

Who Judges Whom:

A study of some Male/Female Percentages in the Art World

by Jane Martin

In May, 1978, Jane Martin prepared for Canadian Artist's Representation/Le font des artistes Canadiens (CAR/FAC) the following report on the percentages of females on Canada Council Visual Arts Juries, Art Bank Selection Committees, The Arts Advisory Panel; and the percentage of female grant recipients. Women make up 47.5% of CAR/FAC membership.

The percentages of women on Canada Council Juries and Selection Committees ranges from 0-33.3. This percentage has always been low but, alarmingly, the trend is towards even fewer women on visual arts juries, the percentages for the past two years (1975-76 and 1976-77) being the two lowest in the

survey. In 1975-76 out of 31 jurors, one was female and she was not an artist. While "all male" juries are standard, there has never been an "all female" jury. When there is a woman on a jury, she is almost without exception the only woman on the jury and she is frequently not an artist.

The percentage of female applicants is also lower than one would expect from their proportion in both the general population and in the profession, but in only two competitions was a greater proportion of the female than the male applicants successful. Perhaps fewer women apply for grants because they are less aggressive, or less in need of money than their male colleagues; or it could be that, because of the male dom-

PERCENTAGES OF FEMALES ON CANADA COUNCIL JURIES, SELECTION COMMITTEES, AND ADVISORY PANELS; AND AMONGST GRANT APPLICANTS AND RECIPIENTS. (VISUAL ARTS)

	72-73	73-74	74-75	75-76	76-77
SENIOR ARTS GRANTS					
Jurors	0	12.5	16.7	0	a) 0; b) 0
Applicants	18	14	21.5	23.6	22.3
Recipients	0	4.5	0	7.4	33.3*
JUNIOR ARTS GRANTS					
Jurors	0; 33.3	33.3; 0	33.3	14.3	a) 0; b) 33.3
Applicants	29.6	34.6	35.3	33.4	37.2
Recipients	23.7	21.6	28.2	24	16
JURIES FOR NON-COMPETITIVE GRANTS					
	-	0	10	0	12.5
SHORT TERM GRANTS					
Applicants	8.9	31.8	28.9	34	34.4
Recipients	24.7*	23.2	23.9	26.2	27.2
TRAVEL GRANTS					
Applicants	28.9	36	39.2	37.1	27.2
Recipients	12.9	19	28	24.1	14.9
PROJECT GRANTS					
Applicants	23.7	32.7	31.5	32.1	33.2
Recipients	20.4	21.9	27	13.7	25
ALL CATEGORIES					
Jurors	14.3	12.5	15.6	3.2	10.8
Applicants	21	31.1	31.3	32.6	33.4
Recipients	22.4	20	25.4	20.6	18.7
ART BANK COMMITTEES					
	17.5	17.9	15.9	25.4	20.5
PURCHASES**					
	19.6	22.8	25.4	16.8	20.7
ARTS ADVISORY BOARD					
	33.3	0	0	20	0

* only two cases when the percentage of female recipients has been higher than the percentage of female applicants

** The figures represent the percentage of all artists who had work purchased for the Art Bank which was female. The Canada Council would not release the percentage of the purchasing budget which was spent on works by female artists.

