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DAILY AMERICAN

Page

LEND ME YOUR EARS:

U.S. Artists Shine At Contemporary Art Fair

AMERICA'S UNOFFICIAL LEADERSHIP of the art world today is confirmed in the gigantic National Contemporary Art Fair which has just opened at the Palazzo Strozzi in Florence. The exhibition, which occupies three floors of the ancient palace, is an excellent mirror in which the tastes and trends of art in Italy today can be seen reflected.

As it is an unofficial show in which the 32 participating galleries have selected the art themselves, it is also a fine way of finding out just what the Italian public is buying. If the number and quality of the American exhibitors is any indication, U.S. artists are not only maintaining their position in the avant garde but are becoming more and more popular with Italian collectors. Nearly all the galleries are showing at least one U.S. artist, some of whom also work in Italy. In the Marlborough room, along with fine Fontana, Burris and Pomodoro, there is a gleaming stainless steel sculpture, "Cascade," by Beverly Pepper of Rome. In the Pogliani room, next to two splendid bronzes by Mastroianni, there is one of Norm Levenson's huge bronze DNA sculptures. The Penelope Gallery is showing Sarah Sherman's large ironic oil, "Pete Champetre," as well as canvases by Renato Guttuso and Andre Verlon. The Tartaruga has paintings by Franz Kline, Peter Saul and Cy Twombly. And so around the show with such important artists as Jackson Pollack, Alan Davie, Sam Francis, Mark Tobey, Louise Nevelson, and Willem De Kooning on view. But naturally the Americans are not all or even most of the show. The majority of the works are by Italians and range through all the movements of the past 50 years from De Chirico in 1914 to Group 1 in 1964. As with any large exhibition, there are a number of works which do not seem to be really worth showing but out of the some 300 pieces of art on display, nearly everyone can find something to his liking. Besides those mentioned already, the Chiu-razzi, Fante di Spada, Medusa, Nuova Pesa, Obelisco, Odyssea and Salita galleries are participating. The exhibition will continue through April 19 and is open every day. In addition to the paintings there is a memorial show for art dealer Carlo Cardazzo and a display of 100 rare Italian art books.

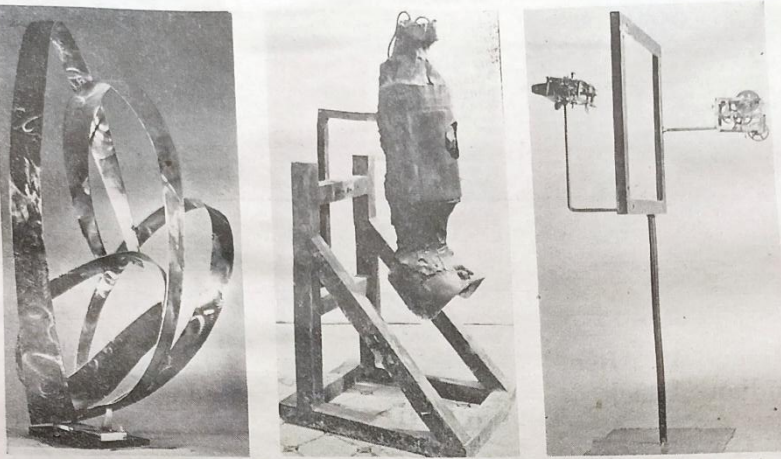
Told By The Tiber

Italian film producer Carlo Ponti says that a factor in the decline of French film production is that country's insistence that movies are an art form. And that is why he has most of his operations in Italy now. Ponti, who just announced Monday his new \$3 million co-production "Marriage—Italian Style" with Sophia Loren and Marcello Mastroianni, says that French regulations give the director almost total control of the film. He commented that this led to artistic results but poor box office.

"Directors may make films the way they want them," he explained, "but it makes it impossible for a producer. If I have a dispute with my director — over editing, retakes, content — he wins." Vittorio De Sica



PONTI



SCULPTURE IN A MODERN VEIN on show at the National Fair of Contemporary Art at the Palazzo Strozzi in Florence in nearly every shape and material. The three highly individualistic pieces above are made of steel, bronze and iron. The stainless steel "Cascade" (left) is by American artist Beverly Pepper of Rome's Marlborough Gallery. The bronze in the center is titled "The Eyes Are Not Here" and is by Augusto Perez of the Obelisco Gallery of Rome. The expressive clockworks ensemble at left is by Renato Barisani of the Centro Gallery in Naples

will direct Ponti's new movie... the Rome Polyphonic Chorus will present a special program for Good Friday: Haydn's "The Seven Words of the Redeemer on the Cross." Antonio Crast will do the recitation and the Casella Chamber Quartet of Turin will play in the performance at the Gonalone Auditorium at 9:30 p.m. Friday... Francis O. Wilcox, dean of the School of Advanced International Studies in Washington of the Johns Hopkins University of which the Hopkins Bologna Center is a branch, is visiting Italy and the center this week... Antonio Delgado, president of Delgado Bros. Inc. in Manila, has checked in at the Hilton... graphic art by Laura Grisi on show at the Segno Gallery... we hear the play really worth seeing these days in Rome is the fine production of Pirandello's masterpiece, "Henry IV," at the Valle Theater... and of course that long awaited concert by Pierre Monteux takes place today at 5:30 p.m. at the St. Cecilia Auditorium with music by Wagner, Beethoven and Ravel... actor Norman Wooland in town to film "Saul and David" which Marcello Baldi is directing. Also in the movie are Gianni Garko, Pilar Clemens, Jose Japse and Nino Persello.

