

John A. Hall shows 50 years of art

Artist John A. Hall was at the Georgetown Cultural Centre last week to open the doors to his art exhibit featuring 50 years of his life's work.

Mr. Hall's paintings and sketches date back as early as 1936 and there are some pieces as current as 1988. They range from slightly eccentric in flavor to slightly cerebral in form and color.

His exhibit opened June 28 and will run until Aug. 19.

The artist has lived what he calls "two lives."

He has taught art, created book illustrations, and designed with type. Often, he would leave the city to paint in the countryside. This took him back to the days when he camped with members of the Group of Seven, Canada's world-renowned landscape artists.

A friend writes about Mr. Hall that his experience with the Group of Seven have been a bridge to his career.

"His most recent works suggest

that his bridge is still under construction and will probably arrive at some surprising destinations," writes the friend.

Mr. Hall was born in Toronto in 1914 and attended the Ontario College of Art (OCA) from 1933 to 1937. He has been a member of the Ontario Society of Artists since 1948, and has exhibited his works at the Art Gallery of Ontario, Hart House at the University of Toronto, the National Gallery, the Art Gallery of Ontario, the Royal Bank of Canada and a number of other galleries across the country.

The artist illustrated 11 books between 1945 and 1965. He has been involved in exhibition design and typography since 1938.

He has won several awards and is an Honorary Life Member of the Art Gallery of Ontario. Last year, he conducted weekend workshops in color, composition and design for the Northern College of Applied Arts and Technology in Kirkland Lake, and the Central Ontario Art Association in Geneva Park.

The car is now an obsession



Ideas And The Arts

John Sommer

During the last 100 years the automobile has increasingly become an obsession with the people of our planet. One should have thought that the so-called developed West reached the saturation point some time ago, let's say when every family owned a car? But we know by now that the market for automobiles is unlimited. Houses with three and four garages (with the cars to fill these spaces, of course) are not rare anymore and we can all look joyously forward to housing developments in the year 2000 where a mighty wing, containing a fleet of six cars plus a couple of antique ones will be attached to every home.

The motor car has forced its need for space on us in spectacular ways. Because of the motor car the city and the country has changed beyond anything imaginable 100 years ago. Our ideas about the worthwhile life have changed, and so have our manners and habits. The car has become a kind of godhead. All sacrifices are justified where the motor car is concerned, even sacrifices of life.

In the German language, for instance, a motor car accident victim is called a "Verkehrsopter" - a traffic sacrifice.

Los Angeles was created for the automobile and the severity of this city's smog is known, through media reports, even to people who never went there. Los Angeles' eight million vehicles are central to the smog problem. Great attempts are under way by the various governments of the Los Angeles region to tackle the problem through laws and regulations too complex to get into here. Besides I want to get at something else. I want to find an explanation, instead, for this powerful and possibly destructive hold one of our inventions has gained on us and our civilization.

I, like everybody else, have always been fascinated by cars. But I have owned one for only seven years, and that was a very long time ago. These seven years taught me that the automobile was neither a very practical nor a very cheap way to get around. I realized, however, that the automobile belongs to the realm of art. Let me explain.

In every civilization great community projects can be found that express the highest aspirations of the collective will, so to say, of the people in that civilization, even if the instigator of the project was a king or a tyrant. The Great Wall of China, the Pyramids in Egypt, the Acropolis in Athens, the water

works and great viaducts all over the Roman Empire, the mighty cathedrals of the Middle Ages, the park and palace of Versailles, the Empire State Building in New York, the Pentagon in Washington, these are only some of the artifacts that come to mind. As for the present, what greater projects are there but the huge highway systems erected all over the world to accommodate the motor car, to let people go wherever their fancy takes them?

These works of art, based on technical know-how and daring, show man's desire to become the equal of his gods, no matter how he tries to disguise this desire.

The "Classics Against Cancer Auto Show" some weeks ago at Cedarvale Park supported me in my belief that the automobile is an artifact. It was a beautiful day and the pampered motor cars of almost 100 years glittered on the green lawn like so many adornments. The beauty of these creations was overwhelming. The sense of ease and luxury they advertised was intoxicating. At the same time one knew, these docile lawn decorations could change in an instant, with a turn of the starter-key, into aggressive "chariots of fire," could merge with a thousand others, as swift and seductive as them, on a smooth highway reserved for them only, making their owners feel that they were cruising down the vast, never-ending road to modernity, pleasure and oblivion.



Renowned artist John A. Hall was on hand Wednesday at the Georgetown Cultural Centre to launch his month-long art exhibit. The exhibit spans 50 years of his works and includes paintings and sketches. (Herald photo)

Euchre still supported



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Friday night euchre is still getting a good support from those who enjoy a social game of cards. This week's winners were: High lady - Marjorie Tutty, second, Myra Peasey, most lone hands, May Tost. High gent - Charlie Sheppard, second Chuck Tutty, most lone hands - Shell Lawr.

The car club draw was held June 29. Winners were: 292 Ross Hunter, 261 Eva Murdock, 357 Denis McCartney, 265 Marion Armstrong, 114 Bob Morrow and 280 Ken Sproule.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON MEAT DRAW: This week the following people bought the right tickets: Bill Simpson, Chuck Tutty, Eddie Plackett, Colin Gibson,

Doris Chamberlain, Kieth Tost, Orval Paul, Rod McDonald, Steve Clayton, Rita Raynor, D. Ford. The roast was won by Rod McDonald.

Auxiliary marches in the Glen

By FLO CARSWELL
Herald Special

For those of you ladies who did not make it to the Appreciation Night, I must say you missed a very enjoyable evening. The "waiters" were kept very busy. The steak dinner was excellent but oh, the calories in those desserts.

Our color party joined with the branch in the Canada Day Parade in the Glen. We could not hear the band, it was too far behind us but we managed to keep in step with the able assistance of a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police who led the parade. A very smart looking young lady!

Have a safe, happy and healthy summer.

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