

# News of the arts

## Art museum opens fall season

The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts opened its fall season September 12 with a major exhibition of recent works by contemporary Canadian artist Irene Whittome.

Entitled *Irene Whittome 1975-1980*, the exhibition, which will run until October 26, is divided into four sections: *Le musée blanc*, *Vancouver*, *Paperworks* and *La salle de classe*.

*Le musée blanc* explores the relationship between time and space. As a place for conserving things, the museum becomes a metaphor for memory and the objects on display capture and imprison time.

In the next exhibition section, *Paperworks*, the theme of time and space recurs, but here time is rhythmic, repetitive in the application of successive layers of material, noted by number and even implied as musical time, when the artist uses paper from a player-piano roll.

In *Vancouver*, the artist worked with commercial wax on plates of laminated cardboard resulting in a metaphoric construction of a city open to the sea — an organic, physical, accessible reality situated on the earth in front of the water.

*La salle de classe* evokes the atmosphere of a school room; by form and colour, as well as setting, the elements involved become a meditative reconstruction of images around the viewer. The artist highlights the interior processes by which education is transformed into art, into

living culture.

Born in Vancouver in 1942, Irene Whittome studied at the Vancouver School of Fine Arts between 1959 and 1963 along with other Canadian artists such as Jack Shadbolt, Roy Kiyooka and Bruce Boyd.

She left Vancouver in 1963 to spend five years in Paris. Besides studying printmaking at the Hayter Studio in Paris, Ms. Whittome participated in numerous group exhibitions. In 1968, she moved to Montreal to begin teaching drawing and printmaking at Sir George Williams University; Ms. Whittome holds an associate professorship at the university, now called Concordia.

## CBC program wins prize

A Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) program — *Toller Cranston, Dreamweaver* — recently won first prize at the Montreux Television Festival in Switzerland for the best variety show of 1980.

The show was produced by J. Edward Shaw and Charles Weir and directed by Shaw.

The win at Montreux was the second in a row for CBC after last year's top prize for *Rich Little's Christmas Carol*. Shaw was commended highly by judges at the 42-nation festival for his work in producing and directing the show.

*Toller Cranston, Dreamweaver*, spotlights the Canadian figure-skating champion in a fantasy program.

## TV hit made into movie

*The Plouffe Family*, considered a Canadian classic, is being made into a five-hour feature film.

The film, which began shooting recently in Montreal, is based on the 1948 novel by Roger Lemelin depicting a typical Quebec family. In the 1950s, the novel was written for television and became popular on both the English and French networks of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC).

The \$5-million film, which is being produced by ICC-International Cinema Corporation of Montreal in association with Radio-Canada, the French network of the CBC, will be released in the spring of 1981 in both five-hour and two-hour versions.

Adapted for the screen by author Lemelin, the movie is being shot in Quebec City and Montreal over a 12-week period and is being directed by Gilles Carle.

The story is set in Quebec City. It starts on the eve of the Second World War and follows the family's fortunes into the turbulent war years.

The original novel traces the joys, sorrows and problems of one family and recounts the historic and social events which shaped Quebec — conscription, the overpowering presence of the Church and nationalism.

The cast of Québécois and French actors features Emile Genest, Juliette Huot, Denise Filiatrault, Gabriel Arcand, Pierre Curzi, Serge Dupire, Stéphane Audran, Daniel Ceccaldi, Paul Berval, Louise Laparé, Rémi Laurent, Anne Létourneau, Donald Pilon and Gérard Poirier.

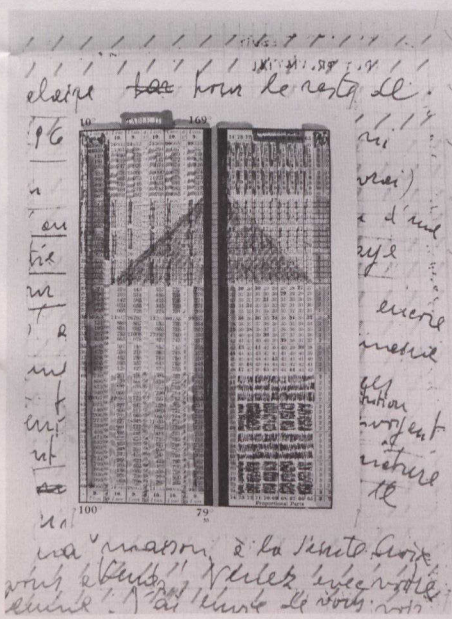
Executive producers are Denis Héroux and John Kemeny, with Justine Héroux as producer. Original music will be composed by Stéphane Venne, who has written scores for films and over 350 songs.

*The Plouffe Family* is being produced with the participation of the Canadian Film Development Corporation, Famous Players Incorporated and l'Institut québécois du cinéma.

## Arts briefs

*Human Remains*, a play by Canadian author Larry Fineberg, has been optioned for the screen by Brian Kellmen, an award-winning director of documentaries and many specials. Fineberg, who won the Chalmers Award (Best Canadian Play) for *Eve* in 1976, is writing the screenplay for the film. *Human Remains* is a comedy about growing up, and resolves around two men and a woman and their memories of their parents.

**Pauline McGibbon**, former Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, has been appointed chairman of the board of trustees of the National Arts Centre, effective October 1. Mrs. McGibbon was the co-chairman of du Maurier Council for Performing Arts; first woman chairman of the Board of Governors, National Theatre School 1966-69; past president Dominion Drama Festival; first woman president, Canadian Conference of the Arts 1972-73; past chairman, Ontario Theatre Study.



Floating Log from *Paperworks*.