GORDON APPELBE SMITH

Born in England, Gordon Apelbe Smith grew up in British Columbia, attended the Vancouver School of Art, Harvard University, and the California School of Fine Arts. During the war, he served as intelligence officer with the Princess Pats. After teaching at the Vancouver School of Art for 10 years, he became, 17 years ago, Professor of Fine Arts at the University of British Columbia.

He has been president of the Canadian Group of Painters, a member of the Council of the Royal Canadian Academy and a senior fellow of the Canada Council. Exhibitions of his works have been held in Great Britain, the United States and widely in Canada. His works hang in many famous galleries. He has created special architectural features for the Tokyo Trade Fair, Montreal Expo, The Queen Elizabeth Theatre, The University of Victoria, Expo Osaka, and Simon Fraser University. His mosaic murals grace the walls which many of us passed on our way here today.

Gordon Smith is one of Canada's major abstractionists and one of the most technically accomplished printmakers anywhere. His creative work in the field of visual art has led him to the discovery of a bold technique with which to express his unique awareness of the visual world around us. He presents to us with gracefulness and linear orderliness, the simple images necessary to convey his special awareness.

Mr. Chancellor, I present to you for the degree of Doctor of Laws,