

PAINTING FROM THE HEIGHT OF THE SIXTIES!

Montréal, February 17, 1988. The Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal will present an exhibition of the work of five Montréal painters - Paterson Ewen, Charles Gagnon, Yves Gaucher, Jacques Hurtubise and Jean Mc Ewen - from February 24 to May 22. Some 40 paintings, drawings and prints from the 1960s are contained in this exhibition put together by curators Josée Bélisle and Pierre Landry.

Created at a time of turmoil in Québec, these artists' paintings stood out from both the automatism of the preceding decades and the plastician movement that was then at its peak. According to the curators in charge of the exhibition Ewen, Gagnon, Gaucher, Hurtubise, Mc Ewen: A propos d'une peinture des années soixante, "whether through new theoretical influences or by using a hybrid visual vocabulary inherited from both gestural painting and geometric abstraction, the work of these artists reveals a desire to expand the possibilities of abstract painting while learning from the knowledge it contributed."

It will be recalled that these five painters worked against the backdrop of a succession of significant events in Québec. The tabling of the Parent and Rioux reports (one on school reform in Québec and the other dealing more specifically with teaching the arts), the creation of the ministère des Affaires culturelles, the Université du Québec à Montréal and the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, the holding of Expo 67 and the affirmation of the student protest movement, among other things, represent powerful moments in Québec in the 1960s.

The exhibition is made up exclusively of works from the museum's permanent collection and is accompanied by a catalogue. Originally planned for publication in May, the catalogue will be coming out a few weeks ahead of schedule.

The Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal is open Tuesday to Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Musée offers a shuttle bus service from the McGill and Bonaventure metro stations, which runs daily between 9:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. For information, call (514) 873-2878.

The Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, the only institution of its kind in Canada, is recognized as a national museum by the Québec National Museums Act, and is an associate museum under the National Museums of Canada museum assistance programmes.

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