

Art and sport

This new article reflects the numerous facets of art which takes sport for its theme. We will endeavour to cover all the aspects of art, (ie. painting, but music, cinema, choreography, photography... as well) and to give the thoughts on this subject from the greatest possible number of countries. We are counting on the assistance of all our National Olympic Committees.

“Visions of Eight”

The IOC members present in Varna attended the showing of the official film of the Olympic Games of the XXth Olympiad.

Tremendous talent revealed itself in this film, but there were mixed feelings of compliment and protest at the exit of the hall. No one was indifferent to these eight short runs, whose aim was to give a general but personalised souvenir of the Games of the XXth Olympiad.

Let us try to understand why.

Rule 48 of the Olympic Rules and Regulations requires the Organising Committee of the Olympic Games to make *“the necessary arrangements for the production of a complete cinematographic record of the Games, including at least the finals in each event and in each sport”*.

In Munich, the COJO under the direction of David L. Wolper called upon eight of the most well-known film producers in the world, and asked each one of them to use the theme of their choice throughout the Games.

In this way, Juri Ozerov from the Soviet Union, Mai Zetterling from Sweden, Arthur Penn from America, Michel Pfléggar from Germany, Kon Ichikawa from Japan who produced the splendid film “Tokyo Olympiads”, Milos Forman from Czechoslovakia, Claude Lelouch from France, and the Englishman John Schlesinger made their respective approaches to the 1972 Olympic Games of the athlete’s anticipation at the start, weightlifters, the pole vault, the woman-athlete, the 100 m., the decathlonians, the losers, the marathon.

From the first few seconds we are informed: *“This is not a film of witnessing records, listing winners or losers. It is more how eight famous film producers originally saw it.”*

The spectators share in excellent short sequences, juxtaposed but completely separate from one another. Each sequence gives original and artistic flash-backs of the Olympic Games. At a time when television allows us to live and re-live almost all events, even the least important, the presentation has found ardent supporters.

As far as the IOC is concerned, it has recommended to future Organising Committees of the Games to entrust the official film to only one director in an attempt to arrive at a greater unity.

In the last sequence of “Visions of Eight” John Schlesinger brings the marathon to life using real images, as experienced through the consciousness of one of the participants, the Englishman Ron Hill. The author recalls the tragic events which resulted in the deaths of nine Israelian athletes, which no one can forget. Certain members of the IOC have considered these destructive scenes as having no place in an Olympic film. Mr. Willi Daume, Vice-President of the IOC and responsible for the COJO, nevertheless wishes, like a number of his colleagues, to justify the keeping of this reminder, in making reference to the fact that it was after all a historical event which had now become an integral part of the Munich Games and which could not be omitted from the official film.

Moscow: "Sport in the eyes of young artists"

There were three hundred works in the exhibition of young painters, sculptors and designers, organised in the Arts Centre in Moscow during the Univer-siad.

T. Gladkikh, in "Sport in the USSR" No. 10/1973, reported this event as follows: "In spite of its conventional character, the separation between the young artists and those less young made itself felt. The first indication of youth in an artist is spontaneity, depth of feeling, temperament and enthusiasm. In the works on display one feels the particular interest in sport.

For their efforts, the young artists have not limited themselves to a sportive theme. Their knowledge of sport and the love for their idols in sport is felt. The author can only observe. Often he recreates the sport. The works are full of living colours. They breathe the freshness and ardour of youth. They endeavour to show the strength, agility and courage, moral fibre and physical perfection of youth in our era."



The Athletic Scale

In his article "Unusual Athletics"¹, the Belgian journalist Fernand Bouvier had the good idea of republishing an extract "The Stadium Organ" by André Obey. This poem in prose written in 1924 is worth re-reading.

*"As the Greeks had their seven wise men,
so the scale has seven notes,
the stadium organ has seven pipes,
the smallest of which measures 100 metres, and the largest 10 000.*

*That is everything; that is sufficient to overwhelm us. Seven classic races:
One hundred, two hundred, four hundred, eight hundred, fifteen hundred, five thousand, ten thousand.*

Seven pure sounds, at one and the same time essential, rich and harmonic which, major or minor, bring out in the human being all his lyricism, all his physical suffering, and which on the other hand gives him the stimulus to accomplish his destiny.

If only one of the seven pipes remains silent, if the athlete fails to take part in his race, everything is put out of key, a flower dies in the garden of harmony, a tooth falls from the mouth of Apollo.

*But if the seven pipes of unequal length and yet similar sing their chorded scale:
Oboe, flute, clarinet, human voice, trumpet, horn and bassoon,*

Then a veritable symphony bursts forth from the organ..."

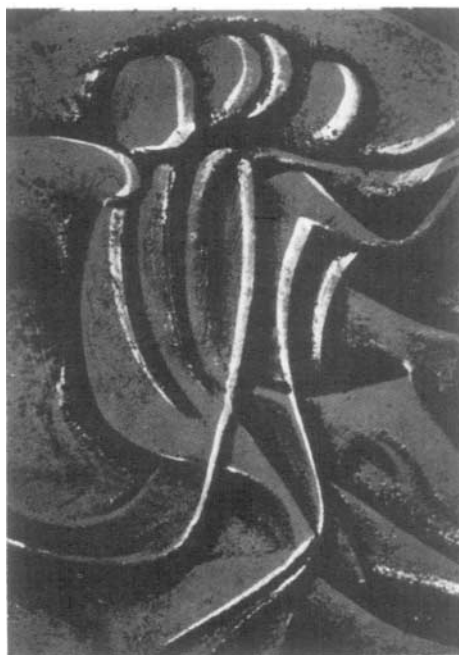
Fotosport 74

The "Club de Natation Reus Ploms" is organising", as in 1970 and 1972, an international exhibition or sportive photography, placed under the patronage of the Spanish Olympic Committee. The visual pleasure gleaned from the last exhibition can be felt thanks to the final luxurious product which the chosen works taken from 2,363 photographs from 37 countries represent.

For Fotosport 1974, the Spanish Olympic Committee has invited photographers from the world over to send their works before 31st March 1974 to P.O.

Box 300, in Reus (Spain). The jury will make its selection between 15th and 20th April and the exhibition will be open from 10th June to 10th July.

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¹ "Les Sports" - Brussels.