PRIVATE VIEW HELD AT ART EXHIBITION

Committee of Selection Had to Perform Obviously Difficult Task

MANY OMISSIONS NOTED

Montreal Representation by Artists Who Have "Arrived" Portraits Fewer in Number Than Usual

It cannot be said that the 43rd Spring Exhibition under the auspices of the Montreal Art Association, which opened with a private view last evening, is marked by any outstanding feature. There are, perhaps, more standard works in the selection and a committee of selection was faced with a difficult task—that of setting a standard which would make the show worthy of the name. From the number of entries, choosing enough works to make an exhibition at all.

In numbers the collection is not large, there being no cause as has sometimes been the case, of utilising the full capacity of the room. As in comparison with the Spring Exhibition of last year, there are fewer entries of local contributions. However, in importance, no can be said that the established painters of Montreal and outside are generously represented. In this connection a number of omissions are to be noted. Among the absences are Mme. Louise Browne, R.C.A., Frederick St. Chaloner, R.C.A., Clarence A. Gagnon, R.C.A., James L. Graham, R.C.A., William Hope, R.C.A., John Y. Johnston, R.C.A., Lillian Torrance, R.C.A., Robert Ross Pearsall, R.C.A., Charles E. Smith, R.C.A., R.C.A., and F. E. Woudron, R.C.A., Contributions from such sources have naturally strengthened the exhibition.

There can only surmise as to the cause of this falling off. It cannot be assumed that the majority of the works at present is not as good as the past, although the recent vogue runs to the better and freakish, with raw paint everywhere and form and colour being the most important. This essaying of this style and laying by, until they have mastered it. It is perhaps a greater feeling of having mastered the style, and the baying public is at the table. It will be a matter for the Art Association of Montreal in its next exhibition to determine how the young and untrained, even if it is to solve some of its mundane problems as bread and butter, clothing and housing, and since, during the past few years, the number of sales has not been great many. It is to the point to get a good collection together. In order to do this, a one-man show was held at the Art Association, which worthy fulfils the purpose of encouraging artistic effort by lecture and criticism, is thus the unwritten victory.

A survey of the exhibition indicates that many of the younger painters, perhaps inspired by the showing of the works of some of the more successful in painting at Wembley, had welcomed certain of the ambition that Canada had founded a distinc