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THIRTEEN CANADIAN ARTISTS IN BIENNALE DE PARIS

Under the auspices of the Department of External Affairs, the works of thirteen Canadian artists will be shown in the 11th Biennale de Paris, the prestigious international exhibition of paintings, sculptures, film, video, architecture, installations, performance art, and other areas of avant-garde artistic activity. After consultation with the Commissioners of the Biennale Committee in Paris, works by the following artists were selected: object and/or installation artists David Craven, Robert Fish, Raymond Gervais, John Massey; video artists Susan Britton, Elizabeth Chitty, Kate Craig, Margaret Dragu, Noel Harding; and performance artists Timothy Denis Clark, Max Dean, John Greyson, Kim Tomczak. The Biennale will be held at the A.R.C. (Art, Recherche, Confrontation) and probably also at the Centre Pompidou from September 20 to November 3, 1980. Works by the object/installation artists will occupy space for the entire run of the exhibition; the video artists' tapes will be shown continuously together with tapes of other international video artists, and the four performance artists will do their performances in the latter part of October.

Canada has more artists represented in the Biennale this year than any other country with the exception of the host country, France, which will be showing 28 artists. Until 1980, Canada's participation in the Biennale was arranged by correspondents across the country who recommended artists to the Biennale Committee. This year, in consultation with the Canada Council, art consultant Alvin Balkind was chosen by the Department of External Affairs to represent Canada for the first time on the Committee as a commissioner. His task is to recommend and co-ordinate the Canadian participation.

.../2

Balkind describes the Canadians chosen to participate in the Biennale as artists who, in their work, express various elements of the vanguard of artistic activity in Canada; some have achieved a considerable degree of critical and public renown and all are highly regarded by their peers. He said that from such a presentation it should be clear to the knowledgeable European observer that there exists considerable artistic ferment in Canada.

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