

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

ART IN PARIS

The last show in the Orangerie des Tuileries, the site of some of the most important exhibitions in France and a temporary exhibition hall, is devoted to the collections of Louis XIV. The bulk of the exhibition is provided by the Louvre's Dept. of Drawings, some of which have never been publicly seen. When drawings were not important or appreciated, Louis XIV bought a whole collection of 5,142 items from one German banker. In addition, an amazing variety of works from Eskimo carvings to Mayan manuscripts, from late Byzantine illuminations to Poussin and Rubens is included.

At the Centre Culturel du Marais, a small, penniless recycled house in the area of Paris where the Centre Pompidou is located, they are showing the twenty years (1909-1929) of Les Ballets Russes' activity with the emphasis on costumes and studies for stage sets, displayed in chronological order. The splendid tribute to Diaghilev's genius as impresario, using the talents of the Paris avant-garde, Balla, Utrillo, Matisse, di Chirico, Braque, Miro, Gris, Ernst, Gabo, Pevsner, Rouault, Derain, and of course, Picasso.

On 10 December in Paris, a new gallery, called Vitrine, 51 rue quincampoix, 75004 Paris, opened. The objective of this gallery is to give to art galleries, museums and other art institutions of the whole world the possibility to make known in a lively, quick and efficient way the activities they pursue, the artists and works they represent, and to place at the disposal of a large audience the information collected for them to acquire and renew a current knowledge of the art which is being produced where the public does not have the time or the means to go. Thus, close to the Centre Pompidou, large screens have been installed in the shopwindow of the space to show color slides representing the exhibitions and works presented at that time by various affiliated galleries and institutions throughout the world. A means of communication with immediate visual and precise information to broaden the public which could not ordinarily see the art. Galleries and museums have been invited to send color slides of their exhibitions so that they will be projected on the screens in the shopwindow during the exhibition time in the originating museum or gallery.

In addition, *Vitrine pour l'art actuel* also has a bookstore dedicated only to contemporary artists' books, catalogs, essays, magazines, so that artists are invited to send their books to Vitrine, as well as museums. A photo library is being organized to make available a wide panorama of any art movement today in visual form. They are also willing to act as an agent between artist and potential collector. They have recently shown the work from the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago, Eindhoven, Leo Castelli and Paul Cooper in New York, Krinzinger in Innsbruck, Oppenheim in Cologne and others.

ART IN ITALY

The leaning tower of Pisa has stopped leaning and the sinking city of Venice is rising again. The tower remained stationery all last year, rather than add an average of one centimeter to its lean.

This seems to be all due to the change in the world's climate and temperatures.

Italy is compiling a vast computer-stored catalog of every significant work of art in the country, to help preserve its national treasures and promote scholarship.

Millions of items on architecture, painting, sculpture, popular culture, and other artistic expressions will be in the record. All endangered works not housed safely in museums are being cataloged first.

The Catalog Institute is headed by Dr. Arnaldo Negri in Rome. Much of the work is being done by out-of-work students who are paid an average of \$12 per item. The cards contain a precise description of the works of art, its source, its condition, and other information vital for researchers, preservationists, and for the police. Both cards and photos are reduced to microfilm and then prepared for storage in a computer.

EAST EUROPEAN ART

The first art gallery outside the Soviet Union devoted exclusively to Soviet Art will open this spring in Pittsburgh. Russian Images, Ltd. in Pittsburgh will open with some 300 handpicked works, the first large-scale export of Soviet art allowed by Soviet authorities.

In Moscow, the first showing of American pop art and modern photo-painting works has met with approval of critics and the public alike. In addition, there are works from the late 19th century through the present.

Antique Russian icons are the newest art boom in Western Europe. Because of the demand for antique Russian icons, the supply in Russia is quickly dwindling.

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