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This issue of *Canada Reports* is devoted to Canadian art and culture. Indeed, the last 30 years have witnessed an explosion in every cultural medium and a burgeoning of interest abroad in the work of Canadian artists. Today, Canadian writing is translated into scores of languages; Canadian dancers, musicians and actors perform throughout the world;

Canadian filmmakers participate in prestigious international festivals such as Cannes; and Canadian painters and sculptors exhibit widely.

Above all, this outpouring is representative of Canada's diversity. Whether English speaking or French, recent immigrants or one of Canada's native peoples, all add their own insights and experiences to the rich tapestry that makes up Canada's cultural life.

Governments at all levels have realized the importance of culture to the nurturing of a Canadian identity and have established programs to support Canadian artists. The life of the nation is enriched by this recognition of the contribution of culture to the country's soul, as important in its own way as economic prosperity.

We are pleased to present overviews of English- and French-language culture by two of Canada's most pre-eminent journalists. Robert Fulford, who edited *Saturday Night* magazine for 19 years and earned a reputation as one of Canada's foremost men of letters, wrote "The Canadian Difference." Lysiane Gagnon, a political columnist for *La Presse* in Montreal since 1980 and twice winner of the prestigious National Newspaper Award, shared her thoughts on French-Canadian culture in her piece, "Vive la différence!" Both are uniquely qualified to comment on the role of culture in Canadian life.

Other articles cover native arts, dance, music, literature, cinema, theatre and visual arts.

A look into arts and culture provides an intimate glimpse into the soul of Canadians — their beliefs, their preoccupations, their hopes. The pages that follow are an attempt to provide such a glimpse.

Canada's National Gallery: a setting worthy of the works of art it houses.



Malak