

inspired a new confidence in Canadian artists and marked a break with the European tradition in Canadian painting. During the 1950s, Toronto became the main centre in Ontario for modern abstract art and the Painters Eleven, including Jack Bush, William Ronald and Harold Town organized themselves there to promote their works.

In literature, Ontario has a tradition of eminent writers, several of whom established important reputations earlier in the century: Stephen Leacock, who wrote about the humorous foibles of the residents of the fictional town of Mariposa; Mazo De la Roche, whose best-selling novels about the Whiteoaks of Jalna were translated into many languages; and Morley Callaghan, whose renown began in Paris in the 1920s, and who is still a major literary force today. Among contemporary Ontario writers whose works attract strong followings are Margaret Laurence, Alice Munro, Margaret Atwood and Robertson Davies. Two noted Ontario scholars whose writing and thinking have influenced many are Marshall McLuhan, communications theorist, and Northrop Frye, eminent literary critic. Both came to prominence at the University of Toronto, one of the foremost universities in North America.

Because Toronto is the most populous of English-speaking Canadian cities, it is at the centre of Canadian

artistic and cultural activity. As the centre of English-language publishing, broadcasting and the live arts, it is the communications capital of the country. Toronto is home of the National Ballet of Canada, the Canadian Opera Company and many professional theatre companies.

Most other Ontario cities have professional theatre companies, one of the largest being that of the National Arts Centre in Ottawa. In addition there are many regional theatres including the renowned Stratford Festival, which attracts nearly half a million visitors from Canada and abroad each year. The festival stages Shakespearean plays as well as plays by Canadian and other authors and also features concerts of orchestral, chamber, folk and jazz music.

Smaller towns benefit from theatrical and other artistic tours financed and organized by government agencies like the Ontario Arts Council, established to promote the arts and make them accessible to the entire population.

Production facilities of Canada's two national English language television networks, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and the Canadian Television Network are located in Toronto. Each provides a full schedule of programs for network-owned and operated stations or for local affiliates. Global Television, a regional network, and TV Ontario, a