

NEWS RELEASE

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**IN HONOUR OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE MUSÉE D'ART CONTEMPORAIN DE MONTRÉAL
UNE HISTOIRE DE COLLECTIONS
DONS 1984-1989**

Montréal, April 12, 1989. For the first time since it was established 25 years ago, the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal is staging a major exhibition devoted exclusively to gifts presented to the museum. The exhibition **UNE HISTOIRE DE COLLECTIONS: DONS 1984-1989**, which runs from April 12 to June 4, will offer the public a selection of 200 works by Québec, Canadian and foreign artists, chosen from the most important gifts received by the Musée over the past five years.

Occupying all the museum's exhibition space, **UNE HISTOIRE DE COLLECTIONS: DONS 1984-1989** is intended as a tribute, in the words of the Musée's director Marcel Brisebois, "to the generosity of our donors and their desire to share their love of art with their fellow citizens."

The curators responsible for the exhibition, Paulette Gagnon and Pierre Landry, have grouped the works according to various criteria, such as the historical aspect or the origin of the gifts. For example, the public will be able to enjoy photographs from the twenties and thirties, historical pieces and, of course, more current works of art in the fields of painting, sculpture, drawing and video.

One interesting dimension developed by Paulette Gagnon relates to the fact that in an exhibition made up entirely of works presented as gifts to the museum, visitors will have a chance to observe the choices made by collectors when they acquire pieces. Thanks to the generosity of collectors like Dr. Max Stern, Bruno and Ruby Cormier, René Payant and André Bachand, to name only a few, the Musée has been able to enrich and round out its collection, and even fill in certain gaps.

By this homage to donors to the museum, the director wishes to encourage other donors to follow their example. Mr. Brisebois expresses the hope "that this exhibition will manage to instil a passion for collecting and also that of contributing, through gifts, to the formation of a national collection of contemporary art from which the people of Québec and of Canada derive and will continue to derive great benefit."

Various activities have been planned throughout this exhibition to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the museum's founding. A panel discussion entitled "Dons en coulisses," with the participation of art acquisition experts, exciting activities for families and friends, screenings of films on Andy Warhol, Christo and Betty Goodwin, and a great celebration to mark the final day of the exhibition will highlight the presentation of **UNE HISTOIRE DE COLLECTIONS: DONS 1984-1989.**

An extensively illustrated catalogue (37 photos) accompanies this exhibition.