

# Chinese treasures in Montreal

*China: Treasures and Splendours*, described by Ambassador Yu Zhan of the People's Republic of China as the greatest collection of artifacts ever to leave his homeland, is having an exclusive showing in Montreal from May 18 to October 19.



Incense burner in gilded bronze and turquoise.

The exhibition, which spans 7 000 years of Chinese history from the neolithic period to the Ming and Qing dynasties, includes 200 items from some 26 Chinese museums and institutions. Most of the items are on display in Canada for the first time and about half have never been seen outside China before.

Among the treasures are five life-size warriors and two horses in terra cotta excavated from the tomb of China's first emperor, Qin Shihuangdi, the shroud of a Han dynasty princess fashioned of 2 000 jade plates joined with gold thread, as well as bronzes, gold, silver and tricolour porcelains, sculpture, paintings, silk scrolls, weapons and costumes. Two valuable objects on display for the first time in North America are a lacquer from the Song period and a celebrated scroll, Qing

Ming Shanghe, depicting a large city and its many activities. All the objects are recognized as precious and most of them are valued "A", the highest and most precious category, by the People's Republic of China.

The exhibition was conceived by Montreal's Mayor Jean Drapeau in talks with Ambassador Yu Zhan and Liu Min, former Chinese chargé d'affaires. During an official visit to the People's Republic of China in May 1985, Mayor Drapeau won approval for the project in talks with Li Deyou, vice-minister of culture.

Mayor Drapeau was also responsible with Egypt for arranging the exhibition *Ramses II and his Time*, a collection of objects never before seen in North America. After opening in Montreal, where it attracted almost three-quarters of a million



Baluster ceramic vase, *meiping*, from Yuan dynasty.

visitors — the largest attendance of any art exhibition in Montreal's history — it is now on display at EXPO 86 in Vancouver■

## Recent French art in Vancouver

*Luxe, Calme et Volupté: Aspects of French Art 1966-1986*, on view at the Vancouver Art Gallery from July 8 to October 13, is one of the most ambitious exhibitions of contemporary art ever sent abroad by France. It comprises 70 paintings, drawings, mixed media works and constructions, most of which were produced within the past five years, by eight of France's leading artists.

In the catalogue essay, Bernard Marcadé points out that the artists — Daniel Buren, Robert Combas, Robert Filliou, Gérard Garouste, Pierre Klossowski, Jean Le Gac, Annette Messager and Martial Raysse — do not constitute a school or movement but "they manifest, in terms of their respective singularity, some perspectives on French art during the past 20 years".



Artist Daniel Buren (left) with Minister of Transport Jacques Douffiagues at opening.

The exhibition was organized by the Vancouver Art Gallery and the Association Française d'Action Artistique on the occasion of EXPO 86. The works are on loan from private and public collections in France, Italy and Belgium■