Via Venetopics

American producer, Mel Welles back in Rome winding up work on his latest movie, "A Quiet Business." The film, shot in Switzerland and Portugal, is a very international

business. Between them, the cast and technicians had passports of 12 different nations and 18 languages were spoken on the set. But Welles yesterday denied a published report that some American distributors have already been given a sneak preview of the rushes. "Apart from myself, the cameraman and the film editor no one has seen the rushes yet. Not even any member of the cast. And certainly no distributors — although several have told me they're anxious to see them,"... sad news for the intellectual set on Piazza del Popolo. We've just heard that controversial Negro writer James Baldwin has canceled his lecture tour because of illness and returned to the U.S. However, there's a possibility that he may speak here later in the year... socialites Mr and Mrs Edmond Rigal

of Paris seen at the Cavalieri Hilton Christian Democrat Deputy Luigi D'Amato has tabled a parliamentary question asking Italian Minister of Entertainment Achille Corona what steps he is taking to prevent Rolf Hochhuth's play "The Deputy" from being staged in Italy. He also asked if there was any truth in reports that efforts were being made to produce the play about Pope Pius XII in Italy (Our backstage sources tell us, yes, there were, but they've been dropped). D'Amato said the play would be "offensive and provocative" to Italians.

If you have any news for "Lend Me Your Ears" about your or your friends' parties, social gatherings, arrivals, departures, engagements, marriage, etc., please telephone Rome: 587.118 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. or write to 8 Via Dandolo, Rome, Italy.

Peter Lorre, Dead At 59, Rose To Fame In 'M'

HOLLYWOOD, Calif., March 24 (AP) Actor Peter Lorre, 59, who was found dead Monday at his home rose to fame in the German film "M," in which he played a pathological child killer.

Recently Lorre appeared in film versions of American author Edgar Allan Poe stories — "The Raven" and "The Black Cat" episodes of "Tales of Terror."

Lorre was associated with the late Humphrey Bogart in some of the latter's pictures. These included "Confidential Agent," "Mask of Dimitrios," and "Passage to Marseille."

Lorre's other pictures included "Cross of Lorraine," "Three Strangers," "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea," and "Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea."

He also starred in the "Mr Moto" series of detective films, playing a Japanese private detective.

Lorre began his acting career in Vienna, then went to Berlin, where he joined the Bertolt Brecht theater group.

His body was found Monday by his housekeeper, Beatrice Lane, when she came to clean his apartment near Hollywood Boulevard.

The announcement of Lorre's death was made by his studio, American International Pictures.

His latest film was "Muscle Beach Party." Lorre recently completed a Jerry Lewis picture, "The Patsy."

Lorre is survived by his widow, Anna Marie, from whom a spokesman said he was separated, and their 10-year-old daughter, Kathryn.

The studio spokesman said Lorre was found, in his night clothes, on the floor beside his bed.

Lorre was born in Hungary June 26, 1904. He came to Hollywood in June 1935. He had lived and worked

here since, rising to fame in the portrayal of sinister roles.

Lorre, a master of horror, but also one of the most gentle and funniest of men, had suffered from high blood pressure for years. In 1959 while making a movie in Spain, he almost died of it but a Spanish doctor used the old remedy of blood-letting by leeches to bring down the pressure and saved the actor's life.

Lorre was a favorite target of night club mimics.

"I've been billed as the world's most imitated actor," he once said. "And it's true. I'm easy to imitate. All you need are the soft-balled eyes and the bedroom voice."

Lorre was born in Rosenberg, a remote Hungarian village, the son of a prosperous landowner. But he grew up in Vienna and there — at 17 — the theater became his life.



PETER LORRE

... master of horror

Britt Abandon 'Batasi' To Find Near Sellers

LONDON, March 24 (AP) Twentieth Century-Fox said it would stop tomorrow or film, "Guns at Batasi," because tress Britt Ekland had abandoned her role in the picture.

"Miss Ekland went to Hollywood last Thursday without notifying that she was doing so," said Williams, the company's Eur director.

He added:

"She has worked in the film the past three weeks and has worked for another weeks to complete her role. I close down the production on returns, or until a suitable ment has been found."

Miss Ekland is the bride of British actor Peter Sellers is now in California "Kiss Me Stupid."

"They (Sellers and his bride) are in love," said a very much in love, "but other newlyweds have parting."

Miss Ekland, who is 21, is to be under a seven-trait with 20th Century-Fox.

Saying Sellers had been in his wife every day in California, the studio official Ekland's leaving the company.

In Hollywood Sellers to his bride will not return to finish filming the movie she return for another nounced for her.

Sellers told a newsman his wife is ill, suffering tional exhaustion. He in don barristers will seek her release from Europe's ments.

Miss Ekland had also appear in "Magnificent Flying Machines."

Sellers and his wife she is not giving up her ever.

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"DID YA EVER WATCH A SNAIL CRAWL OVER A FENCE? IT JUST ABOUT KILLS A WHOLE DAY!"