

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

METAMORPHOSIS AND CLONING At the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal

Montréal, June 28, 2001. At a time when biotechnologies are invading our everyday reality, the exhibition *Metamorphosis and Cloning* expresses our uncertainties, our anxieties and our desires in the face of the dreaded homogenization of humans and the promise of immortality held out by cloning. *Metamorphosis and Cloning* is “developing” at the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal until September 2, 2001.

The exhibition features recent works by 11 Québec, Canadian and international artists who, in more than 60 pieces (using photography, sculpture, painting, video and robot installation), explore the imaginative possibilities of human mutation. It revolves around three themes: the merging of the human body with nature, the transgression of human and animal forms, and the duplication and multiplication of the human figure.

To escape the spectre of the loss of identity, the artists reinvent, each in their own way, the individual and collective body—sutured by Nathalie Grimard, flayed by Marc Quinn, stripped bare and multiplied by Vanessa Beecroft, Zhang Huan and Spencer Tunick, disguised and cloned by Janieta Eyre and Gilles Barbier, fragmented and dispersed by David Blatherwick, pixellized and pierced with light by Xavier Veilhan, rendered fleshless by Reva Stone, and absent yet metamorphosed in Marie-Claude Bouthillier's work. These works all tell a “post-human story” and bring us face to face with the philosophical and social issues thrust upon us by the genetic revolution.

It is a unique opportunity to discover these artists, some of whom are presenting their works for the first time in Montréal, namely: Gilles Barbier (France), Vanessa Beecroft (born in Italy, lives in the United States), Marc Quinn (Britain), Spencer Tunick (United States), Xavier Veilhan (France) and Zhang Huan (born in China, lives in the United States). The show also includes the Quebecers David Blatherwick, Marie-Claude Bouthillier and Nathalie Grimard, as well as Janieta Eyre (Ontario) and Reva Stone (Manitoba).

The exhibition has received financial support from the Canada Council for the Arts, the Consulate General of France (Québec City) and Pentacom SC&R.

Video

The video *Naked States: The Movie* (directed by Arlene Donnelly. Juntos Films, 1999), which covers Tunick's tour of the 50 American states, is shown at the Musée until September 2, 2001, in the Gazoduc TQM Room. (Schedule until August 19: 1 and 3 p.m., plus 7 p.m. Wednesday evenings. From August 21 to September 2: 12, 2 and 4 p.m., plus 7 p.m. Wednesday evenings).

Didactic exhibition, art workshop and tours

The Musée's educational services have put together an extensive program based on the exhibition. The didactic exhibition *Body Imaging* presents some variations on the representation of the human body and is complemented by a workshop called *Twist* in which participants will draw bodies doing contortions (for all: Sundays at 1, 2, 3 and 4 p.m.). Finally, a tour of the exhibitions *Metamorphosis and Cloning*, *Body Imaging* and *Artcité* will look at various aspects related to the body in contemporary art (from June 26 to August 31, 2001, Tuesday to Friday at 1 p.m.).