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The Cover

The autumnal equinox, with near equilization in length of day and night, brings fall back to the Northern Hemisphere tomorrow, Sept 23. It was on such a late September day that Al Van Cleven experienced a “positive impression” while strolling along the west end of Paris’ Tuileries garden. He captured it in the watercolors of Jardin des Tuileries.

As its name indicates, the popular park once was the site of a tile factory. André Nôtre, the contrôleur des jardins who laid out the symmetrical garden three centuries ago, was born in a nearby cottage. The French court, and later Napoleon Bonaparte, lived at one time or another in a palace there (which was destroyed in 1871), and the guillotine did much of its deadly work near the Tuileries gates after the Revolution. Today, this is a happier place where Parisiens stroll, relax and chat, take time (as the artist points out) “to smell the flowers,” watch youngsters sail model boats in a park pool, and enjoy the breathtaking colors that come with fall. This is the third work by Mr Van Cleven to be reproduced on a JAMA cover.—PHIL GUNBY

(Jardin des Tuileries, 1972. Gouache on watercolor board. 59.7x59.7 cm. Courtesy of the artist. Photography by F. Joseph Fletcher.)