

News of the arts

Exhibition celebrates centennial of leading Canadian painter

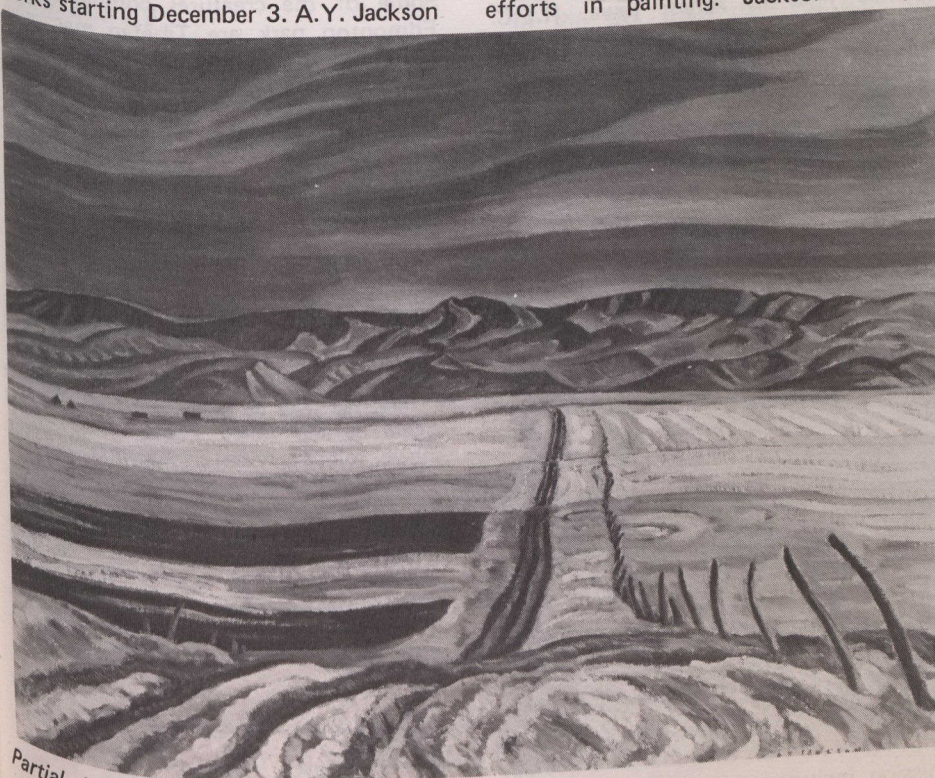


Partial view of *Sunlit Tapestry* 1939 by A. Y. Jackson.

The National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa will commemorate the one-hundredth birthday of one of the key figures in Canadian art, Alexander Young Jackson.

In celebration of the artist's birth, the gallery will mount an exhibition of his works starting December 3. A.Y. Jackson

was born October 3, 1882 and died in 1974. He was a prolific war artist, a prominent member of the Group of Seven and a dedicated painter of Canadian landscapes. He tutored Tom Thomson, another Group of Seven painter, in his early efforts in painting. Jackson brought



Partial view of *Blood Indian Reserve, Alberta* 1937 by A. Y. Jackson.

maturity and experience to bear upon the work of the Group of Seven and devoted his life to sketching Canada's geographical highlights.

The exhibition honouring Jackson is being organized by curator of Canadian art Charles Hill who has selected 143 works of art from the collections of the National Gallery and Canadian War Museum. Highlighted by quotations from letters, reviews and manifestos issued by Jackson, the exhibition will provide new insights into the artist's views on the evolution of his career and the Group of Seven's fight for a genuine Canadian art.

Gallery support

The A.Y. Jackson exhibition celebrates 70 years of National Gallery commitment to the work of the Montreal-born artist. The gallery began collecting A.Y. Jackson works as early as 1913 and now has a collection of 517 works by the artist, comprising one etching, 94 paintings and 422 drawings. The assistance provided by the National Gallery of Canada to A.Y. Jackson and the Group of Seven enabled the emerging artists to pursue their chosen path.

In the 1920s, under the leadership of its first full-time director, Eric Brown, the National Gallery became the greatest proponent of the group and of new trends in Canadian painting. The gallery's inclusion of a Jackson painting in England's 1924 Wembley exhibition — which was later bought by the Tate Gallery in London — confirmed the national importance of Jackson's work. The artist's close relationship with the National Gallery continued under the directorship of Harry McCurry, the gallery's director until 1955.

Arts briefs

The Music's on Us, the National Arts Centres summer-long series of free daily lunch-time concerts was presented for the second year in a row on the NAC terraces. This series of popular musical artists and groups started with the Canadian Armed Forces Centre Band and closed with The Shooz Play the Beatles on September 5.

The Canada Council announced recently that grants totalling \$314 574 have been awarded to 30 young singers and instrumentalists in the field of serious music. The awards, are worth up to \$11 600 each, plus travel allowance if necessary and may be used in Canada or abroad.

Art Gallery of Ontario