

# Milne exhibition a must for art lovers

By JOHN SOMMER

A large retrospective exhibition of David Milne's oil and watercolor paintings, as well as his drypoints, has been assembled at the McMichael Canadian Art Collection in Kleinburg. The exhibition will be on view to December 1, and it is such a superb homage to the artist, that no art lover should miss it.

Milne was a contemporary of the famous Group of Seven artists, but he was far more aware of international trends in art than these chroniclers of the Canadian North. He absorbed these trends of his time and fashioned his own unique style and perception from them. The point can be made that Milne is the first "modern" artist

in Canadian art history.

David Milne was born in Ontario in 1882 and he left for New York in 1903, with the intention of becoming a commercial designer. New York, and the many new art movements he was confronted with, changed his mind, however. He decided to become a painter instead.

After a period of study at the Art Students' League he started to paint the life of the city around him. He had trained himself in relation to artists like Cezanne, Matisse, and the American painter Maurice Prendergast, and fairly quickly his paintings were recognized as the works of a daring and innovative modern artist.



Ideas and The Arts by John Sommer

His paintings were selected for inclusion into the 1913 Armory Show in New York, the major exhibition of the European and American avant-garde, that

caused a storm of protest, and, to a lesser degree, converted many to the tenets of modern art.

Unfortunately, critical success did not lead to sales, and Milne struggled for many years with what amounted to poverty. He left New York in order to live cheaper in Boston Corners in upstate New York, and he enlisted in the Canadian Army in 1918 to become a war artist in England and France. After the war he returned to Boston Corners.

His style developed towards graphic concentration and coloristic minimalism, but these austere works had to wait a long time before they attracted buyers, in spite of a sale to the National Gallery in Ottawa in 1924.

In 1929 Milne returned to Canada and settled in Palgrave, Ontario. There he painted one of his best-known works, the justly famous "Painting Place III". In the 30s Milne finally found wealthy patrons, such as the Toronto art dealer Douglas Duncan and the Massey family.

His first marriage broke up and he remarried. He moved to Toronto, and later to Uxbridge, and later still to Baptiste Lake, where he died of a stroke in 1953.

Here in Georgetown we have a glorious exhibition right now at the Gallery of the Halton Hills Cultural Centre. The exhibition, that has the title "Ten Years to Remember", will also be on view to December 1 of this year, which

will enable Library users and theatre goes to return to a wonderful selection of art works, by mostly regional artists, again and again.

To enjoy a work of art two creators are needed. The first is the artist who makes the art work, and the second the viewer who responds to it. "Ten Years" is bursting with creations that demand the viewers participation.

Verna Linney's "The Elements-Earth", for instance, is one of the most symbolic works I have seen for some time. Vallery Mokrytzki's "Awakenings" is a clarion call to action. "Far Western Shore" by James Collis is invigorating in its gestural certainty. Charlotte Brainerd's "Light Intersect" is a timely expression of religious fervour, and a formal exercise of great precision. There is more, much more. Go and see.

John Revell, one of the best botanical artists in Canada today, is having an exhibition of his latest watercolor paintings at Gallery House Sol in Georgetown to November 7, 1991. At the same time, selected small and medium sized bronzes by Canadian sculptors are on exhibit at House Sol. All of them were cast by Art-cast Inc., the well-known art foundry on Armstrong Avenue. There are also monoprints by Heather Drenters, wife of the sculptor Andreas Drenters, in this exhibition, as well as paintings by Frank C. Black and Harald J. Newman.

## Artisans plan stained glass course

The Credit Valley Artisans are offering a course in the lead came method of stained glass on Monday evenings starting November. Georgetown resident, Susan Kerr will be the instructor. Susan has worked with stained glass for over eight years and is a member of the Stained Glass Crafters guild of the Credit Valley Artisans.

Students will create a design

and learn how to use lead came to piece the glass together. Tools and techniques specific to lead came will be demonstrated including choice of lead came, widening and narrowing channels and stretching the came.

This is an intermediate course in stained glass designed for those with knowledge of cutting and grinding glass and soldering.

This is an excellent follow-up course for those who have taken a beginner's stained glass course. The course will be held at Cedarvale Cottage in Cedarvale Park, Georgetown.

For further information contact Frank Anthony, Registrar at 877-5856 between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Deadline for registration in this course is Monday, Oct. 28, 1991.



### Caligraphy Art

Susan Nelson (middle) demonstrates proper techniques of Caligraphy writing to Alicia (left) and Sue Kelly Saturday during the Credit Valley Ar-

tisan's course on calligraphy writing. (Herald Photo by Steven LeBlanc)

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