

# News of the arts

## The landscapes of William Brymner

The works of painter William Brymner were recently featured in an exhibition at the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa. The exhibition entitled *William Brymner 1855-1925: The Artist in Retrospect* brought together 80 works including sketchbooks and books illustrated by this early master of Canadian painting.

Brymner, born in Scotland in 1855, came to Canada with his family in 1857. From 1878, he travelled extensively in Canada, Belgium, the Netherlands, France, Italy and England, studying art and painting. *A Wreath of Flowers*, painted at Runswick, England is an example of his earlier narrative works in the Victorian tradition.

As a landscape painter, William Brymner painted directly from nature: He said, "the artist must get as near to nature as possible, be inspired by her at first hand...." His murals of harvesting scenes on the Island of Orléans, done in 1899 and 1900, were inspired by the landscape of the lower St. Lawrence River valley. He continued to employ a limited palette, his colours showing the influence of Puvis de Chavannes. But, by this time, the tight brushstroke of his earlier period had softened. Some of his landscape paintings, done in his studio at



William Brymner, *A Wreath of Flowers*, oil on canvas, 1884.

St. Eustache near Montreal in 1905, demonstrate a new confidence with freer, broader brushstrokes and stronger colours.

Before its presentation at the National Gallery of Canada, *William Brymner*

*1855-1925: The Artist in Retrospect* was shown at the Agnes Etherington Art Centre in Kingston. It will also travel to the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts and the Musée du Québec, Quebec City.

## International festival in Montreal features sixty-five films

Sixty-five films will be featured at the third annual World Film Festival in Montreal, August 30 to September 9.

During the 11-day event, 20 new feature-length films in the official competition will compete for the Grand Prix of the Americas, best actor and actress awards and two jury prizes.

In addition, the festival will present categories of Latin American, Italian and Canadian films, and recent television masterpieces.

The festival will also feature a tribute to Quebec film-maker Claude Jutra, known worldwide for such acclaimed films as *Mon Oncle Antoine* and *Kamouraska*. Also honoured will be American playwright Arthur Miller and Leo Jaffe, chairman of Columbia Pictures.

Mr. Miller will be present for a screening of Canadian film-maker Harry Rasky's Canadian Broadcasting Corporation television program about his life entitled

### *Arthur Miller on Home Ground.*

China will be represented by two movies in the out-of-competition section, marking the first time pictures from that country have been shown in a western film festival. The films are *The Great Flowing River* and a documentary *The Potola Palace*.

Films for the official competition include: *L'Arrache Coeur* by Quebec director Mireille Dansereau; *Le soleil en face* by French director Pierre Kast: a Netherlands/U.S. co-production entitled *Twice a Woman*, directed by George Sluizer; and the Soviet feature *Five Evenings*, directed by Nikita Mikhalkov.

Festival screenings will be held at a five-theatre cinema complex with gala opening and closing ceremonies at Place des Arts.

Some 5,000 film professionals and journalists are expected to attend the festival and concurrent film market.

## NFB to distribute NATO films

NATO has given Canadian distribution rights for its films to the National Film Board (NFB).

Three NATO films now are available, in English and French, from NFB offices across Canada, with a fourth new production due for release in September. It is the start of an on-going thematic library of films about NATO which the NFB is making available, free of charge, for non-theatrical community use.

The collection, underway with the support of External Affairs and the Department of National Defence, now consists of: *Borealis* a 26-minute film, about the NATO system of collective security to ensure the defence of Norway, Denmark and the Schleswig-Holstein area of Germany; *Nato Today* concerning the history, structure and purpose of the NATO alliance; and *The Great Highway* about the dependence of NATO nations on the freedom of the seas for survival.