



Des productions
de la Société de la Place des Arts
de Montréal

Place des Arts Exhibitions
until March 9

PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE COLLECTION
OF THE MUSÉE D'ART CONTEMPORAIN

Montréal, January 16, 1986--- The richness and complexity of the language of photography are brilliantly displayed by the forty color and black-and-white photographs now on view in the entrance hall to Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier at Place des Arts. Taken from the collection of the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, these works by twenty-two Canadian artists in versatile forms indicate great diversity of inspiration and styles. This "must see" exhibition open every day until March 9, is presented by Société de la Place des Arts de Montréal in collaboration with the Musée d'art contemporain.

These images, made during the 1970s and early 80s, eloquently explore the plastic and expressive potential of the camera and break down the traditional barriers between portrait, landscape, still life and documentary. Two thirds of the artists who took these photographs have made their reputation in that field: Pierre Gaudard, Gabor Szilasi, Robert Slatkoff, Normand Grégoire, Suzy Lake, Raymonde April, Éric Daudelin, Michael Flomen, Serge Clément, David Miller, Tim Clark, Robert Walker, Brian Merrett, David Duchow, and Richard Notkin. The others are primarily painters, sculptors or graphic, installation or multidisciplinary artists, like Françoise Sullivan, Irène Whittome, Geoffrey James, Bill Vazan, Serge Tousignant, Pierre Boogaerts, and Charles Gagnon.

This exhibition offers convincing evidence of the famous observation by Marshall McLuhan that the medium is the message. Photography is essentially a look at reality, and here each artist shows us what he or she has seen. They all have their "own look", their own unique

vision. And what do these photographs on exhibit at Place des Arts reveal? The close link between the individual and his or her environment, community or work. The order, tranquility and "remoteness" of the French gardens, reflection of particular cultural values. The colossal aspect of cities. Solitude. The play of light and volumes. The beauty of an isolated, magnified detail. The vertigo of a reinvented landscape. The spiral of movement, created image by image.

Whether they favor a realistic approach or are more concerned with formal considerations, artists as photographers reveal to us a universe we often pass through blindly. This exhibition of photographs from the collection of the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, on view until March 9 in the entrance hall of Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier, offers an opportunity not to be missed. Hours: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., seven days a week, as well as during the evenings of performances. Admission is free.

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