



JOHN GAYER

Rooted Buildings
sculpture and works on paper

September 4 - 26, 1986

Opening at the Goethe Institute on September 4 is an exhibition of recent works by Toronto artist John Gayer. Titled *Rooted Buildings*, it includes three monumental chalk pastel and oil paintings, and seven mixed media constructions, all related in theme and form. A few simplified images - houses, trees - recur in various configurations: alone, in conjunction with others and as hybrids. They are centered, and firmly anchored to the ground. This, together with the scale, the economy of line and flat washes of colour, imply a solidity and stasis that are both affirmed and contradicted on a symbolic level: the forms reach upwards and outwards, striving for growth and mobility while remaining self-contained in their mass, limited by their surroundings. Through the ensuing ambivalence between freedom and restriction, integration and separateness, the artist explores man's position vis à vis his environment: he is simultaneously a part of it, and apart from it.

John Gayer received his training at the Ontario College of Art in Toronto and the Banff Centre School of Fine Arts. He has been awarded a number of scholarships and grants in recognition of his work, which has been seen in group and solo exhibitions in four provinces. A portfolio of drawings, *Eye Surface to Centre*, was published in the premier issue of the Canadian journal Rubicon.

Featured in the current collection is the 1985 mixed media painting *Lookout Tower*, which placed John Gayer among the finalists in this year's prestigious ArtQuest competition. The exhibition continues at the Goethe Institute Toronto until September 26.

Gallery Hours: Mon.-Tues. 10 - 6
Wed.-Thurs. 10 - 8
Fri. 10 - 5

Contact: Brigitte Kleer or Doina Popescu
924-3327