

The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Circle 5-8900 Cable: Modernart

No. 36

FOR RELEASE:

Friday, April 21

PRESS PREVIEW:

Thursday, April 20, 1967

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

THE STAR GARDEN (A PLACE), a new work by the young Canadian artist Les Levine, will be on view on the Upper Terrace of The Museum of Modern Art Sculpture Garden from April 21 through May 30. Termed an "architectural device" by the artist, THE STAR GARDEN (A PLACE) covers an area 40 feet square and is about seven feet high.

The structure is made of clear Acrylite plastic sheets which have been heated and then shaped by jets of air into rounded forms. The material has been given by the American Cyanamid Company, Building Products Division, Wakefield, Massachusetts. The work consists of four separate sections, each about sixteen by sixteen feet, with aisles between each so that the viewer walks through as well as around it.

"I called it THE STAR GARDEN (A PLACE)" says Mr. Levine, "because the piece has no importance without people -- the viewer enters and becomes the 'star'. The piece is concerned with physical experience rather than visual contemplation, it has no validity until someone is inside it, not simply looking at it.

"The work is almost invisible -- intentionally. The viewer is more aware of his own physiognomy and of the people and objects outside THE STAR GARDEN (A PLACE), not in a visual way but in a sensory way, than of the piece itself. It is intended literally as a place to be in, rather than an object. It packages people in endless space and makes them look more beautiful, shiny and new."

The 30-year old artist was born in Dublin, Ireland, studied at the Central School of Arts and Crafts in London, and emigrated to Canada in 1958. His works were first shown at the David Mirvish Gallery in Toronto in 1963 and since have been exhibited at the Albright-Knox Gallery in Buffalo, New York, the Toronto Art Gallery, the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa, the Contemporary Art Institute in Boston and New York University.

Mr. Levine's work was first shown at The Museum of Modern Art in last year's exhibition, THE OBJECT TRANSFORMED, and was also included in ART IN THE MIRROR,

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shown at the Museum from November 22, 1966, to February 5, 1967, and now circulating throughout the United States and Canada under the auspices of the Museum's circulating exhibitions program. His vacuum-formed Disposables are among the prints in new materials which will be included in CANADA '67, the exhibition of recent prints by Canadian artists which will open at the Museum on May 2.

A portfolio of 31 of Mr. Levine's prints was recently acquired by the Museum's Department of Drawings and Prints.

THE STAR GARDEN (A PLACE) is one of several exhibitions devoted to Canadian art and architecture on view at the Museum this spring in honor of Canada's centennial year.

Photographs and additional material 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, N.Y. Circle 5-8900.