

SIMON FRASER GALLERY
SOME RECENT ACQUISITIONS
JULY 4 - 21, 1989

Viewing this exhibition should indicate much more than I could in words the significance of the works of art acquired by the Gallery over the past year. In numbers alone, the Gallery has added over 1200 works of art. This year's exhibition of prints by Andy Warhol and Lisa MacLean accounts for only one-sixtieth of the total number of works acquired in 1988-1989. The acquisitions can be measured in the dollar-value added to the University Collection. It is estimated that the works acquired this year increased the value of the Collection by over 20 per cent. Another measure is the range of media in which the works were executed. Here again the measure is significant.

Photographic installations, oils on canvas, acrylics on canvas, water colours on paper, silkscreens, lithographs, etchings and intaglios on paper were added. Over 1000 silkscreen and lithographic prints have been acquired.

We do not have to look further than this large number of prints to discover why this current exhibition has been limited to print works on paper. And any reading of art reviews will provide us with the reason why. Of all the artists represented only two have been selected -- Andy Warhol and Lisa MacLean. Andy Warhol, a legendary figure in contemporary art and art theory, died in 1988. In the months preceding his death, Lisa MacLean brought international attention to lithographic art in Vancouver when she was selected to participate in the 17th Biennial of Graphics at the Museum of Modern Art in Ljubljana.

Among the most prominent subjects depicted in the art of Warhol are personal portraits. Many stars were portrayed by Warhol, including Elizabeth Taylor, Marilyn Monroe and of course, Himself. One of the last portraits he executed was that of Wayne Gretzky.

Lisa MacLean's subject matter is double coded. It is autobiographical: it depicts her mother and herself as well as household animals and objects of utility. But her backgrounds and figurative gestures echo the subjects of art history: Renaissance perspectives through windows, Classical and Gothic architectural settings, and Cubist figurative stances. Her strident polychromy is not only eye-catching, but makes her imagery more readily brought to view in the mind's eye: her polychromy gives her work the memorable qualities of technicolour dreams.

The Gallery looks forward to the future showing of other works acquired this year. And the Gallery also looks to the recent past and is very pleased to recognize the generosity of the following who have made these landmark acquisitions of 1988-89 possible: Dr William Saywell and the President's Acquisition Fund, the Malaspina Printmakers Society, Dr. Brandt Miles, Mr. Cecil Wishart, Mr. David Duff, and Mr. Victor Spencer.

Dr. Edward Gibson,
Director
Simon Fraser Gallery
July, 1989