

Country music entertainer of the year

Ronnie Prophet won the 1984 entertainer-of-the-year award presented by the Academy of Country Music Entertainment in Moncton, New Brunswick on September 9.

The 800-member academy voted Ronnie Prophet its top award over the Family Brown, who have won the award for the past three years, Marie Bottrell, Dick Damron and Terry Sumsion. Ronnie Prophet and his

singing partner, Glory-Anne Carriere, also won duo-of-the-year honours.

The Family Brown continued its winning ways in the group category taking the award for the ninth consecutive year. They also won album-of-the-year honours for *Repeat After Me*.

For the second straight year, Marie Bottrell captured the female vocalist crown

while Terry Carisse, regained his title as male vocalist.

Dick Damron's beautiful gospel ballad, *Jesus It's Me Again*, was awarded song of the year and Anne Murray's international hit, *A Little Good News*, was voted single of the year. The international top-selling album award went to Kenny Rogers's *Eyes That See in the Dark*.

Roni Sommers, who in the last couple of years has made considerable impact on the country scene, was honoured by her peers with the rising star award over competition from Johnny Comfort, Joan Kennedy, Bobby McGee and Debbie Bechamp.

The C.F. Martin guitar award went to Joe Brown for his contribution over the years to the development of country music in Canada.

The Academy board of directors inducted Orval Prophet, Wilf Carter, Tommy Hunter and Harold Moon into its Hall of Fame.

Exhibition portrays contemporary life in Toronto

A major survey of current painting in Toronto reflecting the quality of life there in the 1980s, has been mounted at the city's Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO).

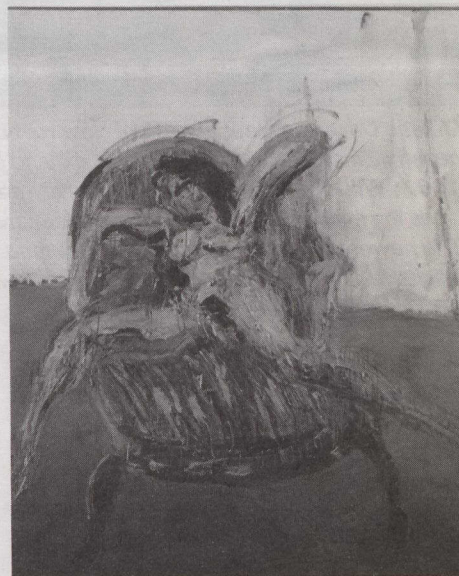
The exhibition, *Toronto Painting '84*, which concentrates on paintings made within the past two years captures the vitality and diversity of the city. It comprises the work of 32 artists now working in Toronto, who are at various stages of their careers.

While many Canadian artists have gained international reputations, they have been assessed individually and rarely considered as integrated to a national or regional experience. This exhibition attempts to consider Toronto painting from the local and the international context.

Artists range from the celebrated — Joyce Wieland, Gordon Rayner, Graham Coughtry, Harold Klunder, Ron Martin — to the dynamic innovators, including Brian Burnett, Sandra Meigs, Doug Kirton, Rae Johnson, Renee Van Halm, Catharine MacTavish.

The 78 paintings in the exhibition cover the wide variety of styles and approaches — both figurative and abstract — employed by the artists.

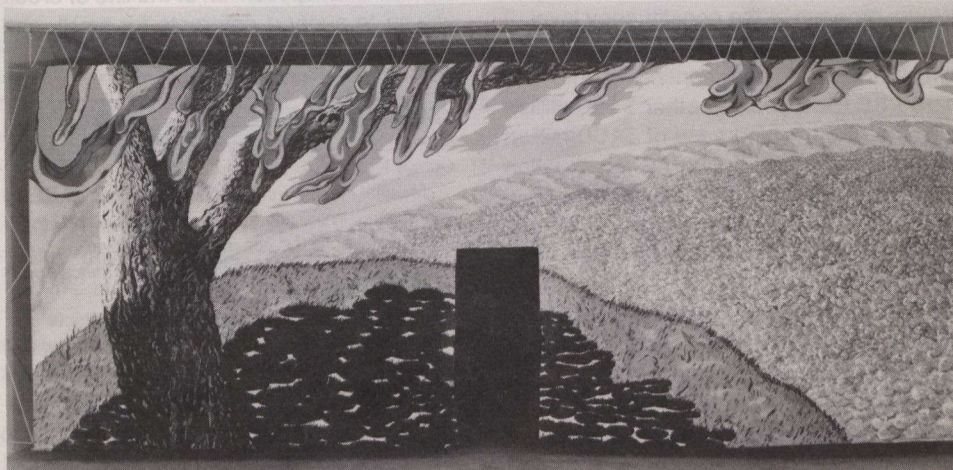
The exhibition was organized by the AGO's curator of contemporary art, David



Graham Coughtry, *Odalisque*, oil on canvas, 1983.

Burnett and financially assisted by the Wood Gundy investment firm.

Upon completion of its showing at the AGO on October 28, *Toronto Painting '84* will travel to St. Catharines, Windsor, Stratford, Edmonton, Calgary, Winnipeg and Fredericton.



Sandra Meigs, *The Scab Picker*, acrylic on Belgian linen and acrylic on cotton canvas.

Win-an-Author contest

Canadian children in two communities will have a unique opportunity to meet and work with a prominent Canadian author and illustrator during this year's Children's Book Festival from November 17 to 24.

The Children's Book Centre, organizers of the annual festival, have announced a special "Win-an-Author-or-Illustrator" contest which is open to any Canadian school, library or community centre in Canada. It is being funded by the federal Multiculturalism Directorate.

Applicants in the contest must submit a detailed description of a program designed to increase understanding of Canada's unique cultural heritage, through making use of an author or illustrator for a week in the school, library or community at large.

The two "prizes" in the contest are Barbara Smucker, author of *Underground to Canada*, *Days of Terror* and *Amish Adventure*, and Ian Wallace, author-illustrator of *Chin Chiang and the Dragon's Dance* and *The Sandwich*.

Kathy Lowinger, executive director of the Children's Book Centre, said the contest would emphasize the multicultural presence in Canada. "We want to draw attention to the special role books play in preserving our rich heritage and in promoting mutual understanding," she said. "For the winners there will also be the great excitement of learning at close hand about the creative processes of writing and illustrating."

Adjudication is being done by the Children's Book Centre, a prominent educator and the two visiting authors.