

The Museum of Modern Art

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The Museum of Modern Art will commemorate Canada's centennial year with three exhibitions and a two-week cycle of Canadian films this spring. CANADA '67, an exhibition of 40 recent prints by Canadian artists, will be on view from May 2 through June 4 in the Museum's Auditorium Gallery; the Canadian films will be screened from May 2 through May 15 in the Auditorium; a new work, The Star Garden (A Place), by the young Canadian artist, Les Levine, will be on view on the Upper Terrace of the Sculpture Garden from April 21 through May 21; and a model and photographs of Montreal's Habitat housing project in Expo 67 will go on view later in May.

Included in the print exhibition are works by painters Alex Colville, Yves Gaucher, Guido Molinari and Jean-Paul Riopelle, by sculptors Sorel Etrog and Michael Snow, and prints in new materials, such as Les Levine's vacuum formed vinyl Disposables, François Dallegret's silvered uvex Urbatomic and Sheldon Cohen's architectural ozalid machine compositions. Artists from Ottawa, Toronto, Montreal, Calgary and Vancouver are represented.

This is the first all-Canadian exhibition to be shown at The Museum of Modern Art, although an earlier exhibition FIFTEEN CANADIAN ARTISTS, sponsored by the Museum's International Council, was circulated to museums around the United States.

The Museum Collections include more than 110 works by Canadian artists (a complete list of painters and sculptors represented is attached). One of the first works by a Canadian artist to be shown at the Museum was the Totem Pole (1939) by John and Fred Wallace, Haida Indians from British Columbia, which was included in INDIAN ART OF THE UNITED STATES in 1941. The work, which is on extended loan to the Museum from the Indian Arts and Crafts Board of the United States Department of the Interior, has been sent to Montreal for Expo 67.

In May, a large model and photographs of Expo 67's Habitat will be shown. The 12-story housing project designed by 28-year old Israeli-born architect, Moshe Safdie, consists of 354 steel-reinforced, pre-cast concrete boxes, laid out in 15

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different floor plans to create 158 apartments. The architect sees Habitat as a useful concept in urban renewal, as well as eventually providing mass-produced, inexpensive new housing. "Instead of flattening...the heart of a city," he says, "the Habitat system could eat through streets like a caterpillar -- at different heights and densities and at a rate you can handle."

The Star Garden (A Place), a new work by Canadian artist Les Levine, will be installed on the Upper Terrace of the Museum's Garden on April 20 and will remain on view through May 30. Called an architectural device by the artist, The Star Garden (A Place) covers an area 40 feet square and is about 7 feet tall; it is made of Acrylite sheets which have been heated and then shaped by jets of air into rounded forms. The work consists of four separate sections which the viewer walks through and around. The material has been given by the American Cyanamid Co., Building Products Division, Wakefield, Massachusetts.

Beginning on May 2, the Museum will present a program of Canadian films, selected by Williard Van Dyke, Director of the Department of Film, which will span Canadian film-making history with documentaries, shorts, children's films and avant-garde films.

The cycle will be introduced on the evening of May 3 with a special screening of films produced by The National Film Board of Canada. Sponsored by the Consul General of Canada in New York, the Canada Week Committee and The Museum of Modern Art, the invitational screening will feature Norman McLaren's abstract film, MOSAIC, documentaries HIGH STEEL, FEUX FOLLETS and TAKE IT FROM THE TOP, and the children's film PADDLE TO THE SEA, taken from the classic children's story.

Photographs and additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, and Lynn Traiger, Assistant Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, New York 10019. CIRCLE 5-8900, ext. 203