-Arts and Ideas—

Here and Now'90 impressive

Here and Now '90, the exhibition on view at the Gallery of the Halton Hills Cultural Centre in Georgetown to October 28, will give pleasure to everybody who will make the effort to see it. It contains a great variety of interesting paintings, and it might be the best of all the juried exhibitions we have had in this space every October, since 1984.

From all over Halton Region artists submitted 108 different artworks to a jury consisting of the Toronto sculptor Frances Gage, the Mississauga painter Heather Grindley, and the now Georgetown painter Mackay Houstoun (the latter moved here a year ago from Elora): These three selected 31 artworks from 24 different artists for the exhibition.

The result of this competitive selection process is a consistently engaging exhibition that has some highlights but no low points. All the artists represented can be proud of this fact.

The jury bestowed special awards on six paintings and gave honourable mentions to six further ones. Let's look at the paintings that got an award: Cahterine Milton's "Geraniums in Window" is beautifully painted, but it wouldn't be anything out of the ordinary without the dark background that might be a window but is really a strong abstract design of black bars and purple fields. Against this background the red flowers and green leaves, and the blue container in which they grow, stand out strikingly. The complicated colour scheme and the contrast between geometric and organic shapes lift the charming subject into a higher artistic sphere.

Or John Bartolac's "La Domenica." On first glance it is a straight-forward realistic rendering of a church. After a while you begin to wonder however about the mesmerized family staring at the church, the trap-like half open door, the sinister black hole of the rosewindow above, the cold. agitated sky. What is going on here? you' might ask yourself.



John Sommer **IDEAS AND** THE ARTS

Under the surface of this ordinary scene strange and compelling forces announce themselves. The painting has lodged itself in my mind like a thorn under the skin.

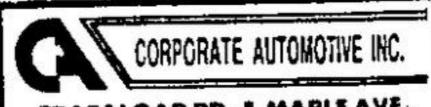
Or a simple painting like "Composition" by Wilhelm Albiez. Two wirehangers and a bra hang on a rod in a washroom, no more. The daily domesticity of our lives. But the artist has made something extraordinary out of this humble material by composing it carefully and by orchestrating a limited colour scheme into a satisfying music of positive and negative shapes and seemingly limitless shades of

Next look at the clever design titled "Camouflage" by Alice Muirhead. How the plants in the foreground, the Zebra's head, even the sun, have become part of a rigorous design and colour scheme.

A wonderful painting is "Calla Lilies" by Jo Walterson. The unprimed canvas has soaked up layers of paint that shine through each other and give the large work a light, shifting appearance that keeps it in motion.

Finally. Una O'Callaghan's witty collage "Full Fathom Five," that is a riot of invention and a smart use of many different media.

The six honourable mentions are strong contenders for these above awards. Some of these artists, as a matter of fact, received awards for their work in years past. And if you take the time to look at the astonishing little works by Irene McIlveen, for instance, you will agree with me that this exhibition is full of lovely surprises and nourishing treats. Not to mention the splendid paintings and bronzes by the three members of the jury that are exhibited in the Gallery and in the lobby showcases.



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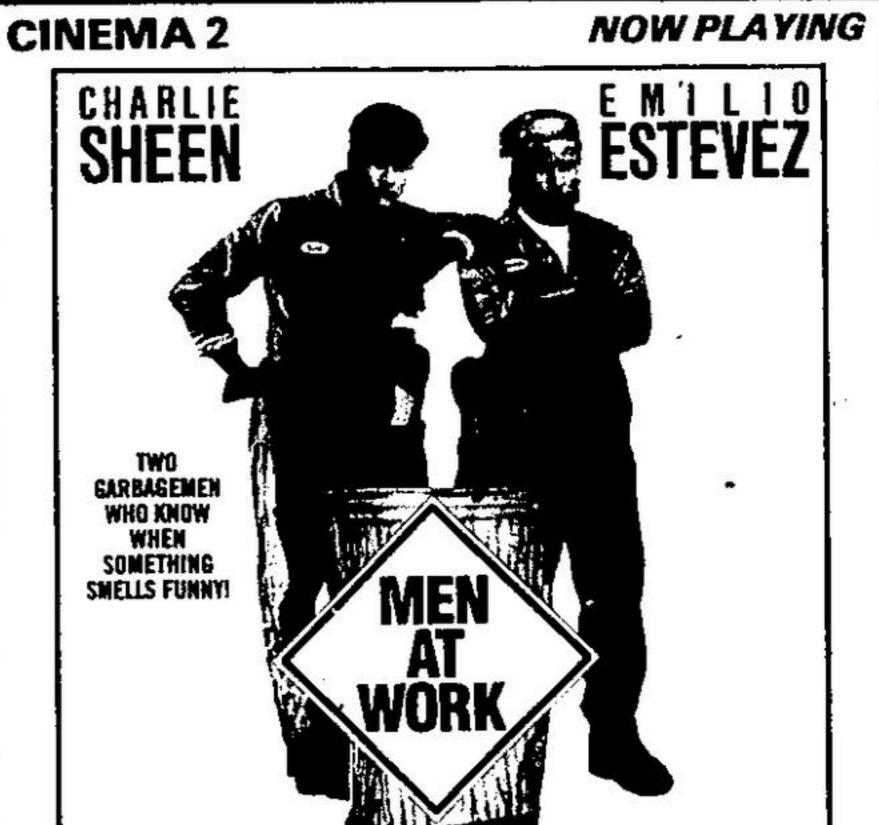
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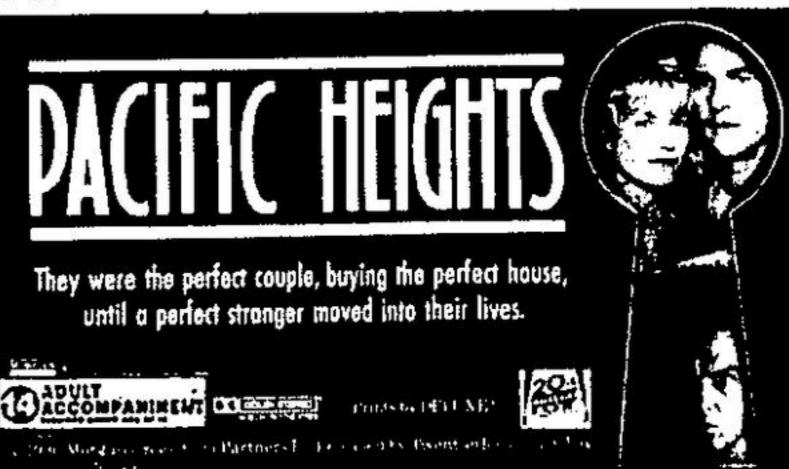
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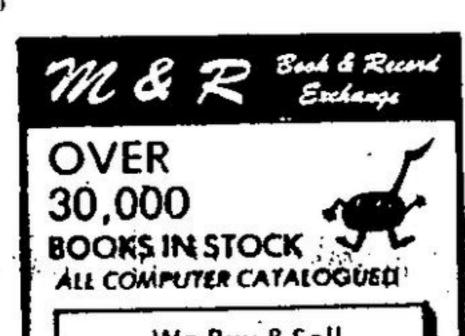


Arts and Crafts

Acton resident Kay Hart used the silky material Moire to make these colorful geese that she sold at the 18th Annual Arts and Crafts of Georgetown Exhibition and sale last Saturday at the North Halton Golf and Country Club. (Herald photo)

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