

News of the arts

Exhibition of Quebec art on tour in Canada

Modernism in Quebec Art, 1916-1946, an exhibition held recently at the National Gallery in Ottawa is currently on tour to a number of Canadian cities.

The exhibition, which was organized by the research curator of Canadian art at the Gallery Jean-René Ostiguy, constitutes an original approach to the concept of modernism in Quebec art during the first half of the twentieth century.

According to Mr. Ostiguy, art historians have traditionally interpreted and explained Quebec art in relation to an event of exceptional importance with no reference to Quebec's own situation.

"The present exhibition is an attempt to balance the traditional view of the evolution of Quebec art between 1916 and 1946 by analyzing the influence of the major European movements in art on Quebec artists during that time," said Mr. Ostiguy. French art especially was important to the development of Quebec art as artists in Quebec adapted the various ideas and techniques prevalent in France.

The exhibition comprises 116 works of varying techniques including paintings, sculptures, etchings and drawings, as well as examples of the decorative arts ranging from sketches for murals, tapestries and stained-glass windows to jewels and illustrated books.

The years between 1916 and 1946 were selected for the exhibition in an attempt to serve the over-all history of Quebec art. The year 1916 was chosen as



Still Life, oil on canvas done by Albert Dumouchel, 1946.

the starting point for twentieth-century modernism as a result of unusual events French-language circles at that time. Among these were the exhibitions at the Saint-Sulpice Library in Montreal and the creation of the Society of Quebec Artists in Quebec City. The selection of 1946 as a cut-off date was dictated by the beginning of a split in the Contemporary Art Society and by the first stirrings of movements that would lead Alfred Pellan and Paul-Emile Borduas to the drafting of their respective manifestos in 1948, *Prismes d'Yeux* and *Refus Global*.

Retracing the development of pictorial



Paysage, painted by Rodolphe Duguay, 1931, oil on canvas.

trends prevalent in Quebec over the 30-year period, the exhibition emphasizes the links between them through their resemblances and the collective effect of the works. The exhibition brings together by means of the aesthetic perspective adopted, artists who had been separated by purely historical circumstances. Hence, the Fauvist and Cézannesque canvases of Adrien Hébert, Madeleine Laliberté and Suzanne Duquet find a place next to the works of John Lyman, Jori Smith or Louis Muhlstock, and a post-impressionist, Fauvist, cubist or surrealist painting by Paul-Emile Borduas may be displayed near those of various artists whose points of view coincided only partly or fleetingly with his own.

The exhibition is currently at the Art Gallery in Windsor, Ontario from where it will travel to the Musée d'art contemporain in Montreal, the Rodman Hall Art Centre, in St. Catharines, Ontario and finally the Musée du Québec in Quebec City. A catalogue with 130 black-and-white and seven colour illustrations is available.

Canadian films take top awards

Canadian productions in New York recently took a number of top prizes at the annual American Film Festival, the largest United States festival for documentary and short films.

The event is sponsored by the Educational Film Library Association, which serves universities, libraries, schools, corporations, government agencies and research organizations across North America.

The winners in 75 categories were chosen from among 1 100 film entries from the United States and Canada, said festival director Nadine Covert.

CBC-TV, with six awards, and the National Film Board (NFB) with four, won most of the Canadian awards productions. CTV, TVOntario and several independent companies were also singled out for first-place blue ribbons or second-place red ribbons at the festival.

The Canadian showing was "impressive" said Covert, adding it was difficult to determine the exact number of Canadian productions that won because not all entries were listed by country of origin.

Jane Gutteridge, NFB United States marketing representative, said first- and second-prize winners will make an 18-month tour of association members throughout North America.

National Gallery of Canada photos