



PRESS RELEASE

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SYLVIE LALIBERTÉ
POLITE ART

Montréal, August 22, 2001. She doesn't smoke, she doesn't drink, but she talks ... In her performances and videos, in print, drawing, photography and song, Sylvie Laliberté has conversed with us for over 15 years about the flaws in our civilization, using everyday words. For her first installation work, the artist brings propriety back into style: welcome, affability and... visitors are the order of the day! From August 23 to October 21, 2001, the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal presents *Sylvie Laliberté—Polite Art*.

The installation is made up of domestic furniture joyfully designed by the artist. Coffee tables, footrests and chairs are laid out to offer visitors a place to stop, linger, hang about and, most importantly, sit down! "*Have a seat—you'll become an installation.*" In this way, the artist herself gives us directions for using an installation. We recognize the raw materials characteristic of Sylvie Laliberté: humour, irony and humanism. She casually decompartmentalizes artistic disciplines (installation, sculpture, design, architecture, interior decoration, literature) and, like children who take over a house with their graffiti, she rather irreverently signs the walls, floor, seats and chair backs with thoughts of her own devising.

Behind an apparent insouciance, the artist offers a few nods to the world of contemporary art, setting the visitor at the centre of the installation and removing all boundaries between art and life. The museum is not only a site of contemplation, it is also a place of interaction with and among visitors. Like a consummate host, it seems to say: "Please, make yourselves at home!" Yes indeed, welcome to the disarming world of Sylvie Laliberté...

Sylvie Laliberté lives and works in Montréal. She has had several solo exhibitions, notably at Galerie Christiane Chassay (*Ça va bien merci*, 1999). She has also taken part in a number of group exhibitions, including *Head Over Heels—A Work of Impertinence* presented at the Musée in 1999 to celebrate the arrival of the new millennium. That same year, she was awarded the Prix Louis-Comtois by the City of Montréal. In 2000, the French magazine *L'Express* recognized her as one of the "100 who are making things move in Québec": "*This magician of words and pictures brightens up our everyday reality. Her faux-naïf videos, prints and photos are poetic and incisive, sprinkled with aphorisms that hit home.*" Also in 2000, Sylvie Laliberté made her first CD, *Dites-le avec des mots*, and gave a performance at the Nederlands Foto Instituut in Rotterdam. In 2001, she was featured in a retrospective of her video work at the Forum des Images in Paris and presented a performance at the Luxembourg Casino's Forum d'art contemporain. Just recently, she appeared at the Francofolies festival. Her video *Bonbons, bijoux* can currently be seen on MusiquePlus in connection with the *Artcité* event.

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A 24-page catalogue accompanies the exhibition. It contains an essay by curator Gilles Godmer, a dozen colour illustrations and a selective biobibliography. It may be purchased for \$11.95 at the Musée's Olivieri Bookstore and from other booksellers.

The opening will take place on Wednesday, August 22, 2001, at 6 p.m. The artist will meet the public at 5:30, when she will discuss various aspects of her artistic approach.

The artist wishes to thank the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec for its support. This exhibition has received financial support from the Canada Council for the Arts and Pentacom SC&R.

Press kits and visual material available on request.

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