

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALFRED PELLAN

Discovery of a hidden painting!

Montreal, May 5, 1993. In the fall of 1992, the Musée d'art contemporain's Restoration Team made the amazing discovery of an Alfred Pellán work hidden behind *Les oeufs* (circa 1933), another painting belonging to the Musée's collection. An oil on canvas, this discovery is signed discreetly "Pellán" in the bottom right-hand corner. It is untitled, bears no date and is not entered in Pellán's archives, but it will be listed, from now on, as *Untitled*.

Research conducted so far has indicated that the work was painted somewhere between 1933 and 1940. First of all, *Les oeufs*, the painting that was hiding it, was shown in 1940 in an exhibition presented by the Musée of the province of Québec with the mention "Appartient à Mlle Legendre, Québec". Furthermore, the Musée d'art contemporain, to which Mlle Legendre donated the painting in 1979, organized in 1976 the exhibition *Three Generations of Québec Art: 1940, 1950, 1960*, in which *Les oeufs* was included. Lastly, art historians agree that Pellán began leaving out the "d" in his name around 1932, and that the handwriting of the signature in *Untitled* is identical to two works Pellán painted in 1937 and 1938.

In order to share this finding with the public, and also to underline the work of the Musée's Restoration Lab and its role in art history research, the Musée will present, from **May 15 to September 26**, an educational exhibition entitled : *Découverte d'une oeuvre d'Alfred Pellán* (*Discovery of an Alfred Pellán work*). In addition to *Les oeufs* and *Untitled*, and the original frame of the paintings, there will be photographs simulating the process of removing the frame during which they made the discovery, an information panel describing the different steps which led to the discovery of the hidden painting, and one other panel illustrating the active role restorers play in the research of art history, and now, of course, in the painting of Alfred Pellán.

This exhibition, organized by the Musée's Department of Education and Documentation, will take place in the Info-Gallery Omer DeSerres Inc., on the main floor of the Musée, and will be an exciting addition to the Alfred Pellán exhibit on view at the Musée from June 17 to September 26. This important retrospective of Pellán's paintings is a co-production of the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal and the Musée du Québec and promises to be the museum-event of the summer.

-30-

Information: Louise Faure
Media Relations
tel : 847-6232
fax : 847-6291

185, RUE SAINTE-CATHERINE OUEST
MONTRÉAL (QUÉBEC) H2X 1Z8 CANADA
TÉLÉPHONE: 514-847-6226 TÉLÉCOPIEUR: 514-847-6292