

News of the arts

Quebec City featured in exhibit

Fifty-six watercolours and drawings from the collection of the National Gallery of Canada provide a vivid portrayal of Quebec City.

Organized in conjunction with the four-hundred-and-fiftieth anniversary of Jacques Cartier's discovery of Canada, *The Gateway of Canada: A Visit to Quebec City* illustrates the charms, landscapes and major architectural landmarks of that provincial capital. Artists from across the country have responded creatively to Quebec's quaint streets and dramatic history: the selection of watercolours and drawings by Canadian artists spans almost 150 years and includes such artists as W.H. Bartlett and A.Y. Jackson.

The earliest work, produced by James Peachy in 1781, shows Cape Torment and the Isle of Orleans. A mature A.Y. Jackson sketched a series of drawings of Quebec in 1934. Seven of his latest works are included which show his fascination with the city's snow-covered streets and rooftops.

The watercolours and drawings range from a two-metre panoramic view of the Basin of Quebec painted by Charles Ramus Forrest in 1823 to a fine series of small watercolours by an anonymous artist, dated 1818.

Horatio Walker, James Pattison Cockburn, Lucius O'Brien, Arthur Lismer and

many other Canadian artists have walked the plains and peaks of Quebec's surrounding area. They have often captured the city's majesty and beauty from high vantage points or from across the St. Lawrence River. "The works of art selected for the exhibition offer views of Quebec City from different points of perspective," says Rosemarie Tovell, associate curator of Canadian prints and drawings at the gallery and organizer of the exhibit. "It also emphasizes how little the city has changed."

Canadian sings Carmen

Canadian mezzo-soprano Katharina Megli, former member of the Canadian Opera Company, made her New York debut April 5 as one of the Carmens singing the title role in Peter Brook's *La tragédie de Carmen* at the Vivian Beaumont Theatre.

This unusual adaption of the opera *Carmen*, using four singers and two actors, was first created by Peter Brook in Paris and opened in New York last November. It runs for 90 minutes and since no singer could perform the demanding roles seven or eight times a week, there are five Carmens and several Don Joses sharing the duties.

Three of the Carmens recently left for other assignments. Miss Megli, a native of Edmonton, was selected in Toronto during recent auditions by producer Bernard Lefort. The show first was performed in French in Paris and now is done in French and English. Miss Megli sings the role in both languages.

Katharina Megli first appeared with the Canadian Opera Company Ensemble in 1981 in the role of *Carmen* and in the recent winter season, she sang Zozo in *The Merry Widow* and Mercedes in *Carmen*.

Best mystery of the year

Canadian author Eric Wright, author of *The Night the Gods Smiled*, has been named winner of the John Creasy memorial award for the best first mystery of the year by the Crime Writers Association of Britain.

Eric Wright, 55, an English teacher at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute in Toronto, also was a co-winner this year of the City of Toronto book award, for works of literary excellence evocative of Toronto.

Canada-Switzerland literary prize

Canadian writer Marie José Thériault has won the Canada-Switzerland literary prize for *Invariance suivi de Célébration du Prince*, a long poem published in 1982 by Editions du Noroît. The prize will be presented in Switzerland this spring.

The Canada-Switzerland prize, established jointly by the Canada Council and the Foundation Pro Helvetia of Switzerland, provides \$2 500 in alternate years to a Swiss or Canadian writer for a work published in French during the preceding eight years.



Marie José Thériault

Born in Montreal in 1945, Marie José Thériault has published five collections of poetry and two of short stories since 1972. In the course of her career in publishing, she has written for several periodicals and literary reviews.

In her long poem in two parts, Marie José Thériault creates a poetic universe where tenderness and passion merge in an outpouring of words and images.

The juries for the Canada-Switzerland prize choose a different literary genre each year — the novel, poetry, drama, or non-fiction.

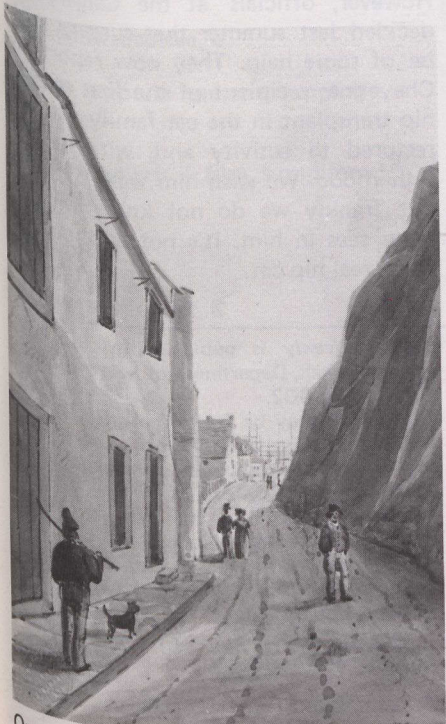
Hong Kong gallery hosts Canadian photographic works

An exhibition entitled *Unconventional Photographic Images by Canadian Artists* will open at the Alvin Gallery in Hong Kong May 16 to June 6 in conjunction with the Canadian Trade Exposition being held May 17 to 20.

Very little of the exhibition is photography in the sense of a traditional snapshot. Each of the eight artists uses the camera or other photographic tool with another medium to build a series of images. It may also relate to the written word.

Pierre Ayott from Montreal combines the projected slide image with photo-silkscreen and objects he has found to create his exhibit. David Joyce uses life-size photocopy images of figures in "flattened" versions of typical themes, while Bill Vasan uses a series of photographs to communicate a larger picture.

National Gallery of Canada



Quebec, watercolour and graphite by James Pattison (1778-1847).