

See Appel's Appels

by Dan O'Connor

Ernest Smith, the Director of the Dalhousie Art Gallery, has said that the Appel show is the most important the Gallery has had to date. "Rodin is dead, while this man is only in his 50's."

Although the GAZETTE was unable to send a qualified art critic to see Appel's Appels, the

importance of the show is apparent to anyone who bothers to spend even a few minutes in the Gallery.

The show consists of seventy-seven paintings, murals, reliefs, and sculptures chosen by Karel Appel especially for the tour of Canada. They range in time from 1946 to 1972. Several reliefs and a painting

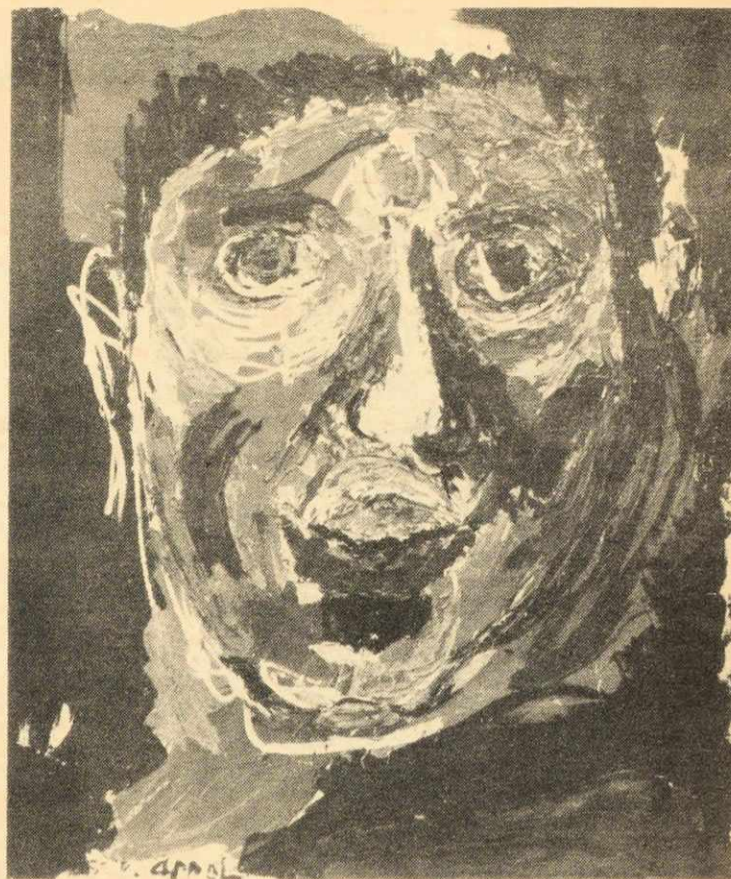
were created for this retrospective.

Karel Appel is an Amsterdammer who first achieved prominence when his 1949 mural, Questioning children, was covered by an order of City Council. It was in the Canteen of Amsterdam Town Hall, and is currently part of the Canadian tour.

The works all share a vividness and an immense sense of liveliness. A few appear child-like. Appel responds that, "People say very often when they see paintings of mine, 'Look, man, my little girl of three years can do the same thing.' And I say, 'Yes, that's true, but the only thing is, I do and she doesn't.'"

Of course, the work is often quite sophisticated, and worthy of a long look. Its excellence is an eyeopener for those unfamiliar with expressionist painting. The view from the stair landing immediately above the Gallery entrance is perfect for appreciating the total effect of the work in sight.

Anyone with a half-hour to



Dizzy Gillespie, 1957 (from Martha Jackson collection)



Karel Appel

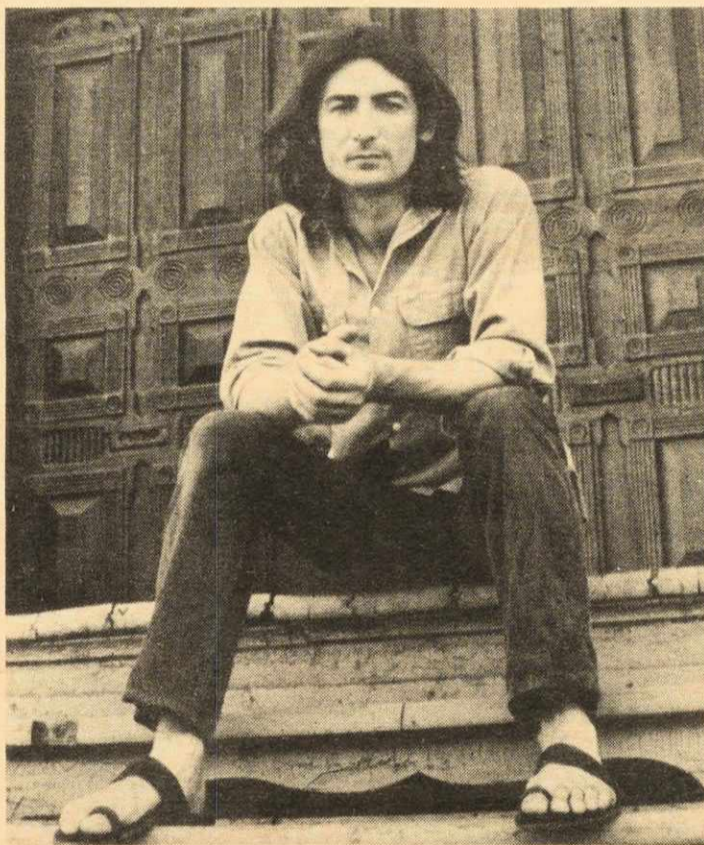
spend can spend it well in the Dal Gallery. Appel's Appels will be there until April 1, every afternoon and evening.

GREAT
FOR YOUR
HEAD



WRANGLER
JEANS

Chris Kearney — roll n' roller



Christopher Kearney

Although generally known as a singer-songwriter or a folk-artist, Chris Kearney prefers to be called a rock n' roller. This would appear to be true just from looking at the band he plays with: Bill King of Homesstead and Janis Joplin's Kosmic Blues on keyboards, Terry Clark on drums, Josh Onderisin on guitar, James Roleston on bass.

Kearney writes the standard material of Youth. Country Lady and Raggety Ann are celebrations of lovers he has known. A Taste of Snow relates the effects of sniffing cocaine. However, the strength of his songs lies in their simplicity and, despite their subject matter, their inherent good taste.

After just one album (Christopher Kearney — Capitol) and a nine-month career, Chris ranks with seasoned stalwarts such as Bruce Cockburn and Murray McLachlan. Kearney will be at Dalhousie on March 22 and 23.

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