



A dream that started with the discovery of the previously unknown "Roadway in a Park, Paris 1886" painting led Erindale Campus arts professor Bogmila Welsh to a major Vincent van Gogh exhibit at the Art Gallery of Ontario. The show can be seen (and will be by thousands of van Gogh fans) until March 22. (Staff photo by Fred Loek)

Keep Biog. DR.  
NOT FOR CIRCULATION  
MISSISSAUGA LIBRARY SYSTEM File 4-81 MT

## Old 'Roadway in a Park' takes Erindale professor to van Gogh exhibition

By WILL KOTEFF

It wasn't a dusty shop tucked in a Paris sidestreet and the painting wasn't hidden behind a creaking door; but it was a van Gogh.

For Erindale Campus Fine Art Professor Bogmila Welsh, a secret dream had come true.

"It took a few weeks for the initial impact to wear off, but then I realized it was the ideal painting to open the show."

A previously unknown painting by the Dutch master "Roadway in a Park, Paris 1886" today is a part of the major international exhibition hanging in the Art Gallery of Ontario.

The actual planning and assembling of "Vincent van Gogh and the birth of Cloisonism" has taken much of Welsh's time for the last three years. In broader terms, however, the exhibition is the culmination of her experiences and education to date.

The driving force behind this unique exhibition was born in Sofia, Bulgaria 40 years ago. Although she spent her early childhood there and in Germany, she received most of her formal education in Toronto.

Following her graduation from the University of Toronto's Fine Art department in 1964, Welsh spent a year at the Sorbonne in Paris studying art history. Returning to

Canada, she joined the staff of the Art Gallery of Ontario.

It was while searching for a subject for her Ph.D thesis that Welsh first focussed on van Gogh's Paris period, 1886 to 1891.

"It was an exciting time and an important style was developed which hadn't previously been explored," explains Welsh.

The style being developed by the artists in Paris at that time has been termed "Cloisonism". In painting it is characterized by flat forms enclosed in darker contouring outlines, broad areas of pure color and generalized images. Prior to painting, cloisonism was used in reference to medieval enamels, stained glass windows and oriental vases.

Scouring libraries, museums and private collections, Welsh spent three or four months a year for the next several years in Europe accumulating the information for her thesis.

In 1976 her detective work jelled into a scholarly publication about influences on van Gogh and his influence on other artists during his Paris period.

What can be seen at the AGO until March 22 is the visual counterpart of this work.

see ART, pg. 3

OVER  
⇒

Paul Biog. bk.

February 4, 1981 MT

WELSH, Bogmila

## Art exhibition

Con't. from pg. 1

Funding was primarily obtained from the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Recreation, The Weston Group and several members of the AGO. But although the money was raised and the exhibition mounted, Welsh is sounding a warning for Canada's cultural future.

"Exhibition's of this magnitude are not going to be able to be done without permanent government support," she says.

William Withrow, director of the AGO, had to dig up the funds and the future of the show was still in doubt as late as last fall when Welsh was writing the catalogue.

"They told me to just keep writing and I did, not knowing what was going to happen."

After closing here March 22, the exhibition

will be put together for final showing at the Rijksmuseum Vincent van Gogh in Amsterdam from April 9 to June 14.

Media coverage of the opening and the exhibition in general has been extensive in North America. Two weeks after the opening here Welsh says, "This is the first day I've felt human in a long time."

Although most of the work is done, Welsh's responsibility doesn't end until all the paintings are returned safely to their owners.

That includes the previously unknown "Roadway in a Park," she identified for a private collector "somewhere in Europe."

"He always thought it was a good painting, says Welsh. "He just didn't know it was a van Gogh."