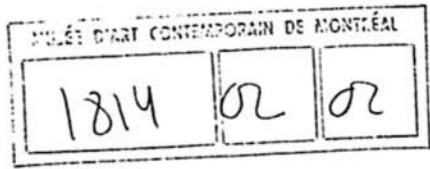


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PRESS RELEASE

The Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal celebrates Graff's twenty years of existence

Within the events organized to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of Graff, a print centre and a gallery, the Musée d'art contemporain is presenting the exhibition Graff 1966-1986 until February 15th 1987.

Presented in two, part retrospective and part current works, the exhibition acknowledges both an important past and a meaningful present. It illustrates, on the one hand, how printmaking is integrated in the diversified practices of Quebec and foreign artists and proposes on the other, new works by artists whose production has been shown in the gallery or edited in the Graff printshops.

A selection of more than one hundred and fifty prints drawn from the Graff and the Musée's collections establish the existence of an impressive production of prints realized during the last twenty years; put together in an informal chronological order, it highlights to thematic and stylistic cross references that are particularly revealing with regard to the history of printmaking and art in Quebec.

Among the main artistic currents underlying these works of the last two decades let us mention the assertion of a figuration with varied affiliations, the pictorial extensions of an expressive gesture issuing from surrealism and automatism and finally, formal propositions, pure and geometric, present in the "tradition plasticienne". The reappropriation of the figurative motif and its use for referential, anecdotal and critical ends constitute one of the major subjects of Quebec printmaking. In this regard significant works like the collective album Pilulorum (1968) the collective multi media project Pack-Sack (1971) the series of albums launched at the Editions Graffofone in 1973, Graff-Dinner (1978) and Corridart 1976-(1982) show a collective spirit of adventure and investigation marked as well by humor, irreverence and seriousness since the beginning of Graff.

Josée Bélisle, curator of the Graff 1966-1986 exhibition has also brought together the recent, and for the most part unseen works by the following twenty-two artists: Pierre Ayot, Luc Béland, Cozic, Lucio de Heusch, Jean-Pierre Gilbert, Jocelyn Jean, Alain Laframboise, Michel Leclair, Serge Lemoyne, Umberto Mariani (Italy), Gérald Minkoff (Switzerland), Muriel Olesen (Switzerland), Charlemagne Palestine (United States), Giuseppe Penone (Italy), Jean-Claude Prêtre (Switzerland), Monique Régimbald-Zeiber, Louise Robert, Georges Rousse (France), Serge Tousignant, Claude Tousignant, Gérard Titus-Carmel (France) et Robert Wolfe. In the areas of painting, drawing, photography, installation and video, these works reaffirm the vitality of the art in Quebec today and witness of certain tendencies in the international artistic scene.

An audio-guide prepared by the Service d'animation et d'éducation is also available. Location \$2,00.

The Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, only institution of its kind in Canada, is a national museum by virtue of the law governing the national Quebec museum. It is an associated museum in the context of the Museum Assistance Programmes of the National Museums of Canada.

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