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MUSÉE D'ART CONTEMPORAIN DE MONTRÉAL

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THE EYE OF THE COLLECTOR 15 COLLECTIONS - 190 WORKS - 130 ARTISTS AT THE MUSÉE D'ART CONTEMPORAIN DE MONTRÉAL

Montréal, October 10, 1996. *THE EYE OF THE COLLECTOR*, the opening fall exhibition at the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, invites you into the hidden world of art collectors. Altogether, nearly 200 works — paintings, sculptures and drawings — are being presented at the Musée from October 18, 1996 to January 5, 1997. These works come from 15 collectors in Montréal and Québec City, whose collections contain works by Matisse, Picasso, Borduas and Klein, as well as current artists like Kiki Smith, Betty Goodwin, William Wegman, Chris Cran, Dominique Blain, Jana Sterbak, and others. The entire presentation includes some 130 artists from Québec, elsewhere in Canada, as well as the United States and Europe.

The Musée becomes a collector's living room

The exhibition takes visitors through 15 private collections. To reflect the distinctive character of the collectors' partialities, curators Paulette Gagnon and Yolande Racine have opted to hang the works, not in chronological order or according to trend, but one collection at a time, presented in an intimate, individual space, suggesting a domestic scale and environment and fully preserving each one's personality. Thanks to the sponsorship of MOBILIA, a furnished living space evocative of the atmosphere of these interiors has been reconstructed.

The exhibition sets out to pay tribute to the passion of Québec collectors and their commitment to art. That, in fact, is the central thesis put forward by Paulette Gagnon: "In a given collection, each work contributes to the harmony of a whole, but may also respond to a principle of diversity. Collectors who choose to make art an important part of their universe, and who consequently make an effort to ensure some coherence among the works they acquire, command respect. The *EYE OF THE COLLECTOR* exhibition reveals the very individual roads travelled by collectors, whose sometimes diverse motivations have one thing in common: a passion for collecting."

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