

International Showcase: The 12th Biennale Opens in Paris

Exhibits of modern architecture and old photographs are highlights of the new fall gallery season

by XIANE GERMAIN

THE 12TH. BIENNALE de Paris, with representatives from 45 countries, all artists under 35 years of age, will be the event of the season. While not the cultural shock it was in the early 70s, it will be indicative of a new state of mind, a turn in the approach to creativity. The contradiction between the presence of a still strong intellectual and political involvement and the equally strong desire to return to a more instinctive form of art, has created a powerful tension in the young artistic community which is reflected in the exhibit.

There are the works of two Spanish artists, Miguel Navarro, who makes large architectural sculptures and Zuch, who's powerful paintings are reminiscent of the German expressionists. France's Philippe Favier shows a series of tiny mural collages that are the most refined and humorous works of the Biennale. England's Anish Kapoor makes colored cement and wood sculptures inspired by the Orient. The Irishman O'Connell's steel sculptures and the Israeli Judith Levine's painted wood-pieces, that she freely displays on the wall and floor, are also worthy of note.

The United States has a "Slowscan" section in which American artists from different cities will send pictures by cable-telephone daily. Add to this the film, the sound, the performance and the photographic sections and this promises to be a Biennale full of new events every day. Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris. 11, av. du Président Wilson, 75016 Paris. Métro Alma, Tel: 256.32.23. Hours 10h-20h, closed Mon. Tel: 723.61.27.

■ Modernity again and again. Is this a reaction to the neo-nostalgic movement that has invaded design and architecture in the past two years? If the answer is yes, we should be pleased. Classicism is dead, long live modernism, fantasy and novelty in design and in life.

The most stimulating of the three exhibitions on Modernism taking place in Paris is the architecture show of the Biennale de Paris, *La modernité ou l'Esprit du Temps*. 30 architects or groups of architects under the age of 40 (it takes ten years of study to be an architect, so, by the time they are 40, many are still beginners) show their projects and what they have built.

Highlights of the show are the Japanese Team "Zoo," Itsuko Hasegawa, the only female participant to present her work independently, the Austrians Richter and Gerngross, and Doris and Ralph Thut of Western Germany.

Jean Nouvel, one of France's most remarkable architects, is responsible for the organisation of this exhibition. He deserves praise for the blow-up slide shows that give a feeling of the real dimension and color to each exhibit.

La Modernité ou l'Esprit du Temps.
Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts, 12, rue Bonaparte, 75006. Métro: Saint-Germain-des-

Passion
15 octobre