

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **SOMETIMES SQUARE BY ALAIN PAIEMENT AT THE MUSÉE D'ART CONTEMPORAIN STARTING OCTOBER 21**

Montréal, October 13, 1994. As part of its Project Series, the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal is presenting *SOMETIMES SQUARE* by Montréal artist Alain Paiement, from October 15 to December 4. This exhibition consists of an impressive series of photographic images captured in New York's Times Square, a site overflowing with visual, architectural and social information.

For more than 12 years now, Alain Paiement has explored the graphic depiction of specific places such as the *Clock Tower* in Old Montréal, the *Paris Stock Exchange* and the *New York Stock Exchange*. Working with painting, photography, sculpture and installation, he "reconstructs" these spaces by means of various technical processes like mapping and plan-drawing.

### **From *Waterdampstrukturen* to *Sometimes Square***

In 1985, Paiement produced his *Waterdampstrukturen*. In this atmospheric installation, the artist employs photography and painting to construct a huge spiral referring to the ways clouds are formed. Closer to home, he focused on the Clock Tower, in Old Montréal. The resulting work, *Dead on Time* (1990-91), which is in the museum's collection, uses digitalized images to create a shell-shaped representation of time passing and stopping. More recently, in *Bourse de Paris* and *Bourse de New York* (1993-94), the world of these major financial markets becomes the subject of his videographic, photographic and theoretical investigation.

Curator Josée Bélisle observes that: "The artist cultivates numerous paradoxes [in *Sometimes Square*]: that of the specifically pictorial character of the dematerialized image; that of the monumental scale - for the spectator - of a model that is nonetheless considerably smaller than lifesize; that of the concrete and fabricated appearance of the formal values that support the torrent of mediatized impressions and messages..." The curator then concludes: "The fragmentary, crystallized representation of Times Square, developed and thrown together on a large scale, becomes the scene of a dialogue between traditional fine arts practices and the infinite possibilities, in this cybernetic age, of the computer-graphics image."

### **Meeting with Alain Paiement, October 19 at 6:30 p.m.**

The artist will meet the public on Wednesday October 19 at 6:30 p.m., when he will discuss various aspects of his work. The meeting will take place in the *Banque Laurentienne Gallery*. At the front desk, please mention you are attending the activity *Meeting with Alain Paiement*.

A native of Montréal, Alain Paiement earned a bachelor's and a master's degree in visual arts from the Université du Québec à Montréal. He continued his training with a course in painting and photography at the École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Visuels de la Cambre, in Brussels, and studies in aesthetics at the Université de Paris I.

Alain Paiement has been a regular participant in exhibitions in Québec and elsewhere since the early eighties. His main solo exhibitions include:

- 1994 : *de la place du marché (out of a market place)*, Galerie Christiane Chassey, Montréal
- 1989 *Amphitheatres*, Power Plant, Toronto
- 1987 *Beyond Polders*, former Eckers brewery, Montréal
- 1985 *Waterdampstructuren*, Galerie Apart, Montréal

He has taken part in the following group exhibitions, among others:

- 1993-94 *Les Égarements de la photographie*, Cultural Services of the Embassy of Canada, Paris
- 1993 *Temporal Borders: Image and Site/Lieux temporels : image - espace*, Leonard & Bina Ellen Art Gallery, Concordia University, Montréal
- 1992 *Power of the City / City of Power*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York
- Les Cent jours d'art contemporain, Diagonales*, CIAC, Montréal
- 1991 *Photo Sculpture*, Galerie Oboro and Galerie Optica, Montréal
- Visions*, CIAC, Montréal
- 1988-89 *Montréal-Berlin*, Saidye Bronfman Centre, Montréal, and Hochschule der Kunste, Berlin

**SOMETIMES SQUARE** by Alain Paiement is the thirteenth exhibition in the Project Series. This series offers a forum for young artists exploring bold new avenues and for artists who have reached a level of maturity in their expression. Since its inception exactly two years ago, the Project Series has brought us the works of François-Marie Bertrand, Michèle Waquant, Joseph Branco, Guillermo Kiutca, Guy Pellerin, Sylvie Readman, Eric Cameron, Jean-Jules Soucy, Claude Hamelin, Laurie Walker, Jana Sterbak and Thomas Corriveau.

Alain Paiement wishes to thank Micro-Boutique, Max Graphix, for its generous support for this exhibition.

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