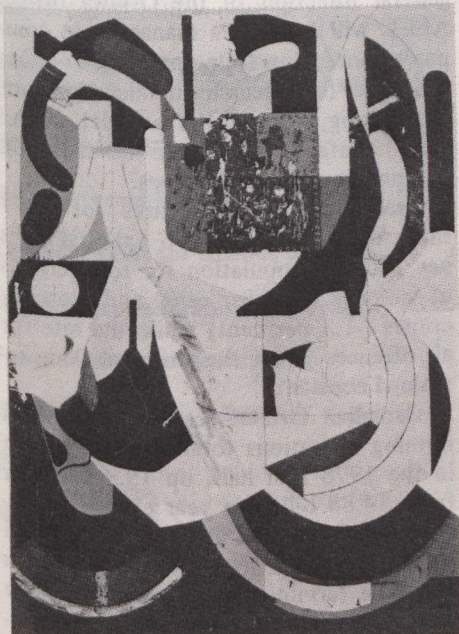


News of the arts

Dennis Burton exhibition

Charles Laughton once bought five paintings and five drawings by Toronto artist Dennis Burton in one afternoon. The late actor, who had been on a reading tour of Canada, then took slides home with him and sold 24 works to Los Angeles collectors.

Burton has often encountered such enthusiasm during a prolific and highly versatile career. In the *Dennis Burton Retrospective*, organized by the Robert McLaughlin Gallery and now touring Canada, major phases of the artist's development are represented in 43 drawings, paintings and collages dating from 1955. The exhibition at the Art Gallery of Ontario continues through September 3.



Bay-Yonge-Bloor (1963).

Dennis Reid of the National Gallery of Canada, speaking at the opening of the retrospective in Oshawa, Ontario last year, said that Burton had been on the "front lines" of Canadian art movements since the late Fifties. Reid referred to the artist's *Intimately Close-in* of 1958 as epitomizing "the massive pent-up force that Abstract Expressionism had become in Toronto at the end of that decade. Yet the witty directness of its lasciviousness is uniquely Burton".

Burton's famous Garterbeltmania Series is, according to Reid, "like a gargantuan slice through that massive heap of sexual preconceptions that our culture had accumulated by the mid-



Mothers and Daughters (1966).

Sixties". *Mother, Earth, Love* (1965) is one of many selections from this series in the exhibition.

Other important works shown include *Jeruvia* (1965), the artist's first abstraction; *Seeaph* (1971), one of many calligraphic drawings done in the early Seventies; and *Nastaliq Automatique*

(1976), which marks a return to abstraction.

By the time Burton was 35, his work had been seen in over 20 one-man exhibition across Canada and the United States. He has been involved in more than 50 group exhibitions, including five at the Art Gallery of Ontario.

More awards for NFB

The National Film Board of Canada captured eight awards at this year's American Film Festival in New York. Blue Ribbon award-winners were: Oscar-winning animation film, *The Sand Castle*, directed by Co Hoedeman (Language Arts category); Oscar nominee, *The Bead Game*, directed by Ishu Patel (Visual Essays); *Canaries to Clydesdales*, a documentary on two British Columbia veterinarians, directed by Eugene Boyko (Career Guidance); *Great Grand Mother*, a story of the women who settled the prairies, directed by Anne Wheeler (Anthropology and Ethnography), and *The Walls Come Tumbling Down*, directed by Michael Rubbo, Pierre Lasry and William Weintraub.

Jeanette Lerman's *Enemy Alien*, a documentary on Japanese internment in Canada during the Second World War (History and Archaeology); Donald Brittain's *Henry Ford's America* (Features — History and Economics), and Jacques Drouin's *Mindscape*, an animated phantasy (Visual Essays), all won Red Ribbon awards.

The Canada Council has distributed more than 123,000 Canadian books worth \$700,000 in its book purchase and donation program for 1977-78. Among the recipients are libraries in rural communities, community groups, senior citizens' clubs, hospitals, prisons, drop-in centres and schools in remote areas.