

New Museum Opens in Chonju Today

A new national museum will open in Chonju, the capital of Cholla-pukto, today bringing the total number of national museum constructed and operated by the government to eight.

The Chonju National Museum has been commissioned to conduct research around Cholla-pukto, excavate and exhibit relics from the Paekche Kingdom period and Mahan preceding Paekche.

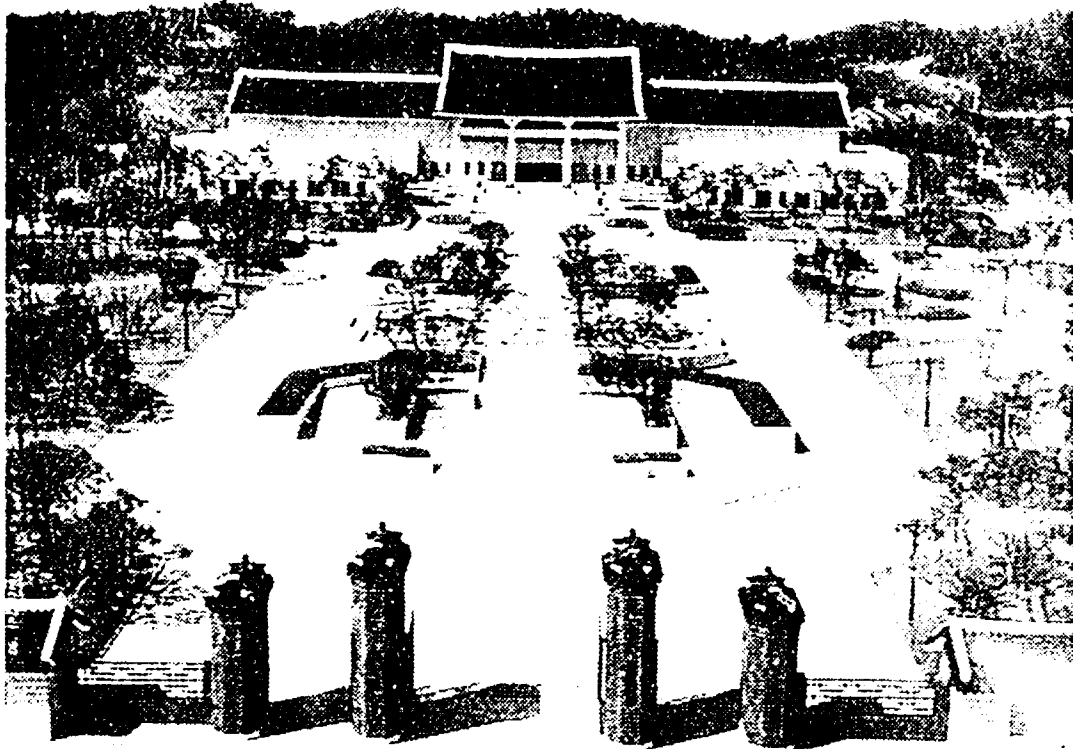
Situated on a plot of 19,000 pyong (62,700 squaremeters) at Hoyoja-dong near the downtown area of Chonju, the museum has a four-hall exhibition building, an auditorium, a storehouse and an administrative building.

In its custody the museum has 12,000 pre-historic, Chinhan and Paekche antiquities which had been stored at the Central National Museum in Seoul, as well as national, municipal and university museums around Korea.

A group of emigrants from Koguryo settled down in the Seoul area in 18 B.C. and founded a state called Paekche on land given to them by a legendary leader of Mahan, according to the Samguk Sagi (History of the Three Kingdoms) compiled in the 20th century based on an earlier original edition.

Paekche gradually expanded her land southward into major Mahan territory. Paekche's thriving capital at Seoul, however, was sacked by Koguryo in 475 A.D., and Paekche moved her capital to Kongju some 120 kilometers south of Seoul. Paekche then controlled the entire area of former Mahan and in 538 A.D. moved further south to Puyo at the center of the Mahan area.

Some 1,200 relics related to Mahan and Paekche will put on view for one month starting Friday. Admission is free during this period.



A national museum opening Friday in Hoyoja-dong, Chonju, embraces relics from the Cholla-pukto area and is commissioned to do research on the Paekche Kingdom, one of the Three Kingdoms, and the Mahan tribe preceding it.

