

PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

YVES GAUCHER

October 10, 2003 to January 11, 2004

Montréal, October 8, 2003. The Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal will pay homage to painter and printmaker Yves Gaucher from October 10, 2003 to January 11, 2004. This first posthumous retrospective is intended as a tribute to one of the leading figures in abstract art in Québec and Canada, and on the international scene. It will present a broad survey of the artist's works, spanning more than four decades and revolving around the issues related to colour and structural elements explored by Gaucher over the course of his career.

The 90 or so paintings, prints and drawings included in the exhibition, dating from the late 1950s to 2000, will reflect the dialogue between artistic media that was a constant source of inspiration to Gaucher. The selection will feature important works that marked each of the periods in his artistic practice, and will focus on the viewers' experience through various groupings of pivotal pieces. Drawn into the elemental experience of Gaucher's work, that of "rhythmics as a universal essence," visitors will traverse the expanse of his *oeuvre*, from the *Square Dances* of 1964-1965 and the celebrated *Grey on Grey Paintings* of the late 1960s to the *Pale Paintings* of the early 1990s and his last painting, *Jaune, bleu & rouge IV* of 1999. The notion of colour and rhythm will find its purest and most accomplished expression in the artist's final series of collages and acrylics on paper of 1998 to 2000.

Yves Gaucher was born in Montréal in 1934. From 1954 to 1956, he studied printmaking at the École des beaux-arts in Montréal. In his earliest pieces, he focused on the spatial dimension; then, contemporary