

PRESS RELEASE
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DIALOGUE(S)

At the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal

"Modern technology allowing us to function with our minds in one place and our bodies in another so that we grow increasingly oblivious to the neighborhoods we drive through, the people we rush past in the street."

Nancy Huston, *Dolce Agonia*

Montréal, February 27, 2002. Our perception of the world is changing. This age of advanced technology and globalization is fraught with instability and upheaval. Human thought is being utterly transformed, and art has a contribution to make to the way we apprehend knowledge. Current abstract painting is confirming its relevance in our contemporary world, as is undeniably made clear by the practices of Lise Boisseau, Michel Daigneault and David Urban. In collaboration with the Centre d'exposition de Val-d'Or, the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal presents *Dialogue(s)*, an exhibition of works by these three artists, from February 27 to April 21, 2002.

Dialogue(s)

In the work of Lise Boisseau, Michel Daigneault and David Urban, the painting is controlled chaos. They invite us into a space that is neither real nor virtual, but rather one of the mind, a place of visual thought that plays a part in our apprehending of knowledge. The works of these three artists reveal an "interweaving" between the plane of the canvas and perspectivist space.

Lise Boisseau lives and works in Montréal. She has exhibited since the late eighties. Since 1997, in particular, her painting has displayed a desire to question the traditional structure of pictorial space. The strategy followed by the artist in her use of grids and the repetition of a single figure brings out the ambiguity of the relationship between form and content in the work and disrupts any attempt to see an illusionistic space in it. Boisseau has been the subject of several solo exhibitions and has taken part in numerous group shows in Québec.

Michel Daigneault lives and works in Montréal. For the past 15 years or so, he has developed a body of work employing a variety of languages. He explores the many resources of an abstract painting distinctive for its heterogeneity and daring. Making use of both the spatial illusionism and the planar nature of the canvas, the artist seems to exhaust all the possibilities offered by the painting's constituent parts. Daigneault has had many solo exhibitions all across Canada. His work has also been presented in various group exhibitions in Canada, France and the United States.

David Urban lives and works in Toronto. He enjoys a solid reputation as one of the leading representatives of his generation on the Toronto scene. After embarking on his career in the early nineties, he quickly made a name for himself with the quality of his work and the intelligence of his aesthetic approach. For him, abstraction in painting is a kind of syntax in which autonomous, highly diverse systems of lines, materials and colours are a metaphor for a dubious, temporary harmony between vitality and decline. Urban has had regular solo exhibitions across Canada and abroad. His credits also include many group shows in Europe and the United States.

This exhibition, which was presented last fall in Val-d'Or, was planned following an initial collaborative undertaking with the Musée régional de Rimouski. The goal of these partnerships is to expand each institution's scope of investigation and evaluation by sharing experiences and knowledge of the art being produced today.

Dialogue(s) between artists, curators and the public, and catalogue

The opening will take place on Wednesday, February 27, 2002 at 6 p.m. The artists, Lise Boisseau, Michel Daigneault and David Urban, and the exhibition curators, Marie-France Beaudoin and Réal Lussier, will meet the public on the evening of the opening at 5:30 p.m.

A 48-page catalogue accompanies the exhibition. It includes essays by curators Réal Lussier and Marie-France Beaudoin, a list of works, a biobibliography and colour reproductions. The publication may be purchased for \$19.95 at the Musée's Olivieri bookstore and from other booksellers.

The exhibition *Dialogue(s)* has received financial assistance from the Canada Council for the Arts and the Gazoline agency.