One hall houses early historic remains such as Bronze Age crockeries unearthed from a dwelling in Sejin-ni near Namwon.

Showcased in another hall are gold-gilt diadem for a king retrieved in Pyongjom-ni, Iksan, a sarira case found from in a five-story pagoda in Wanggung-ni, Iksan, and a family registration document on Lee Song-gye, the founder of the Choson kingdom who was born in Chonju.

Another hall testifies to Cholla folks' penchant for culinary art, fine art and craftworks.

Some 250 fans will be displayed in the fourth hall for one month, which were made using Chonju rice paper famous

for its quality.

At present there are two national museums in Seoul, the Central National Museum and the National Folklore Museum, and one each in Kyongju, Kwangju, Kongju, Puyo, Chingu and Chongju.

Sacred Choir Sings At Sejong Center

The 15th Sacred Choir Festival, an annual hymn fete organized by the Far East Broadcasting Co. will take place this year at the Sejong Cultural Center Main Hall on Oct. 27.

A non-competitive concert festival open to all choirs from around the country, the program has been popular among Christians for the past 25 years, regardless of their denomination.

The festival, following its Seoul concert, tours major cities each year and was also featured at Carnegie Hall in New York City last year.

The joint performance of all the choirs, which marks the highlight of the show, will be conducted this year by Yun Won-sang, a deacon at the Korean Presbyterian Church in Queens, New York.

The program includes G. Faure's Cantique de Jean Racine by the Nambu Full Gospel Church, C. Gounod's Sanctus by the Immanuel Methodist Church and H.M. Gorecki's Amen by the Shinchon Presbyterian Church.

Epic Spectacle Depicts Origin of Koreans

By Hong Sun-hee
Staff Reporter

"The Mt. Paektu Myth" which made its debut yesterday at the National Theater in Seoul is an epic spectacle on the origin of Koreans. The show will close on Sunday in Seoul and then take off on a nationwide tour.

The 88 Seoul Art Troupe interweaves music and dance with the assistance of 50-piece traditional orchestra that includes a timpani and synthesizer.

The libretto for the 150-minute production takes its theme from the nation's founding myth surrounding Mt. Paektu and was written by outspoken philosopher Kim Yong-ok.

It is the eighth regular performance of the government-funded troupe led by Lee Chong-dok and is in an ambitious attempt to create an international following for Korean performing arts such as that enjoyed by the Chinese Beijing Opera and the Japanese Kabuki.

From the planning stage, the work has drawn a great deal of attention and is a joint production of four men in their early 40s who are making names for themselves in other artistic fields. They are Kim who Wrote the script; Sohn Chin-chaek the director; Park Bum-hoon in charge of the music; and Kook Su-ho, the troupe's artistic director, who did the choreography. The lighting designer is Lee Sang-bong and the costume designer is Greta Lee.

It depicts the process that god turns into a human being, civilizes man, protects his people from wicked invaders and finally gives birth to Tangun,



The members of the 88 Seoul Art Troupe enact a scene from the song and dance drama "The Mt. Paektu Myth." The 150-minute epic spectacle is being staged at the National Theater in Seoul with showtime at 7 p.m. The show will close Sunday and will begin a tour of provincial cities in the second week of November.

the founder of the Korean people in the two act 18 scene drama.

Love and survival are the underlying themes in this metaphysical libretto.

But the actual scenes are devoid of dialogue and acting, and try to deliver the message through song and dance.

It is a disappointment as to those expecting to see fim-packed scenes as in the troupe's past productions "A Life Needs To Be Watched" and "The Han River Still Flows."

The epic poem is unfurled mostly under the frame of Korean traditional

music. But excessive reliance on percussion exhausts the audience although the music is more or less subdued in the second half. Nevertheless, the composer fails to generate a serene and pathetic mood that is characteristic of Korean music.

The main cast is excellent in their vocal performance though unbalanced in their style. Park Chol-ho, the hero, has a fine command of opera whereas Kim Song-nyo, the heroine, sticks to the Korean style of vocalization.

However, it is a fresh stage full of bursting music, magnificent group dance, love and despair and nature and civilization.

Usual Korean curve lines are nowhere to be seen on the stage designed by Manuel Lutenhorst from New York. Perhaps conscious of the troupe's quest for international appeal, Lutenhorst decided to create scenery that is simple and chic.

