

News Release

October 19, 1994

No. 208

CANADA TO PARTICIPATE IN THE VENICE BIENNIAL OF VISUAL ARTS AND ARCHITECTURE, 1995

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet is pleased to announce that Canada will participate in the Venice Biennial of Visual Arts and Architecture, from June 11 to October 15, 1995. Canada will be represented at the Visual Arts Biennial by Edward Poitras, an Aboriginal artist from Regina, Saskatchewan. At the Architectural Biennial, Canadian exhibitions will be staged by John and Patricia Patkau of Vancouver, along with some promising new architects who will be selected by competition.

The Edward Poitras exhibition project, proposed by Gerald McMaster, Curator of the Canadian Museum of Civilization, was chosen on the basis of a competition organized by the Canada Council.

The two exhibition projects by the Patkaus and the new architects were proposed by the ad hoc Consultative Committee on the Architectural Biennial, chaired by Mrs. Phyllis Lambert, Founder and Director of the Canadian Centre for Architecture in Montréal. Also on the ad hoc Committee are Mrs. Kim Storey, Regional Representative of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, and Mr. Sandy Hirshen, Director of the University of British Columbia School of Architecture. Information concerning the competition will be passed on by the Royal Architectural Institute.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade will provide a grant of \$57 500 to the Canadian Museum of Civilization for participation in the Visual Arts Biennial. The National Gallery of Canada and the Canada Council will also help finance the Visual Arts Biennial.

The Department's contribution to the Canadian Centre for Architecture for participation in the Architectural Biennial will be at least \$75 000.



In all, 31 countries will participate in the Venice Biennial, which will celebrate its centenary in 1995. Canada has been a participant since 1952 and has had its own pavilion since 1957.

Funding for this initiative was provided for in the February 1994 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
(613) 995-1874