

# ARS NOVA

"Ars Nova shows us the way to a pop music that is artistic without being arty. They sure do blow my mind," says music critic Richard Goldstein. It is hard to imagine a group of classical musicians as being "mind-blowing." However, their performance at the Rock Pile last weekend consisted of a loud barrage of well-arranged pieces. Ars Nova is the first classically trained group to play basically baroque songs in a rock idiom.

The music of Ars Nova is both beautiful and gutsy at the same time. Since their album, the band, consisting of two guitars, bass, drums, bass trombone, trumpet, and, sometimes, fluegelhorn, has added some jazz-oriented numbers to their repertoire. Hence, they now have a sound that mixes jazz, classical, and rock. While their music can be driving or subdued, vocalists Jon Pierson and Wyatt Day have the facility to impart their beautiful lyrics in a delicate or forceful manner. The aforementioned credits, together with their ability to be polyphonic, made what I consider the finest album of the first half of this year.

Since their album, Ars Nova has changed four of its members. The most significant changes have been the inclusion of Sam Brown, guitarist, and famed trumpeter, Jimmy Brown. Brown really stunned me. A former accompanist to Miriam Makeba, he played some amazing phrases. Owens is currently playing with Dizzy Gillespie in Paris. Dick Hurwitz, who is substituting for him on Ars Nova's current tour is a competent musician and would certainly prove to be a worthwhile addition should Ars Nova wish to expand to seven members. Pierson and Day, in addition to their vocalizing, are adept on bass trombone and guitar. Art Koenig's bass and Joe Hunt's drums round out this excellent band.

In addition to Ars Nova, vocalist and singer Frank Wintermans was also featured. He was ably accompanied by Ian Gunther on violin and guitar. Together, they produced a good folk sound.

Transfusion performed two fantastic jams. They sound better jamming than most Toronto groups sound when playing rehearsed music. The loss of their singer is a definite credit for the group. Although McBride's guitar work wasn't always clean, it was original, as was that of the rest of Transfusion.



Guitarists Wyatt Day and Sam Brown

Photo by Jeff Plewman

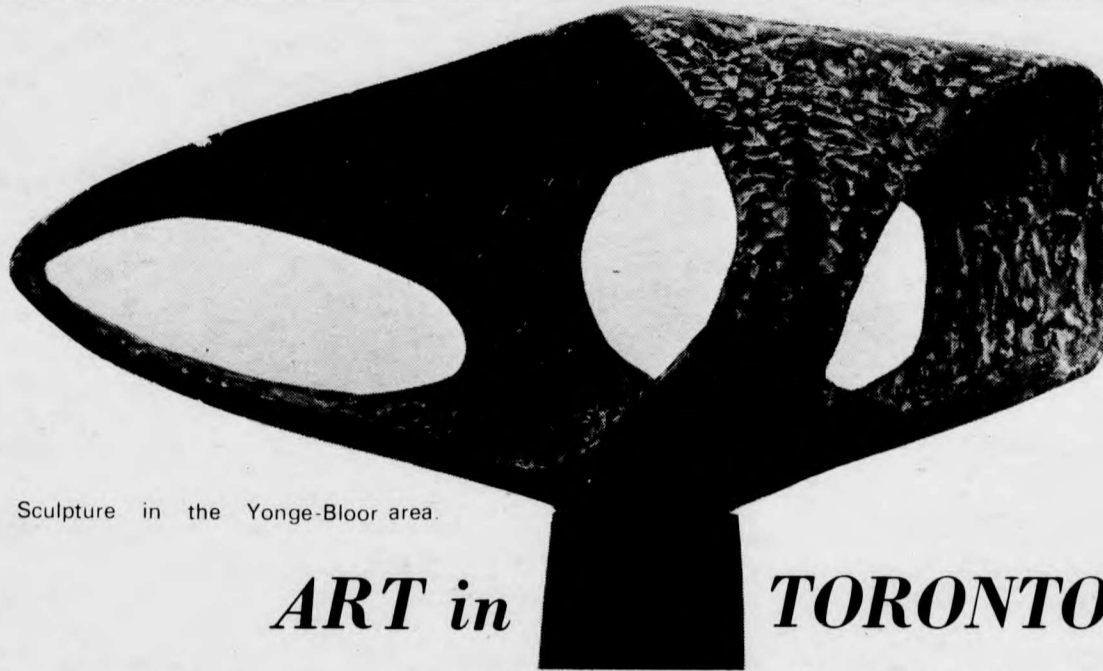


Photo by Rick Argais

Sculpture in the Yonge-Bloor area.