Four movable lattice-shaped (structures are used to change the scenery. For the epilogue, he employs Korean pavilion pillars decorated with the Tanchong color combination and design.

"The Mt. Paektu Myth" requires some 200 performers including 74 members of the art troupe and a 40-member chorus.

Curtain for the Seoul shows rises at 7 p.m.

It will then move to Taegu on Nov. 5, to Pusan on Nov. 7 and to Chingu on Nov. 9.

Classes on Korean History, Culture Slated Nov. 8-29

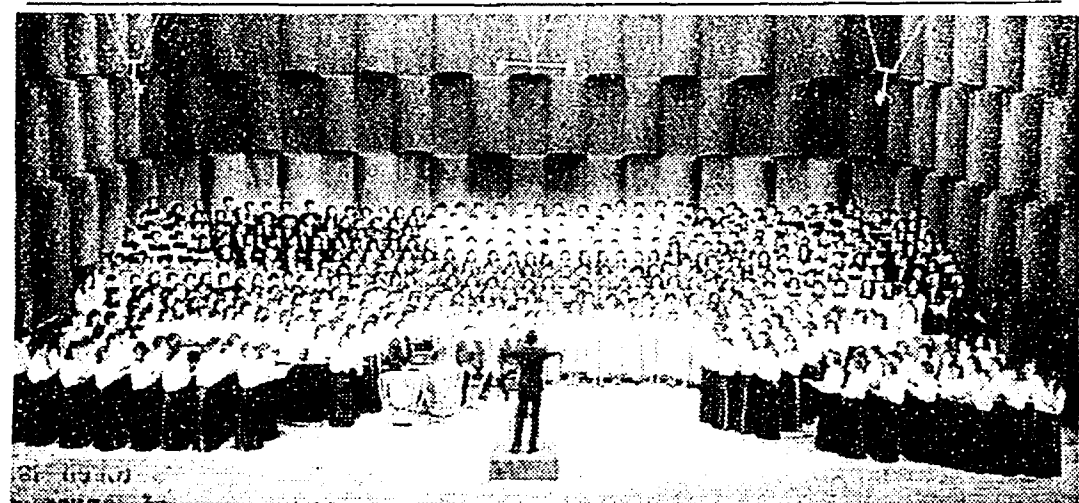
The Korean Overseas Information Service, pleased with the outcome of the first Korean History and Culture Class, will hold a second course at the main building of the National Museum of Korea, Nov. 8-29.

The classes will be conducted by English-speaking experts on Korean history, paintings, Buddhist art, Confucianism and traditional music every Thursday from 2-5 p.m.

The course is designed to help foreigners gain an understanding of the traditions of Korea and is opened to members of diplomatic missions, employees of foreign business firms and military servicemen and their dependents, said KOIS.

After finishing the course "students" will be given graduation certificates by the curator, of the National Museum, according to KOIS.

KOIS said any foreigner who wishes to attend should fax or mail their applications to the Foreign Media Relations Division of KOIS (729-2618) by Nov. 3.



In the annual Sacred Choir Festival, all participating choirs join together on stage for a grand joint performance at the end of the concert. Shown is the joint performance which took place at the 14th Sacred Choir Festival last year at the Sejong Cultural Center Main Hall.

TOWN CRIER

EXHIBITION

Paris-based artist Han Mook's oils and prints at the Hyundai Gallery (734-8215) until Oct. 31.

Kim Yung-zai's landscapes at Yuna Gallery (545-2151) Oct. 26-Nov. 8.

Young-june P. Lew's abstract oils and acrylics at Sun Gallery (734-0458) Oct. 26-Nov. 7.

Kim Han-kook's prints at Dongsung Art Center Gallery (741-5849) Oct. 26-Nov. 1.

"Quintet Painting" at Moin Gallery (739-9291) Oct. 26-Nov. 4.

Paintings by students at Kyewon Art School at Korea Design Package Center Oct. 23-29.

Byun Sook-kyung's sculptures at Chongnyon Gallery in Kwanhun-dong Oct. 24-30.

Five female artists' paintings at Chongnam Gallery (732-7121) Oct. 24-30.

Yon Mi-kyung's acrylics at Hanson Gallery (720-7219) Oct. 24-30.

Ten female artists' "Image of 1990" paintings at Kwanhun Gallery (733-6469) Oct. 24-30.

