

The Museum of Modern Art

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

No. 43

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PRESS PREVIEW:

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CANADA '67, an exhibition of more than 40 recent prints by Canadian painters and sculptors, opens at The Museum of Modern Art on May 2, in conjunction with Canada Week in New York, and will remain on view through June 4 in the Museum's Auditorium Gallery.

This is the first all-Canadian exhibition to be shown at The Museum of Modern Art, although an earlier exhibition prepared by the Museum, FIFTEEN CANADIAN ARTISTS, circulated throughout the United States from 1963 until 1965 under the auspices of the Museum's International Council.

"This highly selective survey suggests the vitality, excitement and variety of Canadian art today," says William S. Lieberman, Director of the Department of Drawings and Prints, who selected the works with Miss Riva Castleman, Curatorial Assistant for Prints.

Miss Castleman states in the introduction to the exhibition, "The work of Jean-Paul Riopelle illustrates the earlier French Canadian tradition which compelled artists to seek inspiration in Paris. A few English Canadians, however, sought, if not promoted, a national tradition. Among them are Harold Town and Alex Colville. In Vancouver, Alistair Bell rhapsodizes the dramatic presence of nature in British Columbia. He is the only artist represented by woodcuts in the exhibition. Aside from these, the tendencies are varied and the influences apparent. A third of the artists included in the exhibition were born abroad, most immigrating as adults. Many have lived and studied in Europe, encouraged primarily by grants from the Canada Council, established a decade ago. The result is an artistic production international in character, embodying current imaginative use of material and subjects.

"When, in the 20th century, artists recognized the tactile possibilities of the printed surface, some began to treat the print as a sculptural form. John Esler and

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Benita Sanders are two such printmakers, using techniques developed by the British engraver Stanley William Hayter. Yves Gaucher has gone further. He molds the paper between masonite 'plates' much as an automobile body would be stamped out in a factory. The next and most logical step to Les Levine, a Canadian resident of New York, was his vacuum formed 'disposable' of vinyl plastic. His multiples have not only tactile possibilities but incorporate contemporary subjects and attitudes. Certainly, until today, few artists have seriously created a work which is intended to be ephemeral.

"Architectural subjects in new materials are reflected in the work of Francois Dallegret and Sheldon Cohen. Hard-edge, optical and minimal concepts are translated into serigraphs by Jack Bush and François Thépot of Toronto and Richard Lacroix and Guido Molinari of Montreal. From the portfolio Toronto 20, several works challenge the term 'print.' Mark Twain's 'Jumping Frog of Calaveras County' finds a rival in the paint-covered toad who leaped his way across the entire edition (100 sheets) of Gordon Rayner's print. This and Richard Gorman's print from magnetically attracted ball bearings give evidence that there is also wit within a not readily defined Canadian personality."

Also included in the exhibition are four Eskimo prints -- sealskin stencils and stonecuts -- recently acquired by the Museum, the gifts of Mrs. Donald B. Straus. Of the works, Miss Castleman says, "The prints by the Eskimos of Cape Dorset on Baffin Island, just south of the Arctic Circle, are a recent development in Canadian printmaking. Through the encouragement of the Canadian government new techniques were evolved for making prints from materials already being utilized for sculpture and the decoration of clothing. Since 1959, the Eskimo artists have depicted scenes of everyday life and legend in stone-cut and sealskin stencil prints. Pootagook, one of the printmakers whose work is shown, was formerly the ruler of the Cape Dorset Eskimos."

Mr. Lieberman first became involved with Canadian prints in 1964 when he was

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the sole juror for the first bienial Canadian Water Colours, Drawings and Prints, to which more than 1,400 works were submitted. Sixty of these were selected for exhibition and, subsequently, were purchased by the National Gallery in Ottawa and exhibited throughout Canada. Earlier this year, Miss Castleman visited Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal under the auspices of the Canada Week Committee and Mr. Lieberman went to British Columbia as the guest of the Vancouver Art Gallery.

The Museum Collections include more than 110 works by Canadian artists (a complete list of painters and sculptors represented is attached); photographs by Yousuf Karsh; and approximately sixty additional prints.

CANADA '67 is one of four exhibitions and events at The Museum of Modern Art celebrating Canada's centennial. THE STAR GARDEN (A PLACE), a new work by Les Levine, opened on April 20 in the Museum's Sculpture Garden, where it will remain on view through May 21. A model and photographs of HABITAT, Expo 67's new housing project, will go on view later in May. The Museum's Department of Film will present a two-week cycle of films, A SALUTE TO THE NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA, from May 4 through May 15.

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, N.Y. 10019. Circle 5-8900.

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CANADA '67

May 2 - June 4, 1967

Checklist

Unless otherwise noted, the artists are resident in the place of their birth.

AYOT, Pierre. Born Montreal, 1943.

1. "Chercher la femme." 1965. Color lithograph, 23 1/2 x 11 1/2" (6/10).
Lent by Galerie Agnès Lefort, Montreal. (Petersen 2745).

