

entertainment

Pictures are worth a thousand words

"Greg Curnoe Retrospective" a major retrospective exhibition of the work of London (Ontario) artist Greg Curnoe, organized by The National Gallery of Canada, opened at the Beaverbrook Art Gallery on January 22, 1982. The exhibition catalogue has been prepared by Pierre Theberge, now Chief Curator, The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, formerly Curator of Contemporary, Canadian Art, The National Gallery of Canada.

This exhibition organized for circulation across Canada, has also been scheduled to be shown at The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, The National Gallery of Canada, the Glenbow Museum (Calgary), the London Regional Art Gallery and the Art Gallery of Ontario and comprises of 161 works in its entirety spanning the years 1948 to 1980, but will be installed in an edited format at the Beaverbrook Art Gallery due to space limitations.

Because of the highly autobiographical nature of

Curnoe's work, the exhibition reads as a collation of pages from his diary beginning with primary school jottings which indicate his early interest in the comic strip along with his teacher's apprehensions about his neatness. Curnoe's desire to be a cartoonist manifested itself in the creation of drawings with speech balloons at the Saturday morning art classes at the London Art Gallery in 1948 for which his instructors chided him, words being incongruous to them in pictures.

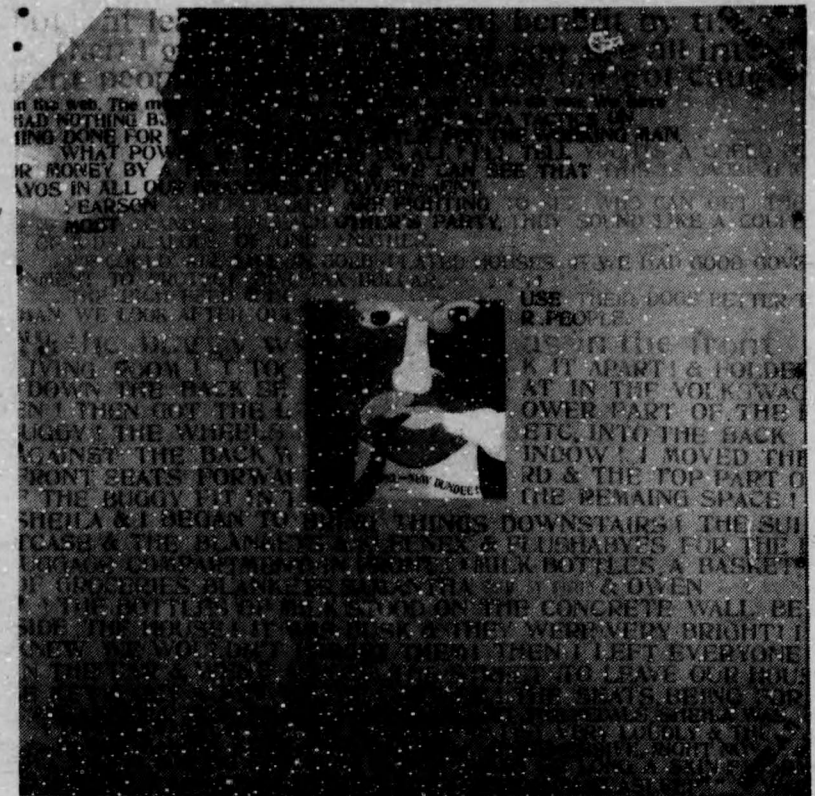
Throughout his artistic development Curnoe's iconography has been drawn from the popular culture in large part as seen through the eyes of the advertising media, one might want to say 'Madison Avenue', however, Curnoe is adamant in refusing to acknowledge any influence from the American-based 'Pop Art Movement' - part of his anti-American stance.

The importance of verbal representation in his work (large letters applied with numerous stencils around and

over his imagery) was reflected in those 'lettered' works he created between 1961 and 1969.

In 1968, he embarked on his "View of Victoria Hospital, First Series: Nos. 1-6 (August 1968 - January 1969)" in which the entire scene is described by letters applied through huge stencils, the six panels totally devoid of pictorial imagery save for that created by the letters and the corrections.

In "View of Victoria Hospital, Second Series (10 February 1969 - 10 March 1971)", he has allowed the imagery to return and coded each event which took place while working on this panorama with a number which is identified in the accompanying eight page notebook. In an attempt to authenticate the scene portrayed he has incorporated two loudspeakers from which issue forth the background sounds taped while working on this composition. The symbolism of the hospital is portentous in that it is usually from whence that life begins and ends.



