

Pratt exhibit initiates corporate sponsorship in BC gallery

A new program of corporate sponsorship for exhibitions began at the Vancouver Art Gallery in British Columbia with the major retrospective of paintings, water colours, drawings and prints by one of Canada's leading contemporary artists, Christopher Pratt.

Bonar Lund, president of the Vancouver Art Gallery Association said that the exhibition, *Christopher Pratt: A Retrospective*, was organized with "generous support" from the Continental Bank of Canada and the gallery's collaboration with the bank "is a first step in developing our program of corporate sponsorship for exhibitions".

Jeffrey Smyth, a vice-president with the Continental Bank said the bank was "proud to play a part in bringing the much-awaited retrospective of this senior Canadian artist to fruition".



From left: Continental Bank vice president John Jefferson, curators Joyce Zemans and Scott Watson, and Mary and Christopher Pratt at the successful opening of the Vancouver gallery's exhibition which inaugurated its corporate sponsorship program.

The Christopher Pratt retrospective opened on November 22 with a members' preview which was considered by many to be one of the most successful events held at the Vancouver Art Gallery since it opened in October 1983.

Major tour

The exhibition will be on view at the Vancouver gallery until January 26. It will then travel to the Art Gallery of Ontario in Toronto, February 20 - April 20; Memorial University Art Gallery, St. John's, Newfoundland, May 8 - June 22; and Dalhousie Art Gallery,

Halifax, Nova Scotia, July 10 - August 31.

Organized by the Vancouver Art Gallery and guest curator Joyce Zemans, the exhibition contains 150 of the artist's works from public and private collections across Canada. It is the first and most comprehensive examination of his work from early student days to the present.

The work of Christopher Pratt, who was born and still lives in Newfoundland, reflects his environment. He transforms familiar objects like boats, windows, doors, porches and rooms in a simple, powerful and comprehensive way.

His paintings are ideal rather than real, conceptual rather than perceptual and filled with subtle inner tensions. Each is a distillation of his experiences, encounters, thoughts and memories.

Laser surveys Arctic

Canada has become the first nation to develop a laser hydrographic survey system that will make surveying navigation routes in the Arctic easier and less costly than with conventional survey ships.

The laser survey system is called LARSEN after the captain of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police vessel *St. Roch* which made one of the first crossings of Canadian Arctic waters. It is the result of a decade of technological development in co-operation with the Canada Centre for Remote Sensing, and through contracts with Optech Limited of Toronto which developed the laser, Nortech Limited which developed the navigation system using the Global Positioning System (GPS) and Terra Surveys of Victoria, B.C., the company conducting the first survey with the system in the Arctic.

Easier access

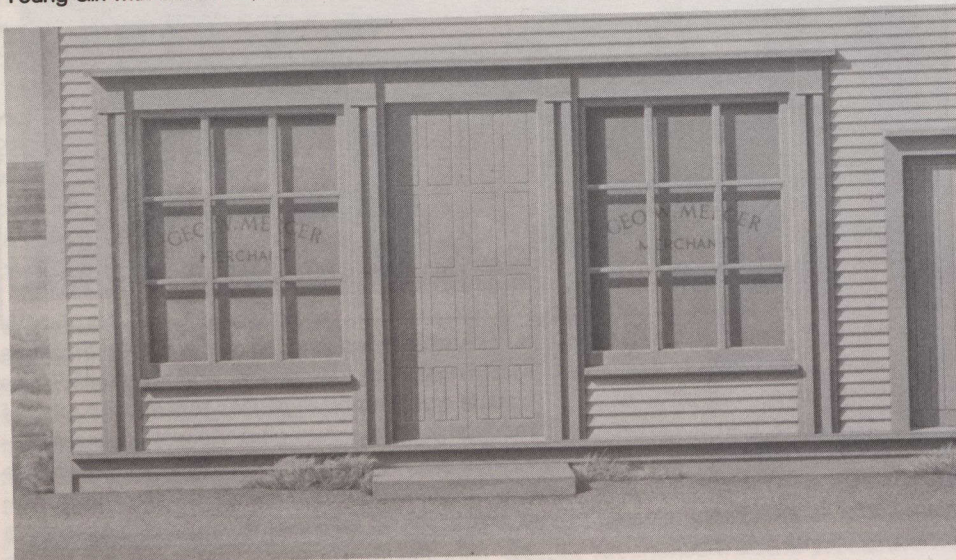
The LARSEN uses a rotating laser and operates from an aircraft flying at 500 metres. It can be deployed in areas of open water that are not easily accessible to conventional survey ships because of heavy ice cover en route to the surveys.

Surveyors with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and Terra Surveys are now in the Arctic undertaking a laser survey of the southern transportation passage of the central Arctic. As a result of this work, nautical charts will be produced that will ensure safer navigation for ships sailing the passage from either east or west.

The LARSEN is also being considered by a number of countries as a possible way of carrying out rapid accurate surveys of extensive shallow areas near their coasts.



Young Girl with Seashells, oil on board, 1965.



Shops on Sunday, oil on board, 1968.