

# News of the arts

## Munich sees Group of Seven works

The first major exhibition of Canadian art in Germany opened recently, in Munich, as the focal activity of a "Contact with Canada" ("Begegnung mit Kanada") week organized by the Canadian Embassy.

A collection of 44 paintings by the Group of Seven, on loan from the McMichael Canadian Collection, Kleinburg, Ontario, was on display in the old Royal Residence in the heart of Munich. These paintings have been in Britain since late August 1976, and now begin the second half of an exhibition tour that will take them from Munich to Bonn, where they will remain until late May; on to the Soviet Union for display in three cities during the summer; and back to West Germany for showings in Hamburg and Berlin. The Canadian Ambassador, John Halstead, and Mrs. Halstead held a reception to launch the Munich showing. The guest list of West German state officials, academics, businessmen and journalists was headed by Dr. Hildegard Hamm-Brucher, Minister for Cultural Relations for West Germany, and Anton Jaumann, Commerce Minister for the State of Bavaria.

Dr. Hamm-Brucher told the gathering that she was a "Canada fan" and described a visit to the McMichael Collection as the high point of a tour of Canada she made in 1975. "These paintings come from one of the most remarkable galleries in the world," she said. "I only wish it was possible to bring the atmosphere of harmony between art and nature that I found in Kleinburg along with these works of art."

The exhibition is sponsored by the Department of External Affairs and the government of Ontario, with assistance from Air Canada. Robert McMichael, founder and director of the Kleinburg collection, was present in Munich to supervise the hanging of the Group of Seven paintings.

Outstanding among the events marking the opening of the exhibition was a harpsichord concert by the young Canadian musician Bradford Tracey and Rolf Junghans of Germany.

Two other Canadian exhibitions opened during the "Contact with Canada" week in Munich — a collection of contemporary native Indian



*Following the opening ceremony of the Group of Seven show in Munich, the West German Minister of Cultural Relations, Dr. Hildegard Hamm-Brucher, chats with Robert McMichael (centre),*

prints and West Coast artifacts, at the BMW Gallery, and the Circumpolar Exhibition. The latter, a documentary display describing the community of peoples living within the Arctic Circle, has been installed at the Museum of Ethnology. Mr. Halstead also made

*founder and director of the McMichael Canadian Collection of Kleinburg, Ontario, and Mr. John Halstead, Canadian Ambassador to the Federal German Republic.*

book presentations to the University of Munich and to the Municipal Library.

The final events of the week were a special screening of the Claude Jutra film *Mon Oncle Antoine* and an Embassy-sponsored recital by the Montreal soprano Louise Lebrun.

## National Ballet choreographic workshop

Having just completed its spring season of performances in Ottawa and Toronto, the National Ballet of Canada goes into rehearsal for its choreographic workshop, which will run in Toronto from April 7 to 13. The annual program, started in 1969, is designed to discover and encourage choreographic talent among the National Ballet's dancers. From previous years of the experimental sessions, the Ballet has added a number of works to its main

repertoire. A highlight this year, and a striking departure for the program, is the presentation of a collaborative work with Co-Opera Theatre, a form of musical theatre "combining dancers, singer and musicians sharing in celebration of poetry, music and movement". The half-hour production, entitled *Circe*, is set to an electronic score composed by Raymond Pannell, artistic director of Co-Opera Theatre, with a libretto by the poet and novelist Margaret Atwood and choreography by Ann Ditchburn.