

## "Spontaneous" artist displays at Art Gallery

The Extension Services of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts has organized this exhibition of the work of Ernest Gendron, an artist in the tradition of other Quebec artists such as the Bouchard sisters, Grandma Goldeye, and Arthur Villeneuve, but with a difference. Most of the naive or spontaneous (as The Montreal Museum prefers) artists in Quebec have celebrated the pastoral tradition, largely because they lived in rural areas. Gendron

having spent most of his life in Montreal, draws his imagery from the media thereby coming close to the impact of the New York 'pop' school of the 1960's minus the highly sophisticated technical facility of the latter.

"Spontaneous" or primitive is the label given to an artist who is entirely self-taught and draws his subject matter from his immediate environment. The simplicity of their vision frequently resulting in a completely frontal approach with little use of such technical skills as chairoscuro and perspective lines to create the illusion of the third dimension, produces a direct and often compelling composition.

What a spontaneous artist may lack in technique is often compensated by a richness of experience which he brings to his easel. This is certainly the case with Gendron whose life has embraced all manner of work: lumberjack, soldier, boxer, actor, singer and miner. It was only in 1950, when Gendron fell ill due to his dissolute existence, that he began to paint.

Although there is a flatness to most of Gendron's works because of large areas of solid colour with little use of shading, he does employ one 'trompe l'oeil' advice and that is the building up of the prominent features of those figures and animals in his compositions through the painstaking application of hundreds of

layers of commercial enamel paint, first with a matchstick and then with a toothpick. The famous Charles deGaulle nose required 600 layers of enamel to give it its 'august relief'.

The 31 works in this exhibition

include such famous and infamous public figures as Winston Churchill, John Kennedy, Charlie Chaplin, Adolph Hitler, and Lee Oswald. There are also decorated objects such as a radio case and a bean-bag game.



## "Star" elicits variety of audience emotions

By MIKE CAMIOT

O.K. folks, here's a review of a good movie. Don't go getting all excited though cuz 'A Star is Born' is not playing anywhere in town at this time. It's just that I got sick of writing about what is in town these days I just had to do something different.

If you think West Side Story was a remake of Romeo and Juliet was interesting and neat then you ain't seen nothin' yet. 'A Star is Born' is a remake of none other than 'A Star is Born'. How do ya like that? They didn't even bother to change the title, just the stars and the times. It's just as well though, not many people these days get to see the old version. I guess this movie is what you'd call a tragic love story. Kristofferson plays a rock'n roll star who's pretty lonely at the top of the heap. He handles this dilemma of his stardom rather unprofessionally. In fact, he spends most of his time pretty O.D.'d, appears at his concerts in that condition, plays badly and tells the audience to fuck itself. He does this alot; one gets the distinct impression that he doesn't really have his act together. In short, the constraints of his 'position' really get him down. Incidentally Kristofferson is much better at acting "out to lunch" than he is at singing rock'n roll. He's even better at being out of it than he is at falling in love with 'Barbra' and calming down.

In many ways this is a strange film. Kris Kristofferson as a rock'n roll star? Barbra Streisand in a serious non-overbearing role? After all that's hardly how one

would typically conceive either of them. It is a credit to both the movie and the actors that despite all of this "A Star is Born" is not difficult to watch. In fact, taken for what it is, one has to conclude that the film is good; far from the best, but good. Compared to the junk one usually gets to see in

Fredericton this movie is excellent. So if it ever comes to town, don't miss it.

That's what happens though; and it should be noted that Streisand's portrayal of the transition she goes through from night club singer to Kristofferson's friend to a "star" in her own right

to the famous lady married to an ex-famous man is nothing short of excellent. At some point she literally takes over movie — a star is born. But Kristofferson saved his best acting for the end which is powerful, tragic, bewildering and moving all at once. At first the bewildering sense one gets from

the ending is primary. But when it all sinks in, the film becomes reasonable as a whole. . . it's a love story, tragic and well done, but still a love story whose essence is contained in how two people handle themselves on the basis of their relationship to each other.

## Canadian artists reaching gold status

Murray McLauchlan's latest album release "Boulevard" has now reached "Gold" status in Canada. Murray McLauchlan, who records on the True North label, has now received two "Gold" records from CBS.

An extensive marketing campaign, on behalf of CBS for the "Boulevard" album during McLauchlan's Canadian tour, was one of the factors responsible for the achievement. The campaign was not only successful with the "Boulevard" album, but has also affected a rise in sales of the whole Murray McLauchlan catalogue.

Murray McLauchlan and his band The Silver Tractors will be going back into studio in Toronto on March 21st to begin recording the next album.

Bruce Cockburn, who is currently touring Canada with his band, will be performing his debut concert in New York City at Philharmonic Hall on March 30th. His True North/CBS album "In The Falling Dark" has been receiving immediate and extensive airplay across Canada.

During his Massey Hall appear-

ances in Toronto on April 7th and 8th, the concerts will be recorded for a possible "live" album

release. "In The Falling Dark", which is Bruce Cockburn's seventh True North release with CBS Records Canada Ltd., is part of a

CBS/True North Total Marketing Program which will run until the end of March.

LIVE IN

# SUB Terrain

THIS WEEKEND

## 'EEL RIVER DRIFT'

FRIDAY & SATURDAY  
18th & 19th  
COFFEE, TEA & ATMOSPHERE  
9 to 1