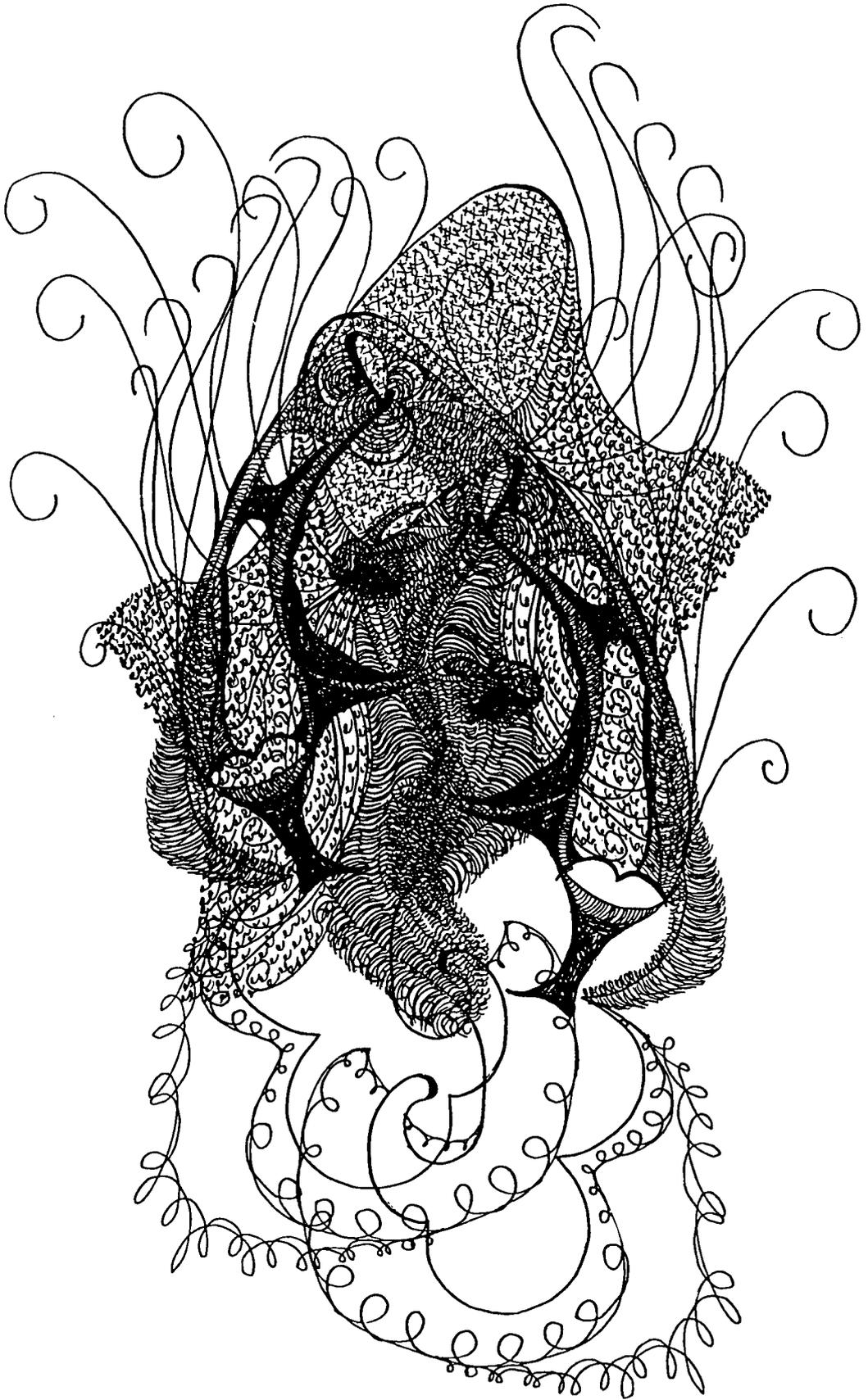
ination of juries, they know they have less hope of success.

The percentage of female grant recipients is low, from 0-39.2, and the trend, like that of the juries, is downwards, in spite of the fact that the percentage of female applicants has been rising over the period of the survey. Are women artists less good or is the system biased against them?

One thing about the record is clear: Women artists have never been adequately represented on Canada Council juries and selection committees nor on the Arts Advisory Panel.

While it is tempting to recommend that all but one juror next year be female, to atone for 1975-76, I recommend only that CAR/FAC request that the Canada Council immediately ensure that women artists are more fairly represented on all juries, selection committees and on the Arts Advisory Panel.*

*This recommendation was accepted unanimously by the CAR/FAC National Council, May, 1978.



Becoming / 9

Sarah Vaughan '18