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CANADA APPOINTS COMMISSIONERS FOR THE SAO PAULO AND VENICE BIENNALES

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, is pleased to announce the choice of Canadian Commissioners for the Sao Paulo and Venice Biennales. For Sao Paulo, Bruce Ferguson and the Winnipeg Art Gallery will organize the Canadian representation (October - December 1987): For Venice, France Gascon and the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal will organize the Canadian representation Canada (June - September 1988). Bruce Ferguson and France Gascon were applicants in a recent national competition organized by the Department of External Affairs in collaboration with the National Gallery of Canada and the Canada Council.

Invitations were extended to both independent and institutional curators throughout Canada selected by a preliminary jury composed of: Pierre Théberge, Director of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts; Liz Magor, artist and former participant in the Venice Biennale; Alvin Balkind, Head of the Visual Arts at the Banff Centre. Projects were assessed by a second jury comprised of: Russel Keziere, Editor of Vanguard Magazine; Colin Campbell, artist and former participant in Sao Paulo and Venice Biennales; Johanne Lamoureux, Professor at Concordia University

The Department of External Affairs wishes to emphasize the significance of this competition. It is the first time that these major international events have been placed in a competitive context. Equally important was the close collaboration that the Department had with the National Gallery and the Canada Council in determining the process for the competition. Most significant was the contribution of those who served on the juries and the level of commitment demonstrated by the curators participating in the competition.

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This joint venture confirms the increasing importance the Department attaches to the Visual Arts in Canada.

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