

PRESS RELEASE

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FRANÇOIS LACASSE

Paintings 1992-2002

At the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal

Montréal, February 19, 2002. From February 22 to April 28, 2002, the Musée d'art contemporain presents *François Lacasse – Paintings 1992-2002*. François Lacasse is recognized as one of the most gifted and prominent painters of his generation. This is his first solo exhibition in a museum.

Ten years of painting

This initial overview presents some thirty paintings produced in the past decade. Lacasse has deliberately chosen to concentrate on the medium of acrylic painting at a time when the visual arts scene is dominated by photography, video and new technologies. Originally concerned with the readability of the image, he explored the different ways the representation is organized and their effects on how we experience perception. The figurative aspect thus emerged as a material just like all the other components that go into producing a painting.

Over the years, he has added complexity to this process of developing the organizational framework, by fragmenting and superimposing various images from the repertory of the history of art, eventually producing painting that borders on the illegible. Colour, along with its aesthetic qualities, has taken on greater importance, and ultimately forms the actual subject of an exploration of its material effects through veils and drips of paint.

Lacasse, who earned a master's degree in visual arts from UQAM in 1992, has taken part in several group exhibitions, including *Artcité* (2001), *Peinture peinture* (1998) and *De fougue et de passion* (1997). His works could recently be seen in solo exhibitions at Plein sud, Centre d'exposition et d'animation en art actuel, Longueuil (2001), Galerie René Blouin (2000), and Axe Néo-7 art contemporain, Hull (1999).

Catalogue and meeting with the artist

A 76-page catalogue accompanies the exhibition. It includes an introduction by exhibition curator Réal Lussier, an interview between Réal Lussier and François Lacasse and an essay by art historian Jean-Émile Verdier. It also contains the list of works, a biobibliography and 29 reproductions. The publication may be purchased for \$29.95 at the Musée's Olivieri bookstore and from other booksellers.

The opening will take place on Thursday, February 21, 2001 at 6 p.m. The artist will meet the public on Wednesday, March 6, 2002, at 7 p.m., when he will discuss various aspects of his work. The meeting will take place in French.

The exhibition *François Lacasse* has received financial assistance from the Canada Council for the Arts and the Gazoline agency.