MONTRÉAL, NOUVELLE OLYMPIE

Montréal s'apprête à célébrer, avec le monde entier, les héros de la poésie en action, les athlètes, ces dieux qui ajoutent à l'homme la dimension rêvée, celle de la force et du courage conjugués avec l'habileté. Des dons qui nécessitent de régner d'abord sur soi avant de pouvoir se mesurer à autrui.

Montréal s'est donnée des installations olympiques, colossales, dans l'esprit de Babylone et des Pyramides. C'est ici qu'on honorera l'audace, la perfection du muscle, le sens de la coordination, le savoir-faire, le mépris de la fatigue, la détermination et l'intelligence décisive. L'athlète, comme l'artiste, connaissant sa puissance, trouve l'exaltation dans le dépassement de ses limites. Le chef-d'œuvre de l'athlétisme, comme celui de l'art, survit aux athlètes et aux artistes. C'est de cette immortalité dont nous avons besoin ; en somme, la vie dans sa prodigieuse intensité.

Montréal, belle et attentive, salue les héros du Stade ; elle est fière d'être, pour quelques jours, dépositaire de la flamme des Grands Jeux, d'être l'hôte de tous ces hommes et de toutes ces femmes qui vont nous démontrer que les dieux nous sont toujours nécessaires.

Andrée PARADIS
texts in english

MONTREAL, THE NEW OLYMPIA

By André PARADIS

Montreal is preparing to extol with the whole world the athletes, the heroes of poetry in action, these gods who add to man the dreamed-of dimension of strength and courage combined with skill. Gifts that demand self-mastery before measuring oneself against others. Montreal has provided itself with colossal Olympic installations, in the spirit of Babylon and the Pyramids. There we shall honour daring, perfection of muscle, sense of coordination, savoir-faire, scorn of fatigue, determination and decisive intelligence. The athlete, like the artist, knowing his strength, finds exhibition in going beyond his limits. The masterpiece of athletics, like that of art, outlives athletes and artists. We have need of this immortality; in short, of life in its stupendous intensity.

Montreal, beautiful and courteous, salutes the heroes of the Stadium; it is proud to be, for a few days, the home of the Great Games Flame, proud to host all these men and women who are going to show us that the gods are still necessary to us.

(Translation by Mildred Grand)

QUEBEC TRENDS, 1976
AN IMAGINARY DEBATE

By Bernard LÉVY

What is the state of art in Quebec? It is difficult to say. And what will be its state tomorrow? Unless we can fluently read a crystal ball... And yet two experts have taken a chance at this puzzle. Mrs. Fernande Saint-Martin, director of the Museum of Contemporary Art, and Mr. Bogardi, art critic of the Montreal Star, have agreed to lend assistance to Vie des Arts as intermediary, how art in Quebec, as it appears in its present different trends, is linked to the admirable interrogation on Art (with a capital A) opening to-day in the world, which will be developed during the coming years.

At first sight, it seems that material and financial conditions enjoyed by artists in Canada are extremely conducive to creating. On that score, the programs of grants and aid to creation set up in Canada and Quebec can be compared to advantage with those of any other country in the world. Furthermore, the austerity decreed by the federal government this year to fight inflation does not affect the artistic sector. But artists cannot live only on grants and bursaries. Therefore most of them teach in colleges or universities.

Surely, if there are still many measures to be found to allow artists to produce under better conditions, it would perhaps be time. Mrs. Saint-Martin wonders, to think of "assuring an essential minimum for everyone, even if it demands the artists being satisfied with it". The solution would not be as Utopian as it seems if complementary measures were matched to it. Thus, if we consider that the work of art belongs to the community, "why should the State not produce under better conditions works of art in the subway, as in Paris, for example. The beginning of the 60's was a fruitful period for art in Quebec. The time of taking a stand had passed; the moment of creation began. A great number of artists, among whom were several automatists, really found themselves then: Comeau, Letendre, Feron, Gaucher, etc. These years also saw the beginning of Optical Art (Roger Vider). We were in a period of sculpture rich in promise.