BELL, Alistair. Born England, 1913. Lives in Vancouver.

2. Black Vulture. (1958). Color woodcut, 22 1/4 x 10 1/4" (5/30).
Lent by the artist.
3. Spanish Broom. (1964). Color woodcut, 15 5/8 x 23 7/16" (13/35).
Lent by the artist.

BOYD, James. Born Ottawa, 1928.

4. One Red Maple Leaf. (1964). Relief metal collage, 11 3/4 x 9 7/16" (1/1).
Lent by The Isaacs Gallery, Toronto.
5. Quiet Life. 1966. Relief metal collage, 22 1/2 x 17 3/8" (1/1).
Lent by The Isaacs Gallery, Toronto.

BUSH, Jack. Born Toronto, 1901.

6. Red Sash, from the portfolio Five Colour Prints. 1965. Serigraph,
26 1/16 x 20 1/2" (58/100). Lent by The David Mirvish Gallery, Toronto.
7. Stripes to the Right, from the portfolio Five Colour Prints. 1965.
Serigraph, 26 1/16 x 20 1/2" (58/100). Lent by The David Mirvish Gallery,
Toronto.

COHEN, Sheldon. Born Kitchener, Ontario, 1935. Lives in Toronto.

8. FSP X J2. (1966). Ozalid and stencil, 21 1/16 x 16".
8
Lent by Gallery Moos, Toronto. (Petersen 2746).

COLVILLE, G. Alex. Born Toronto, 1920. Lives in Sackville, New Brunswick.

9. Dog with Bone. 1961. Serigraph, 29 7/8 x 25 1/16" (ed. 20).
The Museum of Modern Art, gift of Graham Colville. (Petersen 545).

DALLEGRET, François. Born Morocco, 1937. Lives in Montreal.

10. Urbatomic. 1967. Serigraph on acetate, 21 3/8 x 27 1/4" (8/35).
Lent by Gallery Moos, Toronto.

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ESLER, John K. Born Pilot Mound, Manitoba, 1933. Lives in Calgary.

11. Freeway and The Cherry Orchard. 1966. Intaglio, 36 x 21 1/2" (20/25).
Lent by The Douglas Gallery, Vancouver. (Petersen 2741).
12. Century Piece (Canadian). 1966. Intaglio, 22 x 17 1/8" (8/35).
Lent by Gallery Pascal, Toronto.

FORTIER, Michel. Born Montreal, 1943.

13. The Fly. 1966. Serigraph, 17 x 22 11/16" (2/15).
Lent by the artist.

GAUCHER, Yves. Born Montreal, 1934.

14. Homage to Webern, II. 1963. Embossment, 22 3/8 x 30" (A.P. 1/5).
Lent by Gallery Moos, Toronto. (Petersen 2747).
15. Homage to Webern, III. 1963. Embossment, 22 5/16 x 29 15/16" (A.P. 1/15).
Lent by Gallery Moos, Toronto.

GORMAN, Richard. Born Ottawa, 1935. Lives in England.

16. Random Magnetic Print Series...Three Red Five Blue from the portfolio Toronto 20. 1965. Inked ballbearing, guided magnetically, 26 x 20" (76/100). Lent by The Isaacs Gallery, Toronto.

LACROIX, Richard. Born Montreal, 1939.

17. Variant VI-B. 1966. Serigraph, 18 x 18 1/16" (13/53).
Lent by the Graphic Guild, Montreal.
18. Variant IV-S. 1966. Serigraph, 18 1/16 x 18 1/16" (16/50).
Lent by the Graphic Guild, Montreal. (Petersen 2748).

LEVINE, Les. Born Ireland, 1935. Lived in Toronto. Lives in New York City.

19. Plate from the portfolio Toronto 20. (1965). Serigraph on acetate, 26 x 20" (76/100). Lent by The Isaacs Gallery, Toronto.
20. S22 from the portfolio Les Levine LXVI. (1966). Photo offset, 12 3/4 x 9 7/16" (III/CL). The Museum of Modern Art, gift of the Fischbach Gallery.
21. S28 from the portfolio Les Levine LXVI. (1966). Photo offset, 12 3/4 x 9 7/16" (III/CL). The Museum of Modern Art, gift of the Fischbach Gallery.
22. Disposable. (1967). Vacuum formed rigid vinyl, 12 1/16 x 12 1/8".
(edition unlimited). Lent by the artist. (Petersen 2749).
23. Disposable. (1967). Vacuum formed rigid vinyl, 12 1/4 x 12 5/16"
(edition unlimited). Lent by the artist.

MARKGRAF, Waltraud. Born Germany, 1937. Lives in Toronto.

24. Plate from the portfolio Toronto 20. 1965. Serigraph, 16 x 16 1/2" (76/100). Lent by The Isaacs Gallery, Toronto. (Petersen 2743).
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McEWEN, Jean. Born Montreal, 1923.

25. Homage to the Poets. (1965). Color lithograph, 15 3/16 x 12 5/16" (43/50).
Lent by Gallery Moos, Toronto.

MOLINARI, Guido. Born Montreal, 1933.

26. Encircling White. (1956-67). Serigraph, 24 3/4 x 27 1/16" (E.A.1/5).
Lent by the artist.
27. Bi-Blue. 1965. Serigraph, 34 x 22 1/8" (E.A.2/5).
Lent by the artist. (Petersen 2754).

MORRIS, Michael. Born England, 1942. Lives in Vancouver.

28. Letter Machine. 1966. Serigraph, 22 1/4 x 15 1/8" (18/20).
Lent by the artist.
29. For Ernst Jandl. 1967. Serigraph, 22 3/8 x 28 5/8" (5/50).
Lent by the artist.

ONLEY, Toni. Born Isle of Man, 1928. Lives in Victoria.

30. Distant Mountain. (1965). Etching, 2 5/8 x 3 5/16" (15/25).
Lent by The Douglas Gallery, Vancouver.
31. Quiet Shore. (1965). Etching, 2 1/2 x 3 3/16" (9/25).
Lent by The Douglas Gallery, Vancouver.
32. Silent Bay. (1965). Etching, 3 x 3 15/16" (15/25).
Lent by The Douglas Gallery, Vancouver.
33. Silent Departure. (1965). Etching, 3 1/16 x 3 15/16" (A.P.).
Lent by The Douglas Gallery, Vancouver.

RAYNER, Gordon. Born Toronto, 1935.

34. Plate from the portfolio Toronto 20. 1965. Paint-covered leaping toad,
26 x 20" (76/100). Lent by The Isaacs Gallery, Toronto. (Petersen 2742).

RIOPELLE, Jean-Paul. Born Montreal, 1923. Lives in France.

35. Untitled. 1967. Color lithograph, 29 15/16 x 47 1/4" (H.C.).
Lent by Galerie Maeght, Paris. (Petersen 2750).

SACILOTTO, Deli. Born Kimberly, B.C., 1936. Lives in New York City.

36. Urbino Series No. 2. (1966). Color lithograph, 24 7/8 x 16 7/8" (2/15).
Lent by the artist.

SANDERS, Benita. Born England, 1935. Lives in New York City.

37. Ziggurat. 1966. Color intaglio, 18 7/8 x 19 5/8" (A.P.).
Lent by the artist. (Petersen 2751).

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SCHMIDT, Marianna. Born Hungary, 1918. Lives in Vancouver.

38. Carnival. 1965. Etching and aquatint, 19 13/16 x 29 3/4" (2/8).
Lent by The Douglas Gallery, Vancouver.

SMITH, Gordon A. Born England, 1919. Lives in Vancouver.

39. Untitled. (1966). Serigraph, 26 1/16 x 20" (13/30)
Lent by The Douglas Gallery, Vancouver.

SNOW, Michael. Born Toronto, 1928. Lives in New York City.

40. Plate from the portfolio Toronto 20. 1965. Photo offset and relief cut, 24 x 17 3/4" (76/100). Lent by The Isaacs Gallery, Toronto.

THÉPOT, François. Born France, 1925. Lives in Toronto.

41. Chessboard. 1966. Serigraph, 17 1/4 x 19 5/16" (30/50).
Lent by Gallery Moos, Toronto. (Petersen 2752).

42. Chessboard. 1966. Serigraph, 17 1/2 x 19 9/16" (28/50).
Lent by Gallery Moos, Toronto.

TOWN, Harold. Born Toronto, 1924.

43. The First Infernal Submarine. 1957. Monotype, 18 1/4 x 23 7/8" (1/1).
The Museum of Modern Art, Advisory Committee Fund.

44. Radar Detecting Spring. 1958. Monotype, 18 1/4 x 23 7/8" (1/1).
The Museum of Modern Art, Mrs. Bliss Parkinson Fund. (Petersen 2753).

PRINTS BY ESKIMOS OF CAPE DORSET, BAFFIN ISLAND, CANADA

NIVIAKSLAK. 1920(?) - 1959.

45. Polar Bear and Cub in Ice. 1959. Sealskin stencil, 9 5/8 x 19" (3/30).
The Museum of Modern Art, gift of Mrs. Donald B. Straus. (S-16.607).

PARR. Dates unknown.

46. Geese, Man and Animals. 1963. Sealskin stencil, 18 x 22 13/16" (36/50).
The Museum of Modern Art, gift of Mrs. Donald B. Straus.

POOTAGOOK. 1889(?) - 1959.

47. Iglloo Builder. (1959?). Stone rubbing and stone cut, 9 5/16 x 19 1/16" (1/50).
The Museum of Modern Art, gift of Mrs. Donald B. Straus.

TUDLIK. Born ca. 1888.

48. Seal Thoughts of Man. (1959?). Stone cut, 18 5/8 x 6 1/16" (1/50).
The Museum of Modern Art, gift of Mrs. Donald B. Straus.