

News of the arts

Vancouver gallery presents photographic art

An exhibition of photographic art by Quebec photographer Pierre Boogaerts, was on display recently at the Vancouver Art Gallery.

Street Corners (Pyramids) N.Y. 1978-79 is a reflection on the nature of photography and the implications inherent in a vehicle which man commonly uses to examine and perceive his natural environment, his built environment and his cultural environment.

"A photograph," said Boogaerts, "can only show us the surface, the appearance of things. But a surface is also, by definition, the bordering between two areas. When working with photography, therefore, one must take into account, besides the external aspect of things, things outside the photograph."

"My work in photography consists essentially of shifting or distorting the properties of the medium. By thwarting or contradicting those properties, I emphasize them and by using simple images of our environment, I draw a parallel with society, with us, with me," he said.

Using 20 densely-built Manhattan street intersections as vantage points, Boogaerts shot 300 colour skyscapes and street corridors which he then composed into assemblages to form a ten part camera work. These 16 inch by 24 inch colour prints, mounted on board, are juxtaposed and constructed into single works in which the perspective is broadened and field of vision expanded.

Work on the exhibition began in New York, December 1978 and took six months to complete. During this period Boogaerts established a personal relationship with the architectural, cultural and social fabric of the city in his walks around New York. The image of the pyramid, printed, he noted, on every American dollar bill, kept appearing throughout the city where the King Tut

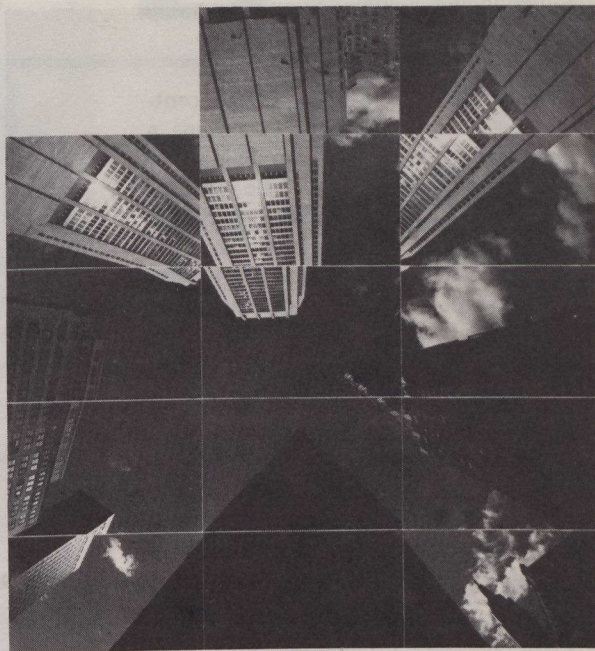
exhibition was attracting thousands of viewers.

"The pyramids invaded store fronts or were printed on tee shirts. I saw pyramid-shaped cakes in a chic window on Madison Avenue," said Boogaerts. "The whole city suggests the pyramid and certain buildings have one for a roof, thus confessing their ambition," he added.

The pyramid shape is a component of

each of Boogaert's assemblages — either as an image within the photographs or as a space created by the way in which these photographs are aligned.

Boogaerts, born in Brussels in 1946, moved to Canada in 1973 and is presently living in Montreal. He has shown in one man exhibitions in Eastern Canada and in group exhibitions across this country and abroad.



Pierre Boogaerts's Corner of Park Ave. & 33rd St. N.Y.

Vancouver Art Gallery

Arts briefs

Canadian singer Anne Murray received a Grammy Award recently at the annual awards ceremony held in New York. Miss Murray won the award as best female country vocal performer for her single *Could I Have This Dance*.

Reckless is the title of the first feature of Can-American, a new Montreal-based film company. The \$3.6-million movie, described as an action-love story, stars Vancouver actor Douglas Greenhall and American actress Meg Foster. *Reckless* adds a new twist to the older-woman, younger-man love theme. In *Reckless*, he is a young moto-cross champion — a daredevil sport in which motorcyclists race across rough terrain — and she is the not-so-young widow of a hang-glide stunt performer.

National Film Board made 241 television sales in 22 countries during the last quarter of 1980. In the United States alone PBS and individual stations used 84

National Film Board titles. One of the most popular films was a ten-minute treatment of life in rural Manitoba by animator Blake James, entitled *Prairie Album*. Lyle Cruickshank, director of NFB's international marketing division noted that the presence of NFB distribution offices in Sydney, Australia, London, Paris and New York was enabling the board to successfully sell in many countries not regularly visited by television sales people.

A Halifax filmmaker said she has sold two of her productions to the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). The two films by Romana Macdonald of Doomsday Studio are a ten-minute film, *God's Island*, which traces the history of Prince Edward Island as depicted on the canvases of Island artist A.L. Morrison; and *Spirits of An Amber Past*, a 21-minute film on Lithuanian art.

Six singers from the Canadian Opera Company appeared as featured performers at this year's Metropolitan Opera

Ball in New York. This year's ball, honouring Canada and Canadian musical talents, featured a short operatic musical written by Toronto composer David Warrack, who served as special musical director and accompanist for the event. The six singers who performed were Shawna Farrell, Caralyn Tomlin, Eleanor James, Barry Stilwell, Theodore Baerg and Guillermo Silva-Martin.

The Danny Grossman Dance Company of Toronto was invited to perform under the auspices of the Dance Umbrella in New York City from April 7-12. The company danced in the inaugural season of a 300-seat new theatre which is being renovated in the City Centre Theatre of New York City. The Grossman company was the only Canadian one of the six participating. The company has performed twice before under the auspices of the Dance Umbrella, considered one of the most prestigious festivals for small modern dance companies in New York City.