

Works of Canada's first impressionist painter exhibited in five cities

A major retrospective on the work of historical Canadian painter Maurice Cullen was shown recently in Kingston and is scheduled to appear in galleries in Toronto, Hamilton, Ottawa, and Edmonton, through 1983.

Maurice Cullen: 1866-1934 was organized by guest curator Sylvia Antoniou as the latest in the series of exhibitions at the Agnes Etherington Art Centre in Kingston. The series is dedicated to the heightened appreciation of hitherto neglected historical Canadian artists and of their contribution to Canada's artistic tradition.

The major sponsor of the exhibition is The Molson Companies Limited with additional assistance from the National Museums of Canada, the Canada Council and the Ontario Arts Council.

Forty-two years covered

The retrospective spans the years 1890 to 1932. It comprises 74 works: oils on canvas, 15 oil sketches on panel, drawings and sketchbooks and some large decorated screens.

Born in 1866 in St. John's, Newfoundland Cullen received most of his artistic training in Europe. By 1894 he was invited to exhibit with the Société Nationale des Beaux-Arts in Paris.

At the beginning of the twentieth century Cullen painted in both Canada



Old Houses, Montreal, oil on canvas by Maurice Cullen.

and Europe. In 1918 he was an official war artist with the honorary rank of captain. In later years Cullen both taught and painted and he was actively involved in art clubs which fostered the most innovative art of the period.

This exhibition expresses the artist's particular vision of Canada from Newfoundland to the Rockies and his commitment to making the Canadian land-

scape respected subject matter for fine artists. Early European works and several official First World War paintings add to the exhibition's historical perspective. The retrospective traces the development of his painting technique which was considered *avant garde* in Canada when it was first introduced.

Cullen was the first to introduce the impressionist technique in Canadian painting, particularly in winter scenes. His works influenced the thinking of many painters in Canada including A.Y. Jackson who acknowledged Cullen's impact on the Group of Seven.

Works in the show have been borrowed from the Art Gallery of Hamilton, the National Gallery of Canada, Windsor Art Gallery, Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, Musée du Québec, corporate and private collectors across Canada and from institutions in France and Norway.

A comprehensive, bilingual catalogue of the retrospective by Sylvia Antoniou accompanies the exhibition.



Fishing Stages, Newfoundland is part of Cullen exhibit.

National Gallery of Canada

Frank Sinatra and Rich Little recently gave a charity gala concert in Ottawa to raise money for a special care centre for newborn babies at the Ottawa Civic Hospital. With tickets ranging from \$30 to \$1 000, some \$750 000 was netted by the hospital foundation for the centre.

Montreal Museum of Fine Arts