## ART in TORONTO

by David McCaughna

The art centre of Toronto radiates out from the Bloor and Yonge area. The majority of our important galleries can be found on these two streets and on other nearby streets. These dozen or so galleries feature the best art being produced both in Canada and throughout the world. One can spend a stimulating Saturday afternoon visiting any number of these galleries and come away with the reassurance that the art of our time is great and exciting.

The Roberts Gallery, on Yonge below Bloor, is one of the largest and most comfortable galleries in town. The large street floor gallery is complemented by another in the basement and one on the second floor. It is a restful, uncrowded gallery, where there are no crowds to deal with as in many of the smaller galleries. Currently at the Roberts Gallery is a Gary Slipper Exhibition. Slipper is an odd artist to classify. His small paintings mounted on dark velvet are of a strange, surreal nature. They would be good illustrations for the Tolkien trilogy. His tiny, brightly coloured paintings feature peculiar little men and women in apparent mythical or magical situations. In his paintings, with a far-off sort of irony, I detected a

strong resemblance to the works of Hieronymus Bosch.

Elsewhere in the Roberts Gallery is an excellent collection of contemporary paintings, including works by Jean-Paul Riopelle, Jock MacDonald, and Florence Vale. There are a number of Lewis Page' textured iron sculptures.

The Isaacs Gallery, on Yonge above Bloor, specialises in the most contemporary varieties of art. They are now featuring a mixed exhibit; a colourful collection which mostly lies in the pop art vein. There are small, bright collages by Greg Curnoe, tribal wood sculpture from Africa and New Guinea, and gesso sculpture by Tony Urqhart, among many other things. By the way, it is the Isaacs Gallery in conjunction with the Glendon Forum, which is sponsoring "the process of elimination" in the Glendon Art Gallery. 112 plastic disposable curves were placed in the gallery on Oct. 3, and every day until the end of the month four curves disappear until the room, by the end of the month is completely bare.

A few doors up Yonge from the Isaacs Gallery is the Carmen Lamana Gallery which is holding an exhibit of compositions by Marcel Barbeau. His compositions consist of large, black angular canvases placed in complementary positions upon the wall. In the rear are Barbeau's paintings, carrying out the same conception as his wall compositions, his paintings feature coloured squares lined rigidly with one another.

The galleries on Yorkville tend to be small and crowded. The Gallery Moos is one of Toronto's most popular art galleries. A good collection of modern paintings fill the walls in the gallery's small rooms. There is also a large selection of lithographs at moderate prices. The Gallery

Moos is now showing the sculpture by Sorel Etrog upon which the statue used for Canadian Film Awards is based.

Also on Yorkville is the Gallery Pascal, also small, it features first-class paintings, and has a selection of exclusive, well-designed posters. It is now holding an exhibit of prints and multiples by Gordon Smith of Vancouver.

One of the most charming galleries in Toronto is the Jerrold Morris Gallery on Prince Arthur right off Avenue Rd. The gallery is in an old house tastefully converted into a tranquil gallery. They are now having an exhibit of paintings by Kazuo Nakamura. These are mainly geometrical, dark paintings which I found somewhat stark and uninteresting, except for his smaller, bright blue paintings. On the second floor are a number of modern paintings including some early Harold Town works.

The Laing Gallery, on Bloor just west of Avenue Rd., is large and lacking in atmosphere but does have a very good collection on show at the moment. There are a number of pieces by that great British sculptress Barbara Hepworth, who, as far as I'm concerned, ranks only beneath Henry Moore in stature. Here are also expressive, broad paintings by Jean-Paul Riopelle and a number by Geoffrey Rock. Rock paints quiet, still city and country scenes, in many ways like the noted American Andrew Wyeth.

A good way to top off an afternoon of gallery hopping in the Bloor-Yonge area is to drop into Design Canada on the street floor of the Colonnade. Here are exhibits of the latest approaches to industrial and commercial design being used in Canada. Even those without the slightest interest in industrial-commercial design will find Design Canada worthy of a visit.

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