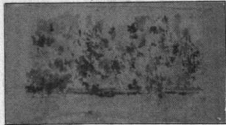


Art Peaceful pastoral paintings

Reta Cowley — A Survey
Edmonton Art Gallery
Run ends February 28

review by Cathy Duong

The exhibition comprises about thirty-five water colour paintings and a few small oils that mingle snugly amongst their companions.



Reta Cowley Photo Bruce Gardner

A landscape enthusiast might be impressed by Reta Cowley's latest exhibition and should be urged to go see it. The artist paints her favorite places in Saskatchewan and tries to capture the changing seasons and times of these landscapes. The colours used are light pastels and the brushstrokes are bold and simple. These paintings bear the mark of

simplicity. They often show quiet scenes of peaceful landscapes.

One painting that stands out is "Ten Miles North of Borden, July 9, 1969." Clumps of little houses clothed in pale violet, blue and green are shown standing under a vast blue sky. The peacefulness of a fresh spring day is captured. Although some paintings date back to 1969, their colours still remain fresh and vibrant, flirting with light.

Someone who does not appreciate Cowley's style or things that are too "pretty" might find the exhibition a tiresome experience. After viewing fifteen paintings it might be perturbing to realize that there are still twenty more yet to be seen. The paintings do not differ much in their style and content. And after a while, one might find that one picture can hardly be distinguished from the next. When the task of circling the exhibition room is over, one finds that no single painting was distinctive enough to be imprinted in a viewer's mind. All is a blur of light pastels.

A visitor in the gallery quietly remarked to his companion regarding a painting, "It's not bad." He is right. It's not bad — it is similar to the others. It's "pretty" — not amazing or beautiful, just pretty.

Music Blue Rodeo rides again

review by Tracy Rowan

Ask anyone who was lucky enough to be at Dinwoodie Saturday night and chances are they'll tell you it was a scorcher.

Toronto's Blue Rodeo rocked the sold-out crowd through two high-powered sets which featured a number of cuts from their best-selling *Outskirts* LP, as well as quite a few unfamiliar but exhilarating new tunes like the bathroom graffiti inspired "Life It Up" and "Fire."

Despite a little too much Olympic spirit indulgence the previous night in Calgary, lead singers Jim Cuddy and Greg Keelor's vocals held up well throughout the performance.

The pair's smooth harmony was one of the band's stronger qualities, although the tight instrumental arrangements were also very impressive during the show.

The first set was a mixture of songs that included a political edge ("Nerve on the Range"), and a Florida trip of Keelor's that turned into a fiasco ("Vacation").

The extremely popular "Try" drew howls of approval from the audience, which then proceeded to dance itself into a frenzy during the instrumental entitled "Soundcheck," a great tune during which the band really let loose. Special mention should go here to Bazil Donovan's innovative bass solo.

It was apparent that the crowd's response really spurred the quintet on from the start of the second set, which opened with Bobby Wiseman's amazing keyboards on "Piranha Pool." Things really heated up with the duelling guitars of "5 Will Get You 6," a great cover of "Galveston" and the upbeat "Heart Like Mine." The "Outskirts" encore was followed by an energized "Piss on a Fuse that's Burning," propelled by drummer Cleave Anderson's solid style.

What seems to set Blue Rodeo apart from other mediocre bands is their real sense and appreciation of their audience and this was certainly evident last Saturday night. Look for this band to make big waves in the North American music pool.

THANKS to all Literary Contest entrants
The lucky winners will be published in a Literary supplement in April

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