

## Contrast in Canadian art

By NATALIE FOLSTER

Two new and vastly different exhibits opened at the Art Centre in the past two weeks. In the studio, a collection of photographs by Canadian Bruce Paton entitled "Grenada: a big revolution in a small country." documents the spirit of the revolution that changed the lives and outlook of the people on this tiny Caribbean island.

The photographs were taken in the early months of 1983, as the country celebrated the fourth and final anniversary of the overthrow of the despotic rule of Eric Gairy. In the late 1983, The United States invaded Grenada in an attempt to stave off communist influences in the area.

Paton's photographs are a record of this period of optimism and hope. This is not a travelogue of a beautiful Caribbean island meant to lure tourists to its shores. All the photos, with a few exceptions, are black and white. Their purpose is not art for arts sake, but as a means to illustrate to the viewer the mood of the tune as reflected in the eyes and actions of the subjects (for most of the photographs are portraits). These are pictures of a proud and industrious people in a bustling and energetic country— children at school, fishermen, craftsmen, shopkeepers, farmers and one intriguing shot of your typical, rather obese tourist on the beach.

Since the invasion of Grenada the progress made by the revolutionary government has in large part fallen off. Who knows what might have happened if the invasion had not taken place.

Paton's photographs remain, however, as an important documentation of the New Jewel Movement's short lived success; and as an important source of information for the outside world.

As Paton's photographs are filled with faces, Steven Dixon's watercolors and etchings currently hanging in The Gallery are devoid of them. Both exhibits deal with places, but in a completely different manner. Whereas Paton's work deals with the political nature of his subject, Dixon's artwork illustrates the emotional, sensual mood of an unnamed place. To compare them further is to stretch the imagination too far.

Dixon was born in Woodstock in 1960 and graduated from Mount Allison

University as a B.F.A in 1983, then from Queen's Educational University in 1985. For one so young in his career, Dixon seems to have mastered very well the technical usage of his media. He paints in the realistic style popular with the Canadian artists like Colville, McKay, Christopher Pratt and Dansky. But the strength of his work lies not in technical proficiency, but rather in the skill and sureness with which he interprets his subjects and conveys to the viewer a precise and almost tangible mood. This is accomplished through his dexterous use of light, shade and texture.

Dixon's small town roots are obvious from the intimate knowledge of the area present in his work. As he says "Careful observation is essential to my method of picture making. My work has always been contemplative, and I frequently hold an idea for a year or two before acting on it. I find this process of sorting im-

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Has university become boring? Well it does not have to be like that. This institution offers a wide variety of really interesting courses. The problem: not everyone knows about them. Case in point - the U.N.B. Faculty of English offers a couple of good acting classes. Excellent courses, but not the most well known on campus. Well, university doesn't have to be like this. This institution offers a wide variety of really interesting courses. The problem: not everyone knows about them. Case in point - the U.N.B. Faculty of English offers a couple of good acting classes. Excellent courses, but not the most well known on campus.

The first of the two is English 2140 - Introduction to Drama Production, being taught this year by Professor Ed Mullaly. The course offers an introduction to many aspects of live theatre, from acting and voice training to lights and makeup. The course allows students to gain some useful hands-on experience, and gives them the chance to tour local facilities and meet the professionals who run them. Students are required to use the knowledge gained in a practical setting, when members of the class stage a full-scale public performance. Professor Kent Thompson

ages has allowed me to choose with absolute conviction the ideas for my paintings, drawings and prints." This method has worked well for Dixon in his depictions of

various rural scenes. In them, he has successfully captured the special quality of the sunlight that in each piece makes the time of day, season and locale immediately iden-

tifiable, be it the heavy stillness of deep winter of the bright expansiveness of sea air. This perceptive talent of Dixon's make this and future exhibits worth a look.



## Are you bored?

teaches Advanced Drama Production (English 3150). Unlike English 2140, this course specializes more in the acting itself, as opposed to the technical side of theatre. Dr. Thompson teaches students to work in "environmental theatre", a type of acting based on the premise that any empty space is a stage, and any person entering it becomes an actor.

These classes have been responsible for some remarkable amateur productions in recent years. Last year saw students of English 2140 producing a wide variety of plays - three of the five plays in the Cellar Theatre Festival were class productions, two of which were written by the students themselves. In addition, they presented 'Lunacy' at the Arts Cabaret, a production of Ibsen's 'Hedda Gabler', a children's play at a local school, and a radio play on CHSR-FM.

This year there have been no public performances from either class, but this coming week sees the first work by students of English 3150. George F. Walker's 'The Art of War' is the tale of a newspaper reporter investigating a corrupt politician involved in a murder. Often humorous, the play is a commentary on the political and social structure of Canada. The play is directed by Dr. Thompson, with a cast taken almost entirely from the students of English 3150.

Though these courses do not claim to be able to turn a stu-

dent into a professional actor, they can teach students many things. Acting encourages self-confidence and the ability to speak in public, a skill useful in most professions.

either amateur or professional, should consider these courses.

Remember, the only way to ensure the success of theatrical training at U.N.B. is to support the courses now

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