

QUÉBEC ARTIST THOMAS CORRIVEAU PRESENTS *LOU-QIAN À LA MAISON* STARTING AUGUST 24 AT THE MUSÉE D'ART CONTEMPORAIN

Montréal, August 23, 1994. From August 24 to October 9, the Musée d'art contemporain is presenting recent works by Québec artist Thomas Corriveau. *LOU-QIAN À LA MAISON* offers four works that make use of different disciplines: painting, photography and video. The images Thomas Corriveau shows us represent contemporary life and its everyday reality.

Telling a story, with apparently simple images...

Pierre Landry, curator of the exhibition, points out that "Thomas Corriveau is especially interested in the image -- more specifically, the images representing contemporary life in all its most standardized aspects: situations and habitats from the world of suburbia, models and ideals conveyed by fashion and advertising, minor dramas and love stories experienced through the medium of film or romance magazines..."

Thomas Corriveau himself says he uses simple images that "quite innocently, draw us right into a piece of fiction and set us adrift there, in a way." He is constantly trying to suggest pauses that enable the viewers to realize the constructed nature of what they see.

LOU-QIAN À LA MAISON: a more personal dimension

Thomas Corriveau's earlier work drew on and reflected a world with an anonymous character. *LOU-QIAN À LA MAISON* differs from those works in suggesting a more personal dimension.

Thomas Corriveau says: "A personal story has, indeed, been added to this work, namely the adoption of a little girl, Lou-Qian, by my companion Nicole and me. The question of adoption, of the bond that is created between the parents and the child joining the family, had a great influence on the form taken by *LOU-QIAN À LA MAISON*. The structure of the video mirrors the process of integrating a little girl into her new family unit. It is actually a simple succession of close-ups of faces, first of me, then of my companion alternating with me, and finally of Lou-Qian, who takes up more and more space to the point of finally filling, by herself, the entire last part of the video. Even the framing helps reflect this integration process: the images of my companion and me are framed by the structure of the house, while those of Lou-Qian run over onto the adjacent walls."

Note that the work referred to by the artist, *Lou-Qian à la maison*, has given its name to the exhibition. This work is made up of a video projected onto a pivoting wood structure representing a house. Three other works complete the exhibition: *Emma et Arnaud*, a painting; and *Thierry et Mayalène* and *7 jours dans la ville*, photographs.

Meeting with Thomas Corriveau on September 7

The artist will meet the public on Wednesday, September 7 at 7:30 p.m., when he will discuss various aspects of his work. The meeting will take place in the *Banque Laurentienne* Gallery. At the door, please mention the activity *Meeting with Thomas Corriveau*.

Previous exhibitions

Thomas Corriveau has participated regularly in exhibitions since the early eighties. His main solo exhibitions include:

- 1986 *Prénoms*, Galerie Optica, Montréal
- 1988 Galerie Chantal Boulanger, Montréal
- 1991 Services culturels du Québec, Paris
Galerie Chantal Boulanger, Montréal

His participation in group exhibitions includes:

- 1984 *Montréal tout-terrain*, Montréal
- 1988 *Les Temps chauds*, Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal
- 1991 *Corriger les lieux - Après la photographie de voyage*, Maison de la culture Frontenac, Montréal

The exhibition *LOU-QIAN À LA MAISON* constitutes the twelfth project in the series of the same name. This series offers a platform for young artists exploring daring new avenues and for artists who have already acquired a certain maturity of expression. Since it was established in October 1992, the Project Series has provided an opportunity to present the works of François-Marie Bertrand, Michèle Waquant, Joseph Branco, Guillermo Kuitca, Guy Pellerin, Sylvie Readman, Eric Cameron, Jean-Jules Soucy, Claude Hamelin, Laurie Walker and Jana Sterbak.

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