"55 Korean Female Artists Paintings" at Total Gallery (9351-40 5791) in Ilyongni, Kyonggi-do Oct. 13-28.

Oh Kyung-hwan's "Cosmos & Space" abstracts at Kukje Gallery (735-8449) Oct. 24-Nov. 2.

Sculptures by six young artists at Gallery Doll (739-1406) Oct. 25-31.

Kim Dai-won's colored ink paintings at Kumho Gallery (720-5866) Oct. 24-30.

Kwon Jun's oils at J&C Gallery (514-7352) Oct. 25-Nov. 3.

Ahn Sung-hee's abstract acrylics at Gallery Sook (733 5010) Oct. 23-29.

Chung Hoi-jin's colored ink paintings at Chongnam Gallery (732 7123) Oct. 24-30.

Kim In-su's oils at Lotte Department Store Gallery in downtown Seoul Oct. 24-29.

Baik Soon-shil's "tea spirit" paintings at Hyundai Department Store Gallery (547-2233) Oct. 24-Nov. 1.

"Cho Byong hyon's landscapes at Paeksang Memorial Hall (724-2229) Oct. 22-31.

Cha Eun-sook's paintings at Gallery 2000 (720 4879) Oct. 23-29.

Uyoo Byung chan's oils at Seoul Gallery Oct. 23-28.

Kim Kwang hun's Korean-style paintings at Chongjak Gallery (549 3112) Oct. 23-29.

Kim Chung jung's sculptures at Park Ryo-sook Gallery (544 2500) Oct. 22-31.

Jang Seung laik's cloth acrylics at Choi Gallery (546 3708) Oct. 19-30.

Choi Myung-ae's "Running Figure" paintings at Sonamoo Gallery (765 0126) Oct. 22-31.

Kim Heung-soo's "harmonism" paintings at National Museum of Contemporary Art (503 7744) Oct. 17-Nov. 15.

Paintings, sculptures, handicrafts and photos, titled "Man and Nature," at No

tional Museum of Contemporary Art Oct. 17-Nov. 10.

Kim Po-yon's landscapes at Paik Gallery (730-6262) Oct. 18-27.

"500 Artists of Contemporary Korean Art," at Seoul Arts Center Exhibition Hall (580-1114) Oct. 18-Nov. 11.

Paintings and sculptures by 15 artists at To Art Space (511-3399) Oct. 11-Nov. 10.

"Inspired Dream - Life as Art in Aboriginal Australia" at Chosun Ilbo Gallery Oct. 11-30.

Sculptures by 11 artists at Olympic Sculpture Park Oct. 10-Nov. 25 under the sponsorship of Gallery Doll (736-6697).

"Korea Figurative Sculpture Exhibition" by 55 young artists at Korea World Trade Center Sculpture Exhibition Center Oct. 13-Nov. 12.

Paintings by 12 artists at Gallery Q (585-3001) Oct. 17-30.

Some 200 oriental paintings by Hur Ryon (1808-1893) and his descendants at Sejong Cultural Center Oct. 17-28.

Kim Chong -myong's acrylics and sculptures at Chosun Ilbo Gallery (724-6328) Oct. 18-26.

Sculptures by 13 female artists at Woony Gallery (697-0010) Oct. 19-27.

CONCERT

Beethoven's "Choral" Symphony and Ahn Eak-tay's "Korean Fantasy" Oct. 27 at 3:30 p.m. at Chamsil Gymnasium, followed by 5,000-member combined chorus and Korean Symphony Orchestra.

Cleveland String Quartet's concert Oct. 28 at 7 p.m. at Sejong Cultural Center Main Hall. Program: Schubert, Beethoven and Dvorak.

Xue Wei violin concert Oct. 29 at 7:30 p.m. at Seoul Arts Center Concert Hall with Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Vaktang Jordania. Program: Yu Victorian Djong's "Korean Rhapsody," Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto and Tchaikovsky's "Pathetique."

Musicologist Lee Hae-gu's lecture concert of Korean vocal music, female vocal music, traditional women's vocal music "kagok" Oct. 26, at 8 p.m. at Ye-eum Concert Hall (736 3200).

MOVIE

"Another 48 Hrs.," the sequel of comedy action film "48 Hrs" starring Eddie Murphy and Nick Nolte under the direction of Walter Hill, at Cinehouse (510 4637). Pagoda (742 1937) and Damoa (540 5134).

