

The sculptor's Society of Canada — 60 years old and going strong

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The Sculptor's Society of Canada

—60 years old and going strong!

DANIEL POKORN

The Sculptor's Society of Canada (SSC) was founded in 1928 and incorporated in 1932. The six founding sculptors, from Quebec and other parts of Canada, were Emanuel Hahn, Henri Hébert, Alfred Laliberté, Frances Loring, Elizabeth Wyn Wood and Florence Wyle.

Since its inception, the Society has promoted an active interest in sculpture and made the public more receptive to this art form. Along the years, its vision of sculpture has been shared by the public and institutions alike. It exhibited seven times at the National Gallery in Ottawa from 1928 to 1950 and six times at the Art Gallery of Toronto (the now Art Gallery of Ontario -AGO) from 1928 to 1958. The sculptures of co-founders Frances Loring and Florence Wyle were shown at the AGO in 1987, together with a memorial exhibition of works by SSC honorary member the late Henry Moore in 1987-1988. A feature film on the life and work of SSC co-founder Alfred Laliberté was released on French TV in 1987.

In addition to these provincial and national achievements, the Sculptor's Society of Canada has taken part in a number of international projects. Its permanent collection, created in 1980 by past presidents Endre Boszin and Aileen Hooper Cowan, was shown in various provinces in Canada and the United States. In 1978, under the presidency of Irene Blogg, the SSC celebrated its 50th anniversary with a traveling show in London, Paris and Brussels. With Gena Tenenbaum as president, it also exhibited at the prestigious Ernst Museum Budapest, Hungary, in 1986-1987. In 1986, the Society won an Italian Senate Trophy for the overall excellence of its participation in the 7th Biennial of Small Sculptures and Medals in Ravenna, Italy, in the company of such greats as the late Henry Moore. SSC member Attila Keszei then won a gold medal. This year again, the Society takes part in the Ravenna Biennial, in which it was invited to participate.

The Sculptor's Society of Canada will hold its 60th Anniversary Exhibition at the Black Aird Gallery, Toronto, Ontario, in late 1988. The Society is planning a commemorative catalogue as a tribute to its pioneering, departed members, whose works will complement selections by current members. The Society is also studying the possibility of an exhibition in Montreal and a symposium in British Columbia. Others projects, such as a show in Czechoslovakia, are under consideration.

The Sculptor's Society of Canada promotes the creation of innovative, challenging and relevant work. Striving for a non-parochial outlook, it is open to all artistic trends. Sculptors accepted into the Society retain their freedom of approach. Caution is advisable before dismissing a specific style or technique. Subjectivity can all too easily have an undue bearing on value judgements. Therefore, works by members of the SSC vary in style, theme, meaning and material. The unity is the commitment, the focus the vision.



The SSC now has over 100 members. As a national Society, it endeavours to include sculptors from all provinces in Canada. Although most of its members live in Ontario, it also has members in Quebec, British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, as well as associate members in the USA and West Germany. Members are of various national or ethnic backgrounds: English, French, Hungarian, German, Polish, Korean, Yugoslav, etc. This diver-

sity helps to achieve a dynamic, lively and enriching exchange of artistic and critical viewpoints. However long distances and prohibitive communication costs make it hard to reach potential members in some provinces. In this regard, the Society would welcome any suggestions or ideas to augment the national representation of its membership.

A jury, comprised of five SSC members, meets twice a year to discuss the applications. Interested sculptors are cordially invited to submit 10 slides (2 slides for each of the five sculptures to be assessed), a 10\$ cheque and a résumé to: Mr. Robert Hume, Membership Chairman, 7 Hemford Crescent, Don Mills, Ontario, M3B 2S4.

The Society publishes a bulletin available from: Ms. Karen Stoskopf Harding, Archivist & Newsletter Editor, 273 Richmond Street, Richmond Hill, Ontario, L4C 3Z2.

Daniel Pokorn, is President of the Sculptor's Society of Canada and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

Geert Maas, *Lovers II*, terra cotta, 44 X 38 X 30 cm.

