Sunday Marks Close Of Spring Exhibition

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Over 10,000 Attended 56th Annual Show on Three Sunday Afternoons

On Sunday the 56th Spring Exhibition of the Art Association of Montreal will close, after a period that has witnessed some of the largest attendances in recent years.

As was inevitable, in view of its size and the uneven quality of some of the work shown, the exhibition has not escaped criticism—but then the Association wasn’t exactly praised when, a few springs ago, it applied the axe to a terrific number of entries, reduced the size of the exhibition, raised the standard, and blighted the hopes of a lot of aspiring artists!

The Spring Exhibition at the moment—barring those able to successfully undertake “one man” shows—is the only opportunity for display that presents itself to the younger element feeling its way. It was regrettable that some of the seasoned painters, for various reasons, did not contribute. Their presence would have raised the level and served as a valuable example to many who look to them for guidance.

Certainly the jury of selection showed an open mind in admitting 476 works, and to expect all the contributions to be pure gold is craving a miracle. It did not result in a show to be remembered by reason of its outstanding quality, but it is futile to pretend that the spirit of free-for-all kept people away—the last three Sundays showing respective attendances of 4,300, 2,500 and 3,600. It is questionable if ever before those galleries on three afternoons saw an attendance of over 10,000.

From the walls “Lake Superior,” by Lawren Harris, and “Lumber Wharf, Halifax, N.S.”, by Stanley Royle, R.B.A., A.R.C.A., went into the permanent collection of the Association, and encouragement was shown to two young painters when the Jessie Dow Prize for landscape went to C. Anthony Law, of Quebec, for his oil “Cold Winter Day, P.Q.” shown on this page—and to Goodridge Roberts, of Montreal, for “Giraffe Hills,” a watercolor too subtle for untrained reproduction.

The next activity will be later next week, an exhibition of work by students of Edwin Holgate, R.C.A., Lilias Torrance Newton, R.C.A., and Will Ogilvie, who are in charge of the Art Association schools.