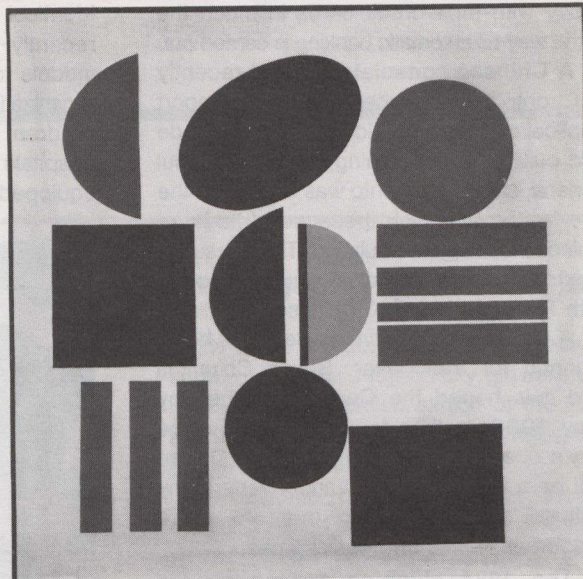


## Geometric abstraction gives expression to optical effects

*New Perspectives on the Art of Denis Juneau*, on view at the National Gallery of Art in Ottawa until February 3, features 30 works by the artist produced between 1956 and 1983. Denis Juneau, considered an important member of Montreal's geometric abstraction movement, has had a major influence on Canadian painting since the 1950s.

The works in the exhibition, which include paintings, drawings, watercolours, models and sculptures, summarize the artist's lifelong production of abstract art. They were selected by National Gallery research curator of Canadian Art, Jean-René Ostiguy, to represent important turning points in Denis Juneau's career. Mr. Ostiguy said that the exhibition "will provide an opportunity to reflect deeply on the work of an artist determined to integrate without compromise his innovative work into the life of Quebec society".

Starting with his first abstract compositions painted in Italy in 1956, the exhibition traces Mr. Juneau's development from his use of areas of solid colour to a more "tachiste technique". All the works exhibited consistently illustrate Mr. Juneau's search for expressive optical effects, with an em-



Demi Circle Rouge/Red Half Circle, 1960.

## COC extends broadcasting in the United States and Canada

The Canadian Opera Company (COC), enjoying a highly successful 1983-84 season, embarked on another record-breaking season and continued to expand its broadcast programming on radio networks.

Audiences in Canada were able to hear COC productions on the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) stereo network and United States listeners were introduced to Canada's largest opera producer and a company that has earned international recognition for its high artistic standards and innovative spirit.

### US expansion

During the summer, the COC, with the support of Ontario's Ministry of Citizenship and Culture, launched its first series of radio broadcasts in the United States. Called *Ontario, Canada Presents The Canadian Opera Company*, the series was broadcast on more than 200 non-commercial and commercial stations in major cities across the United States, reaching audiences estimated at between five and ten million people.

This first series of Canadian opera broadcasts in the US featured some of the greatest Canadian and international artists performing with the COC. Performances included

phasis on the artist's "plasticien" works of the 1950s and on his kinetic and optical compositions of the late 1960s.

### Public involvement

As a member of the Montreal "plasticien" group, Denis Juneau often sought public participation in the creation of abstract art and a number of pieces designed by the artist in 1969 and 1973 are included in the exhibition specifically for the public to handle and change.

Most of the works were selected from the collection of the artist and from the National Gallery's permanent collection.

A didactic room co-ordinated by the National Gallery's Education Services has a presentation of photographs of Denis Juneau at work in his studio, his working stencils and a photograph of a "play art" sculpture designed by him for an amusement park in a working-class area of Montreal.

the 1983-84 productions of *Turandot* and *Lohengrin*, and 1982-83 productions of *La Belle Helene*, *Elektra*, *The Coronation of Poppea* and *La Fanciulla del West*. The broadcast series also included intermission features on the operas being broadcast, as well as special features on the wealth of cultural attractions in Ontario — dance, film, theatre, art galleries and museums among others.

With this series, the COC joined a select group of only four other North American opera companies which broadcast throughout the United States — the Metropolitan Opera, Dallas Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago and San Francisco Opera.

### Second Canadian series

The COC also entertained Canadian audiences in the fall with its second annual radio series of Saturday matinée opera broadcasts.

*Great Opera Performances* was inaugurated in 1983 through the support of Texaco Canada Inc., the sponsor of the Metropolitan Opera broadcasts on CBC for more than 40 years. In its debut season, *Great Opera Performances* enjoyed an all-time weekly cumulative audience record of 98 000.

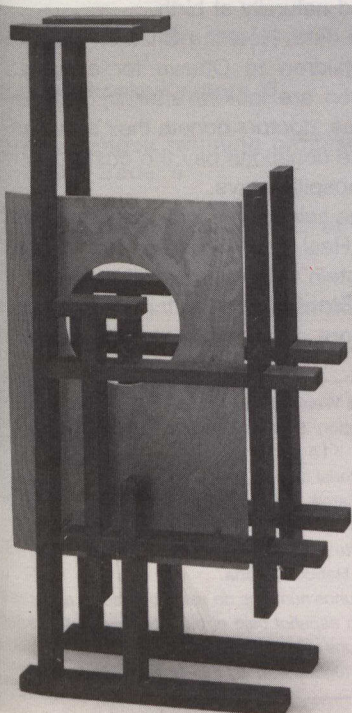
The 1984 series began with the COC's



Allan Monk



Janet Stubbs



National Gallery of Canada

Circle spatial/Circle in Space, 1959, in wood with oil paint.