

CANADA AT VENICE ART SHOW

Michael Snow, the Toronto-born painter and *avant-garde* film-maker, is the only artist representing Canada at the thirty-fifth International Biennial Art Exhibition in Venice. The exhibition, which has been open since June, closes on October 31.

This is the first time that Canada has contributed the work of only one artist to the Biennial. His work is displayed in the permanent pavilion built by the Canadian Government in 1958 and administered since then by the National Gallery, whose curator of Contemporary Art, Brydon Smith, organized the exhibition and helped prepare the catalogue. Mr. Smith explains in the preface the reasons why the Gallery chose the one-man show format, noting that it obviates the need for moveable panels and allows more rational use of space, which would otherwise be severely limited. The better lighting shows the works to their best advantage.

Michael Snow assisted Mr. Smith in the selection of material for the exhibition, which consists mainly of montages using photographic enlargements and a variety of other components, together with constructions incorporating concealed optical devices or frames that form an integral part of the work.

The artist places no reliance on pleasing variations in colour, form or texture. His work is an exploration and a questioning of all pictorial values.

Mr. Snow was born in 1929, and besides Toronto, he has lived in Winnipeg, Montreal and Chicoutimi, the birthplace of his mother, the former Carmen Lévesque. In 1962, he established himself in New

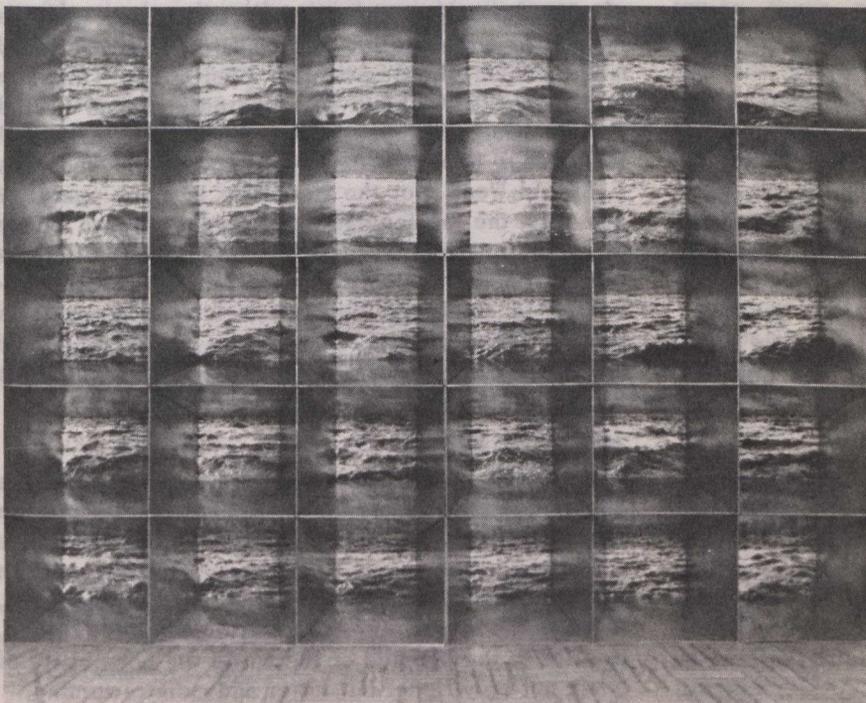


CARLA BLEY

Carla Bley

National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa

(Offset lithograph and relief print on paper.)



The Canada Council Collection, Ottawa

York, where he still lives and where he has achieved increasing success. His first exhibition was held in 1957 at Toronto's Isaacs Gallery.

His selection as Canada's sole representative at the Venice Biennial won immediate and enthusiastic support from his fellow artists. With but two or three exceptions, the works exhibited have all been completed in the last three years.

The exhibition is accompanied by screenings of three of the artist's 16 mm. films: *1968-1969*; *One Second in Montreal*; and *Breakfast*.

← Atlantic

(Photographic prints, tinned metal and wood.)