Curnoe, an amateur cyclist, decided to turn to the streamlined elegance of the 10 speed bicycle for his image in 1972, creating sculptures, paintings and prints using the object in parts or in its entirety from multiple aspects for his work,

which occupied him intermittently, until 1980. Another popular icon which has figured in Curnoe's work in recent years is the CN Tower, Toronto.

Mr. Curnoe's work will be on display until March 5, 1982.

'Murder Game' premieres at TNB

By ANN KENNERLY
Brunswick Staff

Playing this past week at Theatre New Brunswick was the world premiere "Murder Game". Written by St. John author Dan Ross, the play brings back to The Playhouse Canadian material. "Murder Game" is a light, yet suspenseful play with a modern day setting based in a satellite town outside of Toronto, Ontario. A large Victorian home is the sole setting for the play. The lighting and music are eerie, though appropriate, and the costumes rather conservative - all done under the supervision of Phillip Silver, who has designed six other TNB presentations.

Malcolm Black celebrates directing his thirteenth Canadian work on main stage with the production of "Murder Game." One of Canada's most noted actors, Patrick Christopher again delights his Fredericton audience with a captivating performance. Lynn

Griffin makes her first appearance at TNB. Ms. Griffin has had an impressive career, including a part in the motion picture "Black Christmas," and many Canadian award nominations.

The plot is initially slow moving, but thickens by the second act, without becoming complex or confusing. The play easily keeps your attention, and the ending is typically revealing. Tension and questions built up during the menacing plot are soon released by the witty and humorous presence of actress Araby Lockhart. Richard Farrel, Dan MacDonald and Claude Nerin complete the cast, all acting brilliantly.

If you haven't seen "Murder Game" there's still a show tonite and Saturday night. Tickets are \$7 for students and \$8 for adults and can be obtained at The Playhouse box office.

Curtain time is eight pm. Don't miss this TNB production.

Closely Watched Trains worth watching

Closely Watched Trains, directed by Jiri Menzel, has been hailed as one of the best of those Czechoslovakian films which are distinguished by their unselfconscious tenderness about ordinary life and candor about its most ordinary manifestations.

This film is set almost entirely in a small town train station. The time is World War II and the Germans have occupied Czechoslovakia. A young man - a boy, really, is apprenticed to the station crew for training as a signal man. His tutor, another young man in his late twenties, is myopic and unshaven and amicably approaches his claustrophobic wartime life through pleasurable experiments in seduction. He has in fact become quite witty at it, it is the way he expresses himself. His pupil; however, lacks confidence, his anxiety humiliates him at crucial moments. Nevertheless he begins to understand the master's style, learns from it and uses it. Then, this ordinary young man performs an extraordinary act and is undone by his inexperience, his lack of imagination and his slow intelligence.

Jiri Menzel wrote the screenplay for this apparently simple tale with Bohumil

Hrabal. They have not found their provincial hero uninteresting and neither do we. His life, in their hands, becomes as unexpected and as urgent as our own. Beyond that, they have created an astonishing fidelity to the environment of late wartime; of the bitter winter of 1944. Everyone seems near exhaustion and their authentic fatigue subtly fills the screen. It comes from the suggestion of endless privation, from the constant snow and cold, shabby clothing, furniture that is coming apart, unshaven men wanting frayed women, the

general and inexorable muting of life which always serves in the middle of disaster to intensify its values. All of this is in Closely Watched Trains, never explicitly stated, but there as a powerful ingredient of the dramatic atmosphere and unmistakable to those who have ever known it.

-Condensed from reviews in Saturday Review and Newsweek.

Closely Watched Trains is playing tonight and tomorrow night at Tilley Hall. Tickets at the door are \$2.50.

Local art at Mem Hall

The Art Centre in Memorial Hall is showing Winter in New Brunswick, an invitational exhibition which shows the responses of thirty artists to our frozen season. The reaction ranges from "Rejoice" to "Approaching Storm." It is reassuring to find that most artists portray the winter in its more positive aspects - sunshine and pure white expanses, - but perhaps the worst days of storm and gloom inhibit them from painting at all.

This is a large exhibition, needing the space of both Art

Centre Galleries. Most of the artists are from the Fredericton area, but others live in Saint John, Hampton, Moncton and Sackville. Most of the paintings came directly from the artists' studios, but some are represented by work from the New Brunswick Art Bank, Cassel Galleries, Gallery 78 and the UNB Permanent Collection.

The exhibition opens with a reception on Sunday, January 31st, from 2 to 4 pm, and continues until February 19th.