

News of the arts

Inuit art at Montreal museum

The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts recently presented an exhibition of 60 works entitled *Inuit Graphic Arts*.

The exhibition was composed of works from collections of drawings, stonecuts, stencils and copper engravings by artists such as Parr and Pitseolak from Cape Dorset on Baffin Island; Davidialuk from Povungnituk, Quebec; Aliknak from Holman on Victoria Island and Oonark from Baker Lake, Northwest Territories.

The oldest works, *Walrus on Ice* and *Caribou and Young* by Kananginak and *Baffin Island Woman* by Pootoogook, date back to 1958, when the Inuit print came into being in Cape Dorset. In that year, James Houston, an artist who had become a federal government official, introduced his Inuit friends to techniques and working methods which he himself had learned during a few months' stay in Japan. The seals on the Inuit prints recall this influence. Moreover, stonecut is peculiar to the Inuit and has nothing in common with lithography, being more akin to the Japanese woodcut from which it is adapted.

The stencil technique was, along with stonecut, the first process employed by the Inuit. In the beginning, sealskin was used but it was soon replaced by paper



Man Carried to the Moon, *Mungetuk*, stone block, 1959.

because of its simplicity. Finally, in 1961 Houston taught his Cape Dorset friends copper engraving.

Although printmaking is a relatively recent artistic form for the Inuit, it is based on a tradition which goes back to prehistory. From earliest times, Eskimos were in the habit of engraving decorative or symbolic motifs on ivory, bone and antler.



Wolf Chasing Geese, *Pitseolak*, stone cut, purchased in 1964.

World film festival in Montreal

Films from Italy and the United States shared the best movie award at the fourth World Film Festival of Montreal held August 22-September 1.

Fontamara, by Italian director Carlo Lizzani, and *The Stunt Man*, by American director Richard Rush, were unanimously chosen to share the festival's Grand Prize of the Americas after the international jury viewed 22 new feature films from 14 countries.

The festival's best actor award went to veteran American actor Robert Duvall for his role as a macho Marine pilot and domineering father in *The Great Santini*, a new American movie written and directed by Lewis John Carlino.

Best actress award went to Spanish child actress Ana Torrent for her performance in *El Nido* as a diabolical young girl who leads a rich widower to ruin. *El Nido*, meaning the nest, was written and directed by Spain's Jaime De Arminian.

This year's jury, headed by Brazilian film-maker Bruno Barreto, awarded its special jury prize to the Japanese film, *A Distant Cry from Spring*, directed by Yoji Yamada.

Wild Hunting of King Stakh, a ghost tale from Russia directed by Valeri Roubintchik, was awarded the jury prize.

The Hungarian entry, *Sunday's Daughters*, directed by Janos Roza won a special mention from the jury and an ecumenical prize awarded each year by church representatives for the film that best displays humanist values.

In the short film category, the Grand Prize of Montreal was awarded to *La Découverte*, by French film-maker Arthur Joffe, with a jury prize to a New Zealand film about rugby, titled *The Score*.

More than 100 new features and shorts from 29 countries were screened during the festival. Tributes to Gaumont Films, the largest producer and distributor in Europe, Alfred Hitchcock and Italian director Ermanno Olmi were also featured.

Acadian author Jacques Savoie has been named 1980 literary laureate of the Association Francophone Internationale for his book *Raconte-moi Massabielle*. Savoie from Caraquet in northeastern New Brunswick is a former member of the Acadian singing group Beausoleil Broussard. His book was chosen over the work of 60 other entries.