

COMMUNIQUÉ

For immediate release

ARCH

BY ANDY GOLDSWORTHY

AT THE MUSÉE D'ART CONTEMPORAIN DE MONTRÉAL

Montréal, March 24, 1998. The Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal presents **Arch**, by British artist Andy Goldsworthy. This exhibition contains recent works — a sculpture, photographs and drawings — by one of the outstanding practitioners of an art made in and with nature. Artist of the ephemeral, and in a way nature's accomplice, Goldsworthy tries to maintain man's special relationship with his environment. The first Canadian showing of the artist's work, **Arch** will run from April 8 until June 7. Goldsworthy will also erect a monumental, permanent arch in Montréal this summer, at the invitation of the Cirque du Soleil.

The arch: power, tension, movement

Made of stone or ice, the arch is a recurring theme in Goldsworthy's work. The artist is drawn to the power and tension of this type of structure. He is also fascinated by the idea that it could collapse at any time, and yet it resists. The arch is not only tension, however; it represents movement from one point to another. In his 1997 series **Drove Arch**, the arches seem to move through the landscape. The sculpture featured in the present exhibition also illustrates this notion of movement: the arch he is to create here will pass through one of the gallery's walls.

Natural, social and historical environment

According to exhibition curator Réal Lussier, Andy Goldsworthy surprises and captivates us with the mastery and effectiveness of his art, which reveals a virtuosity and exceptional refinement as well as remarkable observation of natural elements. Goldsworthy's works may be divided into three categories: ephemeral pieces created in conjunction with his outdoor explorations, his works made for presentation in museums and galleries, and his monumental sculptures which are generally commissioned. His approach is not confined to the natural environment of the site; he also explores its historical and social framework. Goldsworthy's *in situ* arch will be made of red sandstone. This is the same material used in the 19th century in constructing the homes of notable Scottish-born Montrealers and some other commercial buildings.

Goldsworthy has produced works on natural sites in various locations around the world, during his frequent travels, as well as around his home, in the countryside of Dumfriesshire, Scotland. He has previously exhibited his work on many occasions, in Europe, Japan and the United States.

Talk by the artist: April 8

Andy Goldsworthy will give a talk on April 8, from 5 to 6 p.m., when he will discuss various aspects of his artistic approach. The talk will take place in English.