Nonetheless Gray admitted that the government "may have to slow down the rate of increase (of funding) due to the weight of other governmental responsibilities."

As far as the problem of prostitution in cities is concerned, Mark McGuigan believes "For the straight people in the area it is a nuisance...and because of the Supreme Court ruling the government will have to try to deal with it one way or another."

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