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**MICHÈLE WAQUANT'S IMPRESSION DÉBÂCLE  
SPRINGTIME IN THE MIDDLE OF WINTER  
AT THE MUSÉE D'ART CONTEMPORAIN!**

Montreal, December 2, 1992. From December 16 to January 31, the Musée d'art contemporain presents a video installation entitled *Impression débâcle* by québécois artist Michèle WAQUANT. Her most recent creation, *Impression débâcle* revolves around the wonders of spring. Not only is this an exciting work for the eyes, the artist provides us with an extraordinary aural environment; twelve speakers, echoes of France and Québec, and the sounds of water rushing and drift-ice breaking.

**Why choose the "spring-thaw" theme?**

"The spring-thaw has always touched me," states Waquant. "The ice breaking up in the river", she continues, "its ambivalent, it's the like the freeing of a confined being. Much like those moments in life where we lose all control."

According to curator Gilles Godmer who is responsible for the exhibition, *Impression débâcle* is "a passage. What we have is a brief period of tranformation, of transition, a moment of pure disorder, of anarchy, in which nature moves precipitously from one phase to another: from apparent immobility and silence, to the exuberance and contrasts of life reborn by way of the crashing din, the violence, and the fury - by the complete devastation of which nature is sometimes capable."

In the last twelve years, Michèle Waquant has experimented with photography, painting, sculpture and, of course, video, which has been the contributing factor of her success. Michèle Waquant lives and works in Paris and Montréal and has participated in many solo and collective exhibitions. In 1991, her works were shown in Paris, Copenhagen, Hamburg, Frieburg, Mulhouse and Vancouver.

Videos are her most acclaimed works : *Loups*, 1982; *Le Portrait de Pauline*, 1984 (an acquisition of the Musée); *L'Étang*, 1985 and *212, rue du Faubourg Saint-Antoine*, 1989 as well as the sculpture-installation *En attendant la pluie*, 1987, which is also part of the Musée's collection.

In order to acquire a better understanding of her work, the Musée is offering the public a chance to meet Michèle Waquant as part of the *Meeting the Artist* series. This activity is free of charge and will take place Wednesday, December 16 at noon.

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The Banque Laurentienne has recently given its name to one of the four temporary galleries where the Project Series takes place. *Impression débâcle* is the second exhibition of the Project Series which began this past October. It provides a solid platform for young artists who are exploring new and exciting avenues and for other artists who have attained a certain maturity of expression.

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