

Andreas Drenters exhibition opens May 27, runs again in June

Historic Rockwood Academy beckons to art lovers

By JOHN SOMMER
Herald Special

The historic Rockwood Academy is one of the grandest buildings in this part of Canada. The 140-year-old edifice was a boarding school for a generation, famous Canadians went to school there. Later it was used as a factory and later still it stood almost empty and slowly deteriorated. By 1960 it had become a ruin. Its verandah had rotted away, its windows were boarded up or coated with dirt, its roof had sagged like the back of an old horse. Dry leaves and the refuse of many years had been packed into the former dining hall and at the back of the building the whole lower floor had vanished behind a wall of earth. This was the time when all over the country beautiful old schoolhouses were demolished. The mighty old pile of stone in Rockwood was patiently waiting for the same fate.

At this crucial moment Yosef

Drenters appeared. Yosef was a painter and sculptor of great originality. He was "discovered" by the painter Harold Town and the art dealer Dorothy Cameron and in 1961 he became the toast of Toronto, with art collectors lining up for his intense and powerful works. With the money that came his way he decided to purchase the Rockwood Academy and to restore it. This turned out to be a tremendous task and there came days when he was despairing, when he thought that the whole thing was more than he alone could manage. But he always rallied, he and the Academy became one. When the building was saved and embellished with a walled in courtyard and a chapel of his own design, Yosef Drenters died on November 8, 1983. Today we can meet the mind and heart of this great Canadian in every corner of his creation.

Yosef willed the Academy to the Ontario Heritage Foundation and

his youngest brother Andreas, also a well-known sculptor, moved in as a caretaker.

For some years now Andreas Drenters has opened the house and grounds at least once a year to the public for an exhibition of his latest works. Many will remember his exhibition a year ago. Now it is again May and a new exhibition is beckoning. The days on which the Academy and Andreas Drenters' works can be seen are May 27 and 28, June 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25. The time of day: 12 noon to 5 p.m.

What are his new works like? I have seen them and I urge everybody not to miss them. For the first time Andreas has combined iron and copper in some of his pieces. The result is dazzling. In years to come the copper will acquire a green patina and this, together with the black painted iron, will have a most elegant effect. Right now, however, the copper shines forth brilliant and

warm, like autumn leaves on a sunny day. I have rarely seen anything so attractive.

The exhibition offers another surprise. The engraver and book-wright Gerard Brender a Brandis has written a book entitled "Heritage in Stone: Yosef Drenters and the Rockwood

Academy." He not only wrote the text but he printed it by hand and he illustrated it with his own wood engravings. The book will be for sale and individual engravings from the book will be exhibited, and for sale too, in a small room off the former gymnasium.

East and West join for sobriety jam

VIDEO BEAT



ETHLIE ANN VARE

By Ethlie Ann Vare

Doc McGhee, the manager of Motley Crue and Bon Jovi, was busted for bringing quantities of marijuana into the United States. So, the court ordered him to pay off his debt to society by using his influence to educate young people about drug and alcohol abuse.

Toward that end, McGhee started the Make a Difference Foundation. And the music industry has been waiting around for the past eight months to see what difference he would make.

Well, MADF is being launched with a major international splash. On Aug. 12 and 13, Bon Jovi and the Crue — along with the Scorpions and the Soviet Union's Gorky Park — will perform two all-day concerts at Lenin Stadium in Moscow for 140,000 people each day.

MTV's VJs will fly to Moscow to host the event, which will be aired as a pay-per-view event on Showtime and simulcast in stereo over Westwood One radio. Six American contest winners will be flown to Moscow for the concert, and six Soviet contest winners will be flown to the next MTV Music Video Awards ceremony.

Proceeds from the show will be divided between MADF's public aware-

ness programs and the Soviet "All-Union Society for Sobriety."

Wait, there's more. Motley Crue, Bon Jovi, Gorky Park, the Scorpions and Ozzy Osbourne have also committed to record a benefit album for MADF, which will be produced by Bruce Fairburn (Aerosmith) and distributed by PolyGram. The hook: Each of the songs on the record will have been made popular by a band that lost a member to drugs and/or alcohol. Cited are the Who, the Doors, Led Zeppelin, the Sex Pistols, T. Rex, Canned Heat, the Rolling Stones and AC/DC.

The teaser for the project is a drawing of a series of headstones with the artists' names on them, and a headline reading: "This group is not the Grateful Dead." While the objective is noble, we question the taste.

On another glasnost front, the U.S.S.R.'s top female pop star, Laima (pronounced LIE-ma) Valkule will become the first Soviet woman to record an album in the United States. Russia's Madonna is currently in Los Angeles working on the disc.

Latvian-born Laima has sold more than 20 million albums for the state-run Melodya label back home in the Soviet Union. Her first trip to America is being videotaped by the Soviet Cinematography Society for a film documentary to be aired there.

One final glasnost: Paul McCartney, whose last recording project was available only behind the Iron Curtain (which is beginning to resemble a shower curtain), has finished his first U.S. release in three years. Called

"Flowers in the Dirt," it will be available on June 6.

Elvis Costello collaborated on four of the songs, including the lead single "My Brave Face." Other notables contributing to the project include Pink Floyd's David Gilmour, Peter Gabriel, guitarist David Rhodes, ex-Pretender Robbie McIntosh and producer/keyboardist Mitchell Froom.

Cable notes: Throughout May and June, Showtime will rerun its Hall & Oates concert special filmed in Tokyo. And watch for the latest "Cinemax Sessions" featuring the legendary Neville Brothers, taped in New Orleans.

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