



# The U.S. Connection

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## Canadian Culture Shines in Pittsburgh

Every two to three years, the art world casts its eyes upon Pittsburgh, a city whose reputation for contemporary art is as strong as the steel castings from which the city first prospered. The *Carnegie International*, established in the late 1880s, and widely regarded as North America's premier contemporary art exhibition, regularly draws art enthusiasts from across the country and world to the city. The *International* happened to coincide with the November 1999 ACSUS (Association for Canadian Studies in the United States) biennial conference in Pittsburgh.

The Canadian Consulate General in Buffalo staged a multi-faceted cultural program at the ACSUS conference, which brought a wonderful array of visual and performing art and artists to Pittsburgh. Minister for International Trade Pierre Pettigrew, one of the featured speakers, set the tone for this conference with his presentation, *The Changing Faces of Canada*, which focused on the economic aspects of culture.

Celebrating the historic establishment of Nunavut on April 1, the Consulate, in association with Judith Varney Burch of Arctic Inuit Art in Richmond, Virginia, mounted exhibitions of Inuit art at the ACSUS confer-

ence and at the Four Winds Gallery, a prestigious Pittsburgh gallery specializing in native arts. Inuit sculptor, George Arlook, gave a special carving demonstration at the Polar World Hall



Judith Varney Burch, owner of Arctic Inuit Art of Richmond, Virginia, discusses Inuit sculpture with Minister Pettigrew (left) and Consul General Mark Romoff (Buffalo).

of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History. Arlook was part of the original consulting team when the Museum first established its exhibition in the early 1980s.

A number of the conference sessions were devoted to culture and cultural policy, including a special panel series sponsored by the Canada-US Fulbright Association and funded by USIA (United States Information Agency). This panel launched a series of academic discussions and cultural policy research, which will culminate in a special joint publication between the *Canadian Review of American Studies* and the *American Review of Canadian Studies*.

Capping the ACSUS conference was a special one-night performing arts showcase, featuring the work of four internationally renowned Canadian ensembles, Stuart McLean and the Vinyl Café Orchestra, Carmen Romero and the Candela Flamenca, Matapat: Music and Dance of Québec, and the Barra MacNeils. ❖

## Franklin the Turtle Captures Hearts at LA Festival

The Canadian Consulate General, the Museum of Television and Radio, and Air Canada co-sponsored two animated workshops at the Eighth International Children's Television Festival in Los Angeles, last November, showcasing Sheridan College graduate and adjunct professor Brenda Clark. Clark is best known for her illustration of the



Franklin the Turtle series of books and the animated television series on the character.

The creation of former Ottawa resident Paulette Bourgeois some 16 years ago, Franklin books have sold over 25 million copies. The lovable Canadian character now presides

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