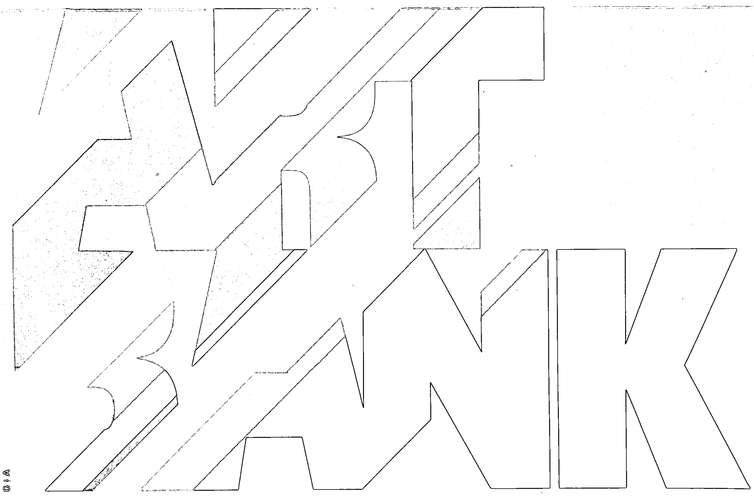
The Canada Council Art Bank



Over a five year period which began in 1972, the Federal Government has allocated $5 million to the Canada Council to build up a collection of contemporary Canadian art.

The purpose of the Art Bank is to assist Canadian artists by purchasing their works and to give Canadians an opportunity to enjoy contemporary Canadian art, through the rental of these works to Federal Government departments and agencies in Canada and abroad. The Council hopes that the Art Bank will encourage private collecting and serve as an example that corporations will wish to emulate.

The Council is responsible for the purchase, distribution and administration of the collection, which presently comprises over 5,000 works in all visual arts media, including 700 paintings and 300 sculptures and hangings. Approximately two thirds of the works are graphics (prints, drawings, and watercolours). At present, the Bank has acquired the works of more than 600 Canadian artists; both well established artists and those in the earlier stages of their careers are represented in the collection, which attempts to present a cross-section of current activity in Canadian art.

Selection of works for acquisition by the Bank is made by constantly changing juries appointed on an "ad hoc" basis and composed of artists, curators, private collectors, and other knowledgeable individuals. Works may be purchased directly from artists, through commercial galleries or from exhibitions in public art galleries.

Artists

Works purchased for the collection must be by professional Canadian artists, that is, by individuals who are earning their livelihood in the visual arts. Artists may submit up to 20 slides or photographs of their work for consideration by a selection committee which meets monthly in Ottawa; slides and photos are returned to the artists after the meeting. Correspondence with the Art Bank should be sent to the Council's postal address, while unframed graphic works (prints, drawings, and watercolours) may be shipped directly to the Art Bank warehouse at 2279 Gladwin Crescent, Ottawa, Ontario for presentation to the Advisory Selection Committee. A list including the title, medium, dimensions and price of each work, as well as biographical information, should accompany all submissions to the committee. No application form is necessary.

Submission of slides or works may result in one of four decisions by the committee: that work be purchased or not recommended, that a studio or gallery visit be made by a selection committee or that work selected from the slides be sent to the warehouse for further consideration.

Rental

Works of art may be rented by Federal Government departments and agencies to enhance public areas, conference rooms and the offices of individuals who have frequent contact with the public.

Whenever possible, a Liaison Officer from the Art Bank visits the department and consults with a designated individual to assess departmental requirements. Representatives from the department are subsequently invited to view and select works at the Art Bank, which is located in Ottawa. Each work is documented with 35mm slides, descriptive information and a biography of the artist.

The yearly rental fee is 12 percent of the total cost of the work; this fee includes costs of framing, transportation in Canada, insurance, installation and maintenance. Works are rented for a minimum period of one year, and the rental contract may be renewed for up to three years. Longer terms for rentals may be negotiated on an individual basis.

Annual rental fees range from an average of $15.00 a year for graphics to anywhere from $50 to $1,000 for paintings and sculptures. Fees must be paid out of the Furniture and Furnishings budget of the department as directed by the Treasury Board (Treasury Board Directive No. 712247, May 23, 1972). Responsibility for installation, insurance and maintenance is assumed by the Art Bank.

Galleries

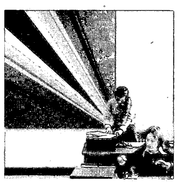
The Art Bank would appreciate receiving up-to-date information on exhibitions, as well as price lists, visual documentation and other relevant material.

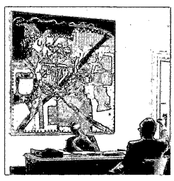
Enquiries

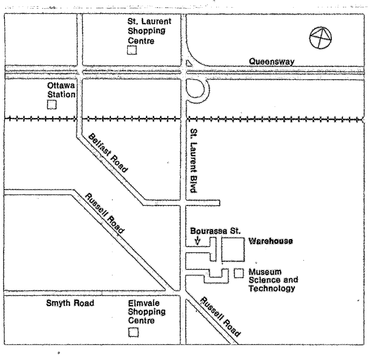
All enquiries should be addressed to:

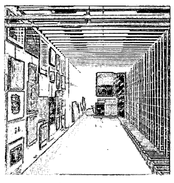
Art Bank
The Canada Council
P.O. Box 1047
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 5V8

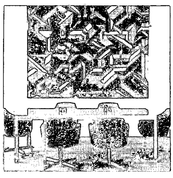
(613) 237-3400









Photos: Blanford Cox

Art Bank Warehouse
2279 Gladwin Crescent, Ottawa