

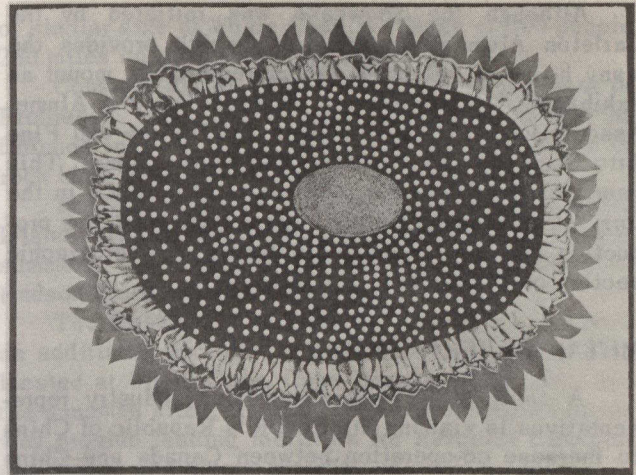
CANADIAN PRINTMAKERS SHOW

One hundred and twenty-seven outstanding examples of graphic art, the work of 99 leading Canadian artists, were on display at the fourth Canadian Printmakers Showcase, opened by Assistant Under-Secretary of State Guy Beaulne at Carleton University, Ottawa, in October. Showcase, a yearly exhibition and sale of the best in Canadian printmaking, is organized by the University's Alumnae Association.

Although all works submitted are customarily examined by a panel, or jury, of experts, this year 20 leading printmakers were also invited to submit two works each, which would not be subject to the jury's scrutiny. The list, including Rita Letendre, Lawren Harris, Robert Savoie, Toni Onley, David Blackwood and Kim Ondaatje, was drawn up with the advice of galleries, art experts and university departments of fine art across Canada.

RECORD RESPONSE BY ARTISTS

This year, a record number of more than 200 artists submitted some 600 works for examination by the jurors - Dr. Jules Heller, Dean of Fine Arts at Toronto's York University, and Professor David Burnett, of Carleton's Department of Art History. Eighty-nine prints were accepted, to raise the total number of prints on display to 127. "The large size of the show is inevitable in view of the overall high quality of workmanship and originality of inventive-



Sunflowers

Ghitta Caiserman-Roth

ness in the entries. There is a lot of good printmaking going on in Canada and the Showcase has now, I think, established itself as a major event for the exhibition of this type of work," said Professor Burnett.

Virtually every technique - etching, estampille, serigraphy, intaglio - was represented; and this year, for the first time, photographs and banners were added to the exhibition. David Samila, Ghitta Caiserman-Roth and Roland Giguere were among the artists who had previously exhibited, while the printmakers exhibiting for the first time included June Bird, Sabine Allard and James Janicek.

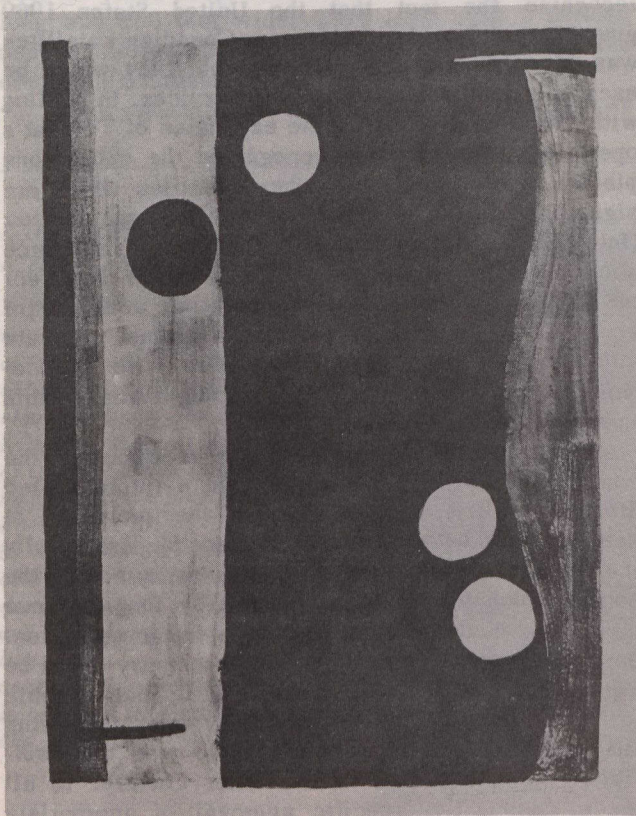
MANY WOMEN CONTRIBUTORS

More than half the prints on display were by women. Dr. Heller remarked: "For reasons I do not pretend to understand, there seemed to me to be an unusual number of finely-crafted prints authored by women. What has happened, if anything, to attract so many women to this once male-dominated, muscle-demanding mode of visual expression? *Attention!* Who is saying what to whom?"

SALES BY BALLOT

Prints are sold by a form of balloting. A prospective buyer drops a signed form into a box beside the print of his choice. On the closing night, the master-of-ceremonies draws from each box a slip, the owner of which is entitled to purchase the print. Balloting was brisk again this year. One reason for the show's popularity is that it offers an excellent opportunity for obtaining outstanding Canadian works of art at prices ranging from about \$7 (for T. Michael Bidner's *Xerox Symphony*) to \$300 (for Betty Goodwin's *Two Vests*). The average price of a print was \$90.

With the exception of mono-prints, graphics are usually produced in limited editions of perhaps 20 to 50 impressions. A unique feature of Showcase is that it is sometimes possible for disappointed balloters to obtain another impression of the print they choose. Sales made following the show are very popular and can account for as much as 40 per cent of the total.



Night

Suzanne Dumouchel