

"Sweet Dreams Baby!" This is Pop Art - "Pow!"

by Michael Brennan

The Art Gallery of Nova Scotia is holding another exhibit of important modern art works entitled, *Pop Art: Prints and Multiples* (the other was the recent Kertesz exhibit), and there's enough dazzle, color and fun to this show to delight anyone. Before anything else, pop art is fun, glitter, childish, ingenious playfulness and a visual wonder. You'll find lots of this here, though not in all the works.

Pop art is a genre (though I hate having to categorize an artist to any "style") that emerged in the late fifties and early sixties as somewhat of a reaction to the abstract expressionists of the fifties (again, I loathe to explain art merely as a rejection and rebellion against accepted forms and lifestyles).

These artists used paint and material in a similar way to the cubists and dadaists in making more figurative works but in a more obvious yet modern manner because the images were more pop. They were transformed from popu-

lar culture; the media, the government, fashion, comics, T.V. and so on. Everything, anything and nothing.

Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein, Claes Oldenburg, Jasper Johns and Robert Rauschenberg were probably the key figures in pop art and unfortunately neither Johns or Rauschenberg are represented. Why the organizers of the exhibit, the Art Gallery of Ontario, didn't include them I don't know. They make a statement about the show being a contrast of the pop art of America and Britain, but such academic intentions come off as just so much crap. Without work from either of these two artists, the show becomes much more limiting and contrived.

Now to the artists. My favorite work is Warhol's "Marilyn" (1967) and it's a wonderful sight. Eight (or ten) large screenprints of varying glitter colors of the same portrait of Marilyn Monroe are hung together. The color and effect of the images is very strong. How Warhol is able

to use color so powerfully in his portraits is spell-binding. The work is so large it's overwhelming. The two remaining pivotal artists of the five I mentioned, Oldenburg and Lichtenstein, contribute my other preferences in the show.

do as an introduction. Two I especially like are "Miniature Soft Drum Set" (1969) and "Geometric Mouse" (1972); both sculptures. His mouse is like a metallic, cubist Mickey Mouse done in a magnificent bright red and the drums are a



Oldenburg has to be one of the more outrageous artists of the past thirty years. His soft sculptures are quite shocking and wonderful and some of his sculptural proposals for cities are plain mad. If you've never seen his work, you're in for a real treat. The few works of his represented here aren't his best but they'll

great sewing job (as are all his soft sculptures).

Anybody who loves comics will love Lichtenstein because he makes them big, colorful and action packed. "Sweet Dreams, Baby!" (1965) is the strongest of the three shown here. Lichtenstein is able to take a slap at American culture, art

and anybody's notions of painting (take his "brush stroke" works) and make a startling image all at once. His recent work is very good and also, more cubist and expressionistic than ever.

My favorable comments end here, however. I find the remaining works by Peter Blake, Allen Jones and Rosenquist mostly forgettable. They seem more imprisoned by the style of pop art than freed by it and as a result the works seem trendy, passing and without personal depth. Robert Hamilton has a few interesting works like his "Self-Portrait" (1967), where he paints himself on the cover of Time Magazine, and "My Marilyn" (1967), a photo-collage screenprint made up of various prints of Marilyn Monroe which she marked herself (with X's, check marks and comments.) These are good works, especially the latter piece but I doubt Hamilton will ever be as important as Warhol, Oldenburg or Lichtenstein.

The exhibit runs until April 3 at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia.

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CHEESECAKE ON REQUEST

This cheesecake is so easy you'll almost be embarrassed to give in to the many requests you'll get for this recipe.

Preparation time: 15 minutes
Cooking time: 20 to 30 minutes

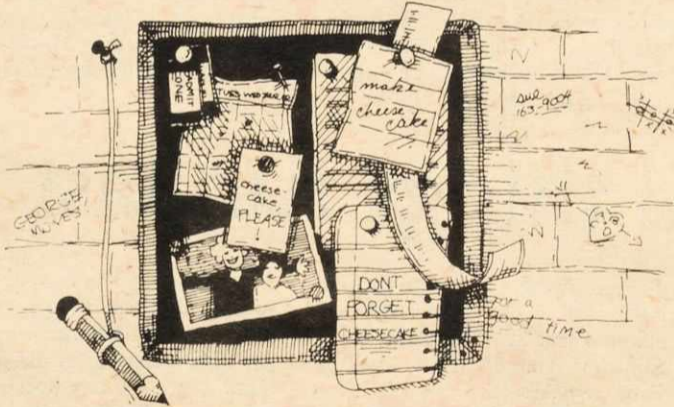
Preheat oven to 350°F (180°C).

Melt in a small pot over medium heat:
1/3 cup (80 mL) butter or margarine

Combine in a small bowl:
1 1/2 cups (375 mL) graham wafer crumbs
1/4 cup (60 mL) icing sugar
melted butter or margarine
Press mixture into bottom of a pie pan. Set aside.

Beat until fluffy in a large bowl:
1 lb. (0.5 kg) cream cheese, at room temperature
2 eggs
1 tsp. (5 mL) vanilla extract
Pour over crumb mixture.
Bake for 25 to 30 minutes.

Cool and serve.



Don't Start Without:
large bowl
pie pan
small bowl
small pot
large spoon
measuring cup
measuring spoons

Helpful Hints:
• If the cheese is not at room temperature, leave it on the counter for a while. Hard cheese won't combine with other ingredients smoothly.
• Cake is done when center doesn't jiggle.

Serving Ideas:
• Can be served plain or garnished with fresh fruit (on top).
• Any beverage, hot or cold, will complement cheesecake.

Recipe extracted from **FOOD 101: A STUDENT GUIDE TO QUICK AND EASY COOKING** by Cathy Smith, available at your bookstore or from The Canadian Student Book Club, 46 Harbord St, Toronto Ontario M5S 1G2 for only \$7.95

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