"The Interrogation," the last banned film in Poland depicting inhumanity of torture, directed by Ryszard Rugajski and graced by and exceptional performance by actress Krystyna Janda who won the top actress honor of the 1990 Cannes Film Festival, at Dachan Then (278 8171).

"Midnight Run," a road movie about an ex-cop bounty hunter and a bail-jumper who end up running from the same enemy, starring Robert DeNiro and Charles Grodin, at Pagoda Theater (742-1937) and Firenze Theater (562-6921).

DRAMA

"The Typist," a production by the Minjung Theater Company of Murray Schisgal's witty play about a couple living in the industrialized society, directed by Chong Chin-su and starring two veterans of stage Son Suk and Kwon Song-dock, Oct. 25-Nov.11 at Minjung Small Theater (745-5608).

"Why did Shimchong Throw Himself Into Indangsu - Twice?" a new play written and directed by Oh Tae-sok and presented by the Mokhwa Repertory Company, at the Chungdol (Clash) Theater Mokhwa (743-7778) Oct. 24-Nov. 25.

"Anthony and Cleopatra," Sihom Theater Company's production of Shakespeare's classic tragedy, directed by Yun Ilo-jin, with Lee Hae-yong and Lee Ho-jae in the leading roles, at Hoam Art Hall (751-5549), Oct. 20-Nov. 4.

MISCELLANEOUS

"UK Education Fair," organized by the British Council at the Grand Ball Room of the Westin Chosun Hotel. Oct. 29-31. The fair is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. More information at 737-9912.

Annual convocation of the Korean Association of Teachers of English (KATE), on the theme "Large Classes and Co-operative Learning," Oct. 27-28, at Hannam University in Taejon. More information at 042-623-7111 ext. 404.

"Perestroika or History's Turning Point?" an international conference organized by the Institute of Russian and East European Studies at Seoul National University, Oct. 26-27, at the Munhwa-gwan on the SNU campus. More information at 880-6014.

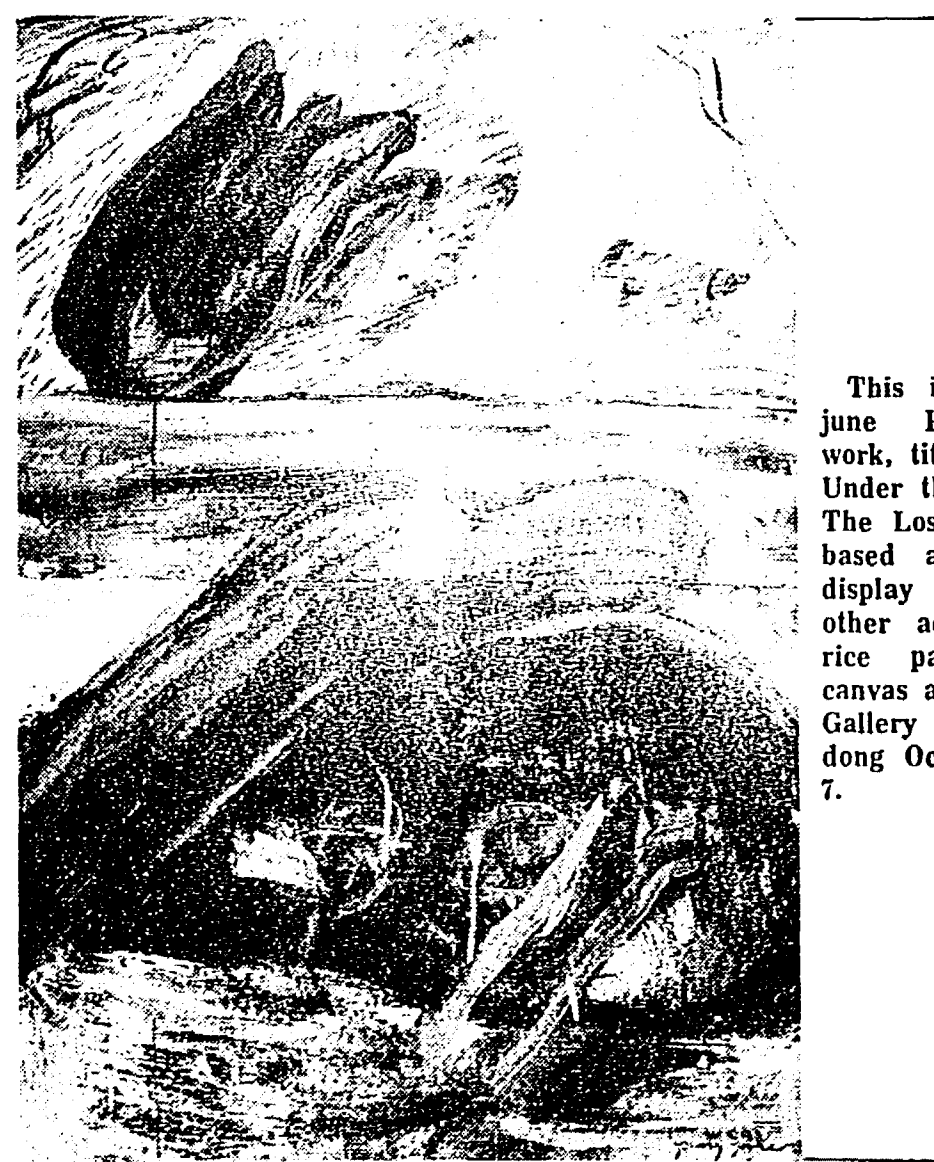
The British Women's Group's "Greet the Newcomers" morning coffee on Oct. 26 a.m. in Hannam dong. More details at 793-6357.

TAEGU

Exhibition of Calligraphic works by Mun Yong yol, Kwon Si hwan and Paek Yong il at Soil Gallery (424 5528) Oct. 23-29.

CHONJU

Exhibition of performance by Lee Kun yong at 01 Gallery (85 0323) Oct. 25-Nov. 3.



This is Young-june P. Lew's work, titled "Rest Under the Light." The Los Angeles-based artist will display this and other acrylics on rice paper and canvas at the Sun Gallery in Insa-dong Oct. 26-Nov. 7.

Contemporary Art Fair Opens in Paris

PARIS (AP) - The 17th edition of the International Contemporary Art Fair opened Wednesday, marked by the unprecedented presence of 24 top U.S. galleries but also by a mood of economic uncertainty.

Some 15,000 visitors are expected to browse through the 155 stands displaying a wide range of contemporary paintings, drawings, collage and sculpture from Oct. 22-Nov. 1 under the glass-domed roof of the Grand Palais.

Organizers hope the presence of the American dealers, including Leo Castelli from the Manhattan gallery which bears his name, will stimulate business, offsetting a dramatic slump in contemporary art sales last May and June.

The fair, known as the FIAC, is the first major commercial test of the season, and announces trends to follow at the art fair in Cologne, Germany, next month.

Experts say the recent slump ultimately will make the market healthier. "There is better art for sale because

people don't want second-rate art any more," said Susan Brundage of the Castelli gallery. "The result is that dealers will still get good prices for good art, and there will be fewer inflated prices for the art that isn't so good."

Ms. Brundage cited a Jasper Johns painting which sold for 650,000 dollars two years ago and is priced today at 1.5 million dollars.

Many American dealers said they were glad to show in Paris.

"The market in the United States is depressed and dealers realize there's an audience here in Europe where the economy is a little better," said Nancy McDermott Herstand of the Arnold Herstand gallery in New York City.

Experts and dealers agree the success of the 1989 FIAC is not likely to be repeated. Last year 5,000 of the 7,000 works displayed were sold for a total of 400 million francs, twice as much as in 1988.

"A year ago you could feel the buyers excitement right from the start. Paintings that were in the process of

being unpacked and hung were already being negotiated," a FIAC spokesperson said.

The mood this year is subdued, with buyers and sellers adopting "wait-and-see" attitudes.

"People are very cautious this year and there isn't the enthusiasm of the past. It's too bad because the quality of the works is exceptionally high," said Ronny Greenberg, a dealer from St. Louis, Missouri.

Many art dealers look to auction houses for a better idea of market trends and worry about sharp increases in the number of works bought on credit but never paid for -- accounting for 30 percent of the turnover of many auction houses.

Next week Laurent Thierry will auction a major work by Pierre Soulages, estimated to fetch between 300,000 and 400,000 dollars. The same work, entitled "April 13, 1960," would have been estimated at 500,000 dollars last spring.

"We're at the end of an upward swing, which could last six months or a year and a half," Thierry said.