

THE PARIS BIENNAL

From September 20 to November 3, the Eleventh Paris Biennale will take place at the Museum of Modern Art of the City of Paris and at the Pompidou Center (Beaubourg).

Whereas the Venice Biennale has become a sort of retrospective showcase as is the case with the Documenta 6 in Kassel which shows works that have already won international recognition, the Paris Biennale has maintained its emphasis on youth and new works, often created just for that occasion. Young artists (born in 1944 or after) from all over the world are invited to submit a file on their work to a jury in their country, composed of prominent artists, art critics and museum curators.

A selection of artists is then made and this year the number reached 330 representing 43 countries (compared to 150 artists in the last Biennale).

The Biennale is divided into sections according to the type of work: video art, experimental cinema, copy art (see our article in this issue), photography, performance art, music, architecture, books and magazines and, of course, sculpture and painting. The Biennale is undoubtedly an important springboard for launching a young artist's career as it is attended by art critics, journalists, gallery owners, museum curators and collectors from many countries, who find it particularly convenient to be able to make at a single glance a thorough survey of what is new in the field of avant-garde art. It is the place to discover new talents and new trends. In addition, 5000 copies of a catalogue are published on that occasion—each artist being allotted two pages for his résumé and a reproduction of his work. The Biennale catalogues have become important reference works.

—Christian Rigal