

You, the jury

(In agreement with the art judges?)

Once upon a time (June 1985 to be exact) you may remember reading an article by Ernest G. Wilson reprinted from Arts West and North about how to be an art critic.

Well, if you happened to save it, now would be the time to find it and re-read it. Because in six weeks time you will have an excellent opportunity to try your art assessment skills during the fifth regional juried art show, In Search of Excellence, March 16-22 at Studio 2880.

What is a regional juried art show? First of all, the Prince George region is comprised of 10 communities within a boundary 160 kilometres to the south, Valemount to the east, Burns Lake to the west, Mackenzie to the north and, the newest member of the region, Bella Coola to the far west.

Anyone from those commu-

nities can submit work to be judged. Painting, sculpture, wood-turning, fabric and metal art are just a few of the types of work you can expect to see.

Secondly, a jury is one or more people chosen to judge the various works of art submitted for criticism, praise, or perhaps (and most likely) a little of both. Jurors are people with "fine arts" educations and experience who have earned the respect of their artist colleagues. They are usually successful, high-profile artists in their chosen fields and are often art gallery directors, or teachers at schools of fine arts such as Emily Carr College in Victoria.

In the case of the Prince George Regional Juried Art Show, the jurors are chosen (and an honorarium paid) by the Assembly of B.C. Community Arts Councils. The

assembly has high standards and expects things from their jurors that not all jurors are prepared to give.

The jurors must be willing not only to judge the pieces submitted, they must also be prepared to talk about the show in general to the 150-200 invited guests at the opening reception.

In addition, "they must be able to talk and want to talk... to go that extra step with the individual artist about the work the artist has submitted" and try to give educational pointers about how he could improve his technique, composition, or whatever it is that artists need to know.

The main purpose for the show is to bring jury and artist together.

According to Penny Stewart, co-ordinator of the Central Interior Arts Panel and director of the show, the



by DONNA BRUNDIGE

most important part of being a participant — and the most frightening — is having your work critiqued by a professional. The learning experience that takes place when the work is discussed with the juror is invaluable in a place like Prince George where the chance to talk to people of such high calibre is so rare.

It's sort of like having a private lesson given by a master. Juries include well-known people such as Carol Sabiston, Sam Black and Gordon Smith.

Although they come to enjoy the high quality of art work shown, the public is often lured to juried art shows by curiosity — to see if they agree with the jury's choice.

"Very often a viewer may

wonder why something they like very much wasn't chosen," says Stewart. "Our title 'In Search of Excellence' reflects that the jury is looking for more than just another pretty picture or other piece of work. Technique and originality are very important."

Displayed will be the works chosen by the jury as winners, the honorable mentions and pieces by artists who are neither, so each artist competing has at least one piece of work to discuss with the jury.

The winners go on to compete provincially at the visual arts portion of the B.C. Festival of the Arts, Images and Objects IV, which is tentatively booked at Expo's B.C. Pavilion.

Art Nouveau fashion

(Brought to you by the letter 'S')

EDMONTON (CP) — Except for the letter "s," the distinguishing feature of Art Nouveau fashion — the corset — would never have existed, says the curator of the University of Alberta's historic costume and textile collection.

Ann Lambert says the body had to be forced to co-operate with the tenets of Art Nouveau design.

The movement began in Paris in 1895 using nature-inspired designs for glassware, furniture, tableware, decorative art objects and clothing. Typical motifs included flowers, stems, leaves and butterflies.

Because no human body naturally conforms to Art Nouveau's fashionable s-curves, it was manipulated with a corset to force the abdomen back and the buttocks and chest forward.

Wasp waists were the order of the day and in what became known as the "monobosom" look, the chest was padded to form a single large curve.

The fashion held sway for roughly 20 years, but Lambert says Art Nouveau clothing design is largely ignored today "because it's not seen as much."

Because of mail-order catalogues and dress pattern books popular before the First World War, the clothes made their appearance in Western Canada scant months after the designs hit European streets.

Even in mail-order, though, mass production was unknown

as dresses were still made by hand in Central Canada to measurements received from the western clientele.

"So they really were made-to-order, despite their being available through a mail-order catalogue."

Home sewing required a high degree of dressmaking skill, largely because dress patterns were die-cut pieces of tissue pa-

per with no lines or instructions.

Art Nouveau dresses carried much detailed decoration with embroidery, applique, lace and concentric rows of braid and ribbon stitching.

"A woman's dress was proof of a man's wealth, especially if his wife was wearing lace on a gown of great extravagance," Lambert added.

— Canadian Press



**SUPPORT
THE
BLOCK
PARENT
ASSOCIATION**

Authorized Distributor for
MIDLAND LMR

Loggers Specials

T & S Communications

564-3640
2276 Nicholson St.
V2N 1V8

**SEE US FOR YOUR BUSINESS
TELEPHONE SYSTEMS ... AND AUTOTEL**



TOM MITCHELL

**Now, An answer
to the stress
of RRSP investing!**

Stress is normal in RRSP investing.

After all, you must have an RRSP investment that does more than save taxes... that offers consistently high returns without high risk. And it's a combination that's tough to find.

But we have one for you. Industrial Growth Fund offers proven long-term growth. Consistently Best of all. Industrial Growth is managed for you by Mackenzie Financial Corporation under a conservative investment strategy which puts protection of capital first.

It's the answer to reducing the stress of your RRSP investing. Write or call for details. Today!

18%
**18 YEAR
AVERAGE
ANNUAL
COMPOUND RETURN**
10 YEARS 19.8%
3 YEARS 21.3%
1 YEAR 29.3%

THE INDUSTRIAL GROWTH FUND RRSP

Looking both ways to manage your RRSP.

Yes Mr. Mitchell I'd like to reduce the stress and increase the rewards of my RRSP investing. please send me the RRSP Answer Book.

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____ Phone: _____

Bus. _____

Home _____

TOM MITCHELL, CANARIM INVESTMENT CORP.
Permanent Tower, 1520 - 3rd Ave.
Prince George, B.C. V2L 3G4
564-2423/964-6019



SEE US AT THE RRSP SHOW, Feb. 7, 8, 9 At The Pine Centre