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## THE LAVALIN COLLECTION OF THE MUSÉE D'ART CONTEMPORAIN DE MONTRÉAL - SHARED VISION, STARTING APRIL 30

Montreal, April 26, 1994. The Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal presents the exhibition **THE LAVALIN COLLECTION OF THE MUSÉE D'ART CONTEMPORAIN DE MONTRÉAL - SHARED VISION** with the financial assistance of *Trimark Mutual Funds* and in collaboration with *L'actualité*. From April 30 to October 23, 175 works by one hundred Quebec and Canadian artists will be on view for the first time since the Musée acquired the collection in 1992. Works by major artists who made an impact on contemporary art have been assembled by Josée Bélisle, curator of the exhibition.

The exhibition offers an overview of the principal trends and the development of Canadian contemporary art over four decades. Over 70 paintings, 70 drawings and works on paper, 15 sculptures and 2 photographs will be shown in the four permanent collection galleries.

### The Lavalin Collection: an exhibition in 3 parts

This exhibition is organized in three chronological segments. The first group consists of almost 60 works, mostly paintings, completed between 1939 and 1965. They include works by John Lyman, Goodridge Roberts, Paul-Émile Borduas, Alfred Pellan, Jean-Paul Riopelle, Fernand Leduc, Marcelle Ferron, Jauran, Jack Shadbolt, Harold Town and Michael Snow. Josée Bélisle remarks that the first segment "allows viewers to observe and understand the progression from a figurative modernism to an expressive and geometrical abstraction, while underscoring the essential influence of surrealism and automatism."

A second segment is comprised of 50 paintings, sculptures, assemblages and mixed-media from the 60's, 70 's and 80's. In this group, the viewer will see works by Claude Tousignant, Guido Molinari, Yves Gaucher, Louis Comtois, Jack Bush, Peter Gnass, Charles Daudelin, Betty Goodwin, Suzy Lake, Dominique Blain, and Irene F. Whittome, to name a few. These works are characterized by the way they challenge the automatist and *plasticien* heritage by their rejection of traditional sculptural norms and by their conceptual approach.

Josée Bélisle proposes a third and final grouping of approximately 50 drawings produced mainly in the 80's. According to Bélisle, this segment "endeavours to define the current ramifications of this practice (drawing) in its elements of self-reflection, experimentation and traces of personal experience...".

The exhibition also includes 12 historical works dating from the 19th century and the early 20th century. Among them are works by François Baillargé, Antoine Plamondon, Théophile Hamel, Ozias Leduc, Marc-Aurèle de Foy Suzor-Côté, Emily Carr, Marc-Aurèle Fortin, A.Y. Jackson and Lawren S. Harris.

In addition to the works on view in the exhibition, the Musée and *Trimark Investment Management Inc.* have co-produced a video entitled *Quebec Corporations Collect*, directed by Bruno Carrière.

### The exhibition catalogue

An impressive catalogue, *La Collection Lavalin du Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal Le Partage d'une vision*, has been co-edited by Les Éditions de l'Homme and the Musée. On sale for \$ 59.95 plus tax, this important reference book is 280 pages long and has 150 colour reproductions. It contains passages written by Josée Bélisle and an interview with Bernard Lamarre. In the catalogue's forward, the Musée's director, Marcel Brisebois underlines the contribution of Bernard Lamarre and Leo Rosshandler and the importance of the collection. "Under the direction of Bernard Lamarre and with the collaboration of Leo Rosshandler starting in 1977, one of Canada's largest corporations systematically built up this collection. This activity took place along side the efforts made by the Musée with often limited resources, with the aim of building a collection that represents the basis of our institutions's identity, and at the same constitutes a national heritage."

The Director continues, "With respect to Lavalin, the corporation saw its collection not as an act of patronage - and even less as an acquisition of decorative pieces, (...) but as a call to the creativity of artists to nourish an exceptional synergy. The artists understood this well. Being a part of the Lavalin Collection was considered an honour and a challenge."

The Musée acquired the totality of the Lavalin Collection in June 1992, just weeks after moving into its new building downtown. Thanks to a government guaranteed loan, from the Minister of Culture and Communications, Liza Frulla, the Musée's collection has been enriched by some 1,300 works collected principally between 1960 and 1990.

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