Montréal, August 7, 2001. The Collection of the Musée d’art contemporain de Montréal is taking the city by storm! Office tower lobbies, churches, television studios, gardens and tourist spots are being turned into exhibition venues from August 10 to October 8, 2001. To round out this presentation all over Montréal, a free exhibition awaits you at the Musée. In total, more than 50 works will be on display, forming a living tour of the city.

For this special event, visitors will be able to discover the Musée Collection in such prestigious sites as: Alcan, Gestion Georges Coulombe: Molsons Bank, Banque Nationale, SITQ Immobilier: World Trade Centre Montréal, Casino de Montréal, the Basilica-Cathedral of Mary Queen of the World, Cirque du Soleil, Cité Multimédia, Christ Church Cathedral, Sun Life Financial, Pepsi Forum, Hydro-Québec, MusiquePlus, Omer DeSerres Inc., Oxford Québec: 1250, boul. René-Lévesque O., Oxford Québec: Tour L'Industrielle-Vie, Oxford Québec: Tour La Maritime, Place des Arts, Quebecor inc.: Vidéotron, SITQ Immobilier: Le 1981 McGill College, Saint Patrick’s Basilica, and Ville de Montréal: Édifice Lucien-Saulnier.

The exhibition concept developed by Paulette Gagnon, Chief Curator, and Josée Bélisle, Curator of the Permanent Collection, proposes a pairing of the works presented around town and those installed at the Musée. The pairs are chosen on the basis of their similarity in terms of content, colour, medium, material or symbolism. Together, they suggest a journey through the fundamental concerns of contemporary art.

Produced by 54 artists, from different generations (36 Québec artists, seven Americans and four artists from elsewhere in Canada, along with three French, two British, one German and one Italian artist), the 55 pieces, along with the work created by Gilles Mihalcean through the collaboration of Saab Canada, cover four decades—from 1962 to 2001—with particular focus on the eighties and nineties. They use a wide range of mediums: painting, sculpture, installation art, video, photography, drawing and printmaking.

The artists are: Kim Adams, Robert Adrian X, Carl Andre, Jeannot Blackburn, Michel Boulanger, Joseph Branco, Geneviève Cadieux, Janet Cardiff, Ulysse Comtois, Marie A. Côté, Sylvain P. Cousineau, Tony Cragg, Charles Daudelin, Pierre Dorion, Mario Duchesneau, Andrew Dutkewych, Ivanhoë Fortier, Jacques Fournier and Edward Hillel, Gérard Garouste, Christiane Gauthier, Suzanne
Musée educators will be on site to greet visitors and discuss the works exhibited, from Monday to Friday at four corporate venues, namely Oxford Québec: 1250, boul. René-Lévesque O., Oxford Québec: Tour La Maritime and Cité Multimédia from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Sun Life Financial from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and at the Basilica-Cathedral of Mary Queen of the World daily from 1 to 4:30 p.m.

Four galleries of contemporary art are also part of the Artcité circuit. Galerie René Blouin is showing a work by Sarah Stevenson, Two Moons (Deux lunes), at the premises of Ange et Cie. Galerie Graff is hosting Chromies, an exhibition of Fernand Leduc works with a formal and aesthetic similarity to the artist’s Untitled of 1961 (which is in the Musée’s Collection), in conjunction with an exhibition of recent works by Isabelle Leduc. On display at the Oboro gallery is a new immersive in-situ installation by Alan Dunning and Paul Woodrow, entitled The Madhouse. And Galerie Lilian Rodriguez is presenting a performance by Nadine Norman, called Pierre lèche ma vitre!, Place Albert-Duquesne, corner of De Maisonneuve and Clark, on August 9, 2001, starting at 4 p.m. A video of the performance will be distributed by Fashionlab after the event.

A performance by Sylvie Laliberté will be given at MusiquePlus on August 15, 2001, at 4 p.m. Sylvie Laliberté likes to sing, waddle like a duck, and say things. So that’s what you’ll see in her performance!

A shuttle service, sponsored by Deragon, will connect the Musée with the two sites outside the downtown area, namely the Casino de Montréal and the Cirque du Soleil, on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

The exhibition will be launched officially on August 9 at 6 p.m., and will open to the public the next day, August 10, 2001.

In connection with Artcité, some related products have been specially designed by Montréal creative artists. Designer Marie Saint Pierre has brought out a line of fashion T-shirts, available in black or white, on the urban theme. Ceramicist Louise Bousquet has produced an assortment of dishes decorated with the lesser truths expressed by Sylvie Laliberté, who claims not to know the greater ones! These attractive items are on sale at the Musée Boutique.
A major Artcité contest will be broadcast on 107.3 CITÉ RockDétente from August 10 to October 3, with a grand prize of a pair of tickets to Paris, courtesy of Air France, plus $1,000 in spending money. A host of other prizes will also be awarded, thanks to the Foundation of Friends of the Musée, the Musée Boutique, La Rotonde restaurant and Olivieri bookstore. Details are in the Artcité brochure available at the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, at Info-touriste centres and in the August 4 edition of the Journal de Montréal.

Arcticité has received extraordinary funding from Québec’s Minister of Culture and Communications. Arcticité is a presentation of Saab Canada, principal sponsor of the event. The Musée d’art contemporain de Montréal wishes to thank its partners: Destination Centre-ville, Cool Mango, Compuware and Omer DeSerres. The Musée is also grateful for the support provided by: Journal de Montréal, MusiquePlus, Le Devoir, Quebecor World, 107.3 CITÉ RockDétente, Montréal TV Tour, Deragon, Voir, Place des Arts and Vasco Design International.