ENTERTAINMENT

"Fishtales" exhibit reviewed by Dwight Kostjuk

Hilda Woolnough's unsettling exhibition, entitled Fishtales, is as much a science fiction as a group of paintings. We are informed in an introduction that the works are an "artist's reconstruction of the legends of a lost society." The society is ours. The artist belongs to the Post-Nuclear Era; she is limited in her depiction of our society to what she can infer from murals and tablets found in caves when nuclear tremors and earthquakes shake what we know as the Red Sea. We peruse a few of the pieces and realize that the artist is probably a fish.

The legends have structure derived from four archetypes. We begin with a "Genesis" wherein the artist surmises how life develops from the sea. We move on to "Gift-bearers," which is a nativity of sorts. "In Narrative" we are offered a mythology, of euglenia and Astasia, which suggests how life develops. the "Codices" present phenomena from our world (such as the hibiscus and the bunting, which are des-troyed by the holocaust), and phenomena from hers (such as the crab and the fly, which proliferate as mutants). The artist's use of draughts-manship and embossment is at once imaginative and evo cative of science, and--when she uses colour--her emphasis of the primaries is suggestive of primitive art.



If the premise essentially is pessimistic, the tone relies heavily on humour, lyricism and humanism. Because the artist must surmise, much of her guesswork falls short of the mark in subtly ironic and witty ways. We find ourselves smiling at our pretensions and hers. The mythological pieces, which depict the mating of fish and human, are wildly suggestive and soundly feminist. The pieces of the "Gift-bearers" manifest a longing both in conception and execution. At the show's conclusion we are optimistic because in the Post-Nuclear Era life is evolving once again, with humanistic characteristics intact. The final image in the plainest but perhaps the most resonant. It is simply an embossment of the recurrent grouper motif, made in memory of those without legs who go back to the sea.

Fishtales runs til February 6 in both the Gallery and the Studio in The Art Centre, on the main floor of Memorial Hall.



Council of the Arts presents Stephanie Sebastian, pianist



A student with Earle Voorhies, Cesare Pascarella, and Rosina Lhevinne, Stephanie Sebastian was the first prize winner of the Toronto Symphony Mozart Piano Competition, as well as prize winner of the CBC Young Performers Competition.

She has performed as soloist with Leonard Bernstein and the New York Philharmonic as well as major orchestras in Canada.

Miss Sebastian has given recitals in Carnegie Hall, New York, and Wigmore Hall in London. In May of 1989, she performed in recital and gave master classes in Beijing, Nanjing and Maachan, as well as performances in Toyko and Fukuyama. She toured South American in June, 1989, with the Canadian Chamber Ensemble with performances in Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and Venezuela.

As founding pianist of the Canadian Piano Trio, she is one of Canada's best known chamber musicians and has toured extensively across Canada, the U.S. and Europe.

In the 1989-90 season, Stephanie Sebastian will appear in various Canadian centres including a major recital at Music Toronto, a tour of the Maritime provinces, and broadcast recordings.

"...she is a very fine player: alert, collaborative, gutsy but not forced in her sound, of secure technique."

Toronto Star

"In the opening number, Haydn's Trio No. 18 in A, the pianist is showcased, and Stephanie Sebastian is definitely one to put the spotlight on. With her beautifully clear, clean and light touch, stunning precision, and a radiant projection of Haydn's inimitable elegance and good nature, she spearheaded a totally delightful performance."

Kitchener-Waterloo Gazette

Canadians Welcome!!

Santa Cruz Poetry Contest

Santa Cruz, CA—Poetry prizes worth $44,000 will be awarded to 608 poets by the American Poetry Association in 1990. The association will sponsor four separate contests this year, doubling its efforts to discover new talent.

"Students win many of our prizes. They are in a creative time of life, and we look forward to reading their work," said Robert Nelson, publisher for the association.

Each contest awards a $1,000 grand prize, a $500 first prize, and a total of $11,000 in prizes to 152 winners. All adults who write poetry are welcome to enter.

For the current contest, poets may send up to 6 poems, each no more than 20 lines, name and address on each page, to American Poetry Association, Dept. CO-30, 250-A Potrero St., P.O. Box 1803, Santa Cruz, CA 95061. Poems must be postmarked by March 31 to meet the deadline. A new contest starts April 1.

Each poem will also be considered for publication in the American Poetry Anthology, a hardcover collection of contemporary verse.

Since 1981 the association has awarded over $165,000 in contest prizes to 3,100 poets.