

News of the arts

Theatre used to report police story

Two Quebec City reporters have turned to theatre in an attempt to "report" a story from a different perspective.

Guy Dubé of the daily *Le Soleil* and Frank Fontaine of CFTM-TV, both covering police and court beats, had thought separately for some time about how to get around the limitations of daily journalism.

"I was thinking of a novel and Frank wanted to write a play," says Mr. Dubé. "He finally persuaded me."

Their play, *L'Enquête (The Inquest)*, opened at the Bois de Coulonge summer theatre.

The action unfolds around a coroner's inquest into the death of a young man found hanged in police cells. It recalls a recent Quebec City case that gained notoriety, but the authors emphasize that the play is fictional.

Mr. Dubé had no theatre experience, but Mr. Fontaine is a graduate of London's Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts. Dubé is happy that Fontaine convinced him to collaborate on a play.

"It's the ideal medium," he says. "There are many dimensions you can't get into a novel."

The two men wrote their first draft in three days with great enjoyment, Mr. Dubé recalls.

"We wrote what we thought, with the pleasure that comes from the freedom to make things up. We let everything out."

The two men, while continuing to work as journalists, are already considering other subjects for other plays.

Book designer honoured

Daniel Fowler of Amherst Island 1810-1894, a book designed by Peter Dorn, director of graphic design at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, has been chosen as one of the best North American books of 1979 by the American Institute of Graphic Arts (AIGA) in New York.

Dorn's design was one of 100 books selected from over 800 entries from both the United States and Canada. It was part of the AIGA show which recently opened in New York. No award for best-of-show was given, but all designers whose work was chosen for exhibition received Certificates of Excellence from the AIGA.

Canadian art tours Europe

The Art Gallery of Ontario has sent a show of works by major contemporary Canadian artists on tour in Europe during 1980-81. The exhibition *Ten Canadian Artists in the 1970s* was previewed at the gallery from September 6 through October 19, before it began a tour of art centres in Denmark, Germany, Luxembourg and Belgium.

Fifty-seven works produced or conceived in the 1970s by Iain Baxter/N.E. THING CO., Jack Bush, Peterson Ewen, Murray Favro, Garry Neill Kennedy, Ron Martin, Guido Molinari, David Rabinowitch, Royden Rabinowitch and Michael Snow comprise the exhibition.

The gallery's chief curator Roald Nasgaard, organized the exhibit to arouse broader awareness of the achievements of Canadian artists. Dr. Nasgaard said he chose to present a group show, composed of individuals, which was large enough to indicate the variety and richness of artistic production in Canada, but small enough to include a substantial body of work by each artist.



A partial view of the work *Ocean Currents*, by Paterson Ewen.

Works shown are on loan from the collections of the Art Gallery of Ontario, the National Gallery of Canada, and Canada Council Art Bank and from the artists themselves. Some works have been produced especially for the exhibition, such as drawings by David and Royden Rabinowitch and a new summary piece by Garry

Kennedy.

Some of the artists shown are already known to European viewers. "The exhibition opens with Jack Bush," says Dr. Nasgaard, "whose inclusion was of special interest to European participants. Despite his death in 1977, he has continued to be a central figure in Canadian art and one of the rare Canadian artists to gain a major international reputation. The unique achievement of Montreal painting is represented by the most recent work of Guido Molinari. Michael Snow and Iain Baxter are also artists who made significant and international impact before the 1970s and who continue to produce original and innovative art."

Art purchase program planned

A major program designed to foster the purchase of art and exhibitions will begin early next year in Ontario.

The program, entitled *Future Traditions: Ontario '81*, will have a budget of \$162,500, to which the Allstate Foundation has pledged \$95,000 and Wintario has given \$67,500.

The main aims of the project are to present throughout the province major works by leading Ontario artists, and to offer Ontario public galleries an opportunity to acquire the major works of these artists.

Art Gallery of Hamilton director Glen Cumming, who organized *Future Traditions* in co-operation with eight Ontario gallery curators and the Toronto firm of Art and Communications Counselors, said that works on canvas and paper by 25 Ontario artists will be exhibited. The show will open in Hamilton in January 1981, then tour Ontario for the next two years.

Gallery consortium

The nine galleries in the consortium will be granted \$6,000 each to buy works from the exhibition for their permanent collections. Financing also will be provided for a conference by Visual Arts Ontario on the future of art, and for publicizing and documenting the exhibition. Consortium members will choose the works to be shown.

Future Traditions will be shown at galleries in Oshawa, London, Windsor, Stratford, Kitchener, Kingston, St. Catharines, Sudbury and Toronto, at no cost to participating galleries.