

The "Artists for Kids" Trust proudly offers

JEAN McEWEN



Ni Plus, Ni Moins

3 colour etching, edition of 50, 5 artists' proofs
signed and numbered by the artist
printed on Arches 100% rag paper
image size 80.5 X 61 cm. [24 x 32"]
released April 1994
issue price \$850.00

JEAN McEWEN

Jean McEwen is an internationally renowned Canadian artist. As one of the pioneers of the North American modernist art movement, he has explored non-figurative colour and space relationships through his painting for more than forty years.

He was born December 14, 1923 in Montreal, Quebec. His mother was French Canadian, his father of Scottish decent. As a child Jean McEwen was intrigued by painting and the qualities of colour, but he did not receive any formal training in art. While enrolled in the School of Pharmacy at the University of Montreal, he became interested in poetry and was strongly influenced by a film, *The Moon and Sixpence*, a Somerset Maugham account of the life of artist Paul Gauguin. What the young McEwen realized, was that he did not have to be a full time artist to be successful. Following this "revelation", as he called it, the artist immediately bought books on the work of Picasso, Matisse and Braque, acquired oil paints and brushes and began learning about art as he continued his studies in pharmacy.

Much to the young McEwen's surprise, he had some of his early paintings accepted in the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts Annual Spring Exhibitions in 1949 and 1950. He also received favorable reviews from Quebec artist Paul-Emile Borduas, who encouraged him to travel to Paris to further his understanding of modern art and painting.

Leaving his pharmacist work behind, he spent three years in Paris and formed associations with Canadian artist Jean-Paul Riopelle and American artist, Sam Francis. The early influences of Borduas, Riopelle and Francis had a lasting effect on the future work of McEwen and helped solidify his style and beliefs as a modernist.

For the next thirty years, Jean McEwen steadfastly explored abstract colour field painting despite mainstream shifts away from abstraction in the seventies and eighties. Along with fellow Quebec artists Guido Molinari, Yves Gaucher and others, they have maintained non-figurative

abstraction as an important force in Canadian art.

During his long career, Jean McEwen has exhibited regularly and has had his work selected for many private and public collections throughout Canada and in the United States. These include the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa and the Museum of Modern Art in New York. He has also received many honours and awards including a 1963 honourary mention as Canada's representative to the Sao Paulo International Biennial in Brazil.

The etching *Ni plus, Ni moins* (*Not more, Not less*) is the artist's first venture into printmaking. A process which he found to be "quite revealing and pleasureable". The title is a verbal reference to pushing the composition as far as it would go. The entire image, its contrasts, its cellular form, warm colours, framing verticals and rich texture are held in harmony by the tensions created between them. As a non-figurative work, it moves quietly with the inherent vibrations created within it.

The "Artists for Kids" Trust

The "Artists for Kids" Trust was established in 1989 through the generous cooperation among some of Canada's finest artists and the North Vancouver Board of School Trustees. Its mission, through the sale of original prints by its artist patrons, is to build a lasting legacy for visual and performing arts programs for the children of British Columbia. The "Artists for Kids" Trust provides four annual scholarships to graduating students and a variety of arts enrichment opportunities for hundreds of elementary and secondary students each year.

Canadian artists who have generously supported the program include: Jean McEwen, Guido Molinari, Betty Goodwin, Michael Snow, David Blackwood, Bill Reid, Gordon Smith, Jack Shadbolt, Robert Bateman, Joe Fafard, Gathie Falk, Alan Wood, Molly Lamb Bobak, Anne Meredith Barry and the estates of the late B.C. Binning and the late Fred Amess.



Jean McEwen (left) carefully watches his first print being pulled from the press by master printmaker Paul Machnik at Studio PM in Montreal.

To make an appointment to view Jean McEwen's print *Ni plus, Ni moins* or if you would like more information about "Artists for Kids" programs, please contact: Bill MacDonald, Director, "Artists for Kids" Trust, 810 West 21st Street, North Vancouver, B.C. V7P 2C1 Phone: 604-987-6667 Fax: 604-987-8967

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J e a n M c E w e n



Vous êtes cordialement invité au vernissage de l'exposition

Jean McEwen

Poèmes barbares

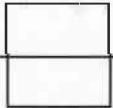
Peintures et aquarelles 1997-1998

Vernissage et lancement
de la monographie en couleur
par Constance Naubert-Riser

Le jeudi 19 novembre 1998 à 18 heures

Avec la participation du
Ministère de la Culture et des Communications du Québec

L'exposition se poursuit jusqu'au 30 janvier 1999



GALERIE SIMON BLAIS

4521, rue Clark, Montréal H2T 2T3 514.849.1165
Ouvert du mardi au samedi de : 10h00 à 17h30

Poème barbare no 13, 1998, huile sur toile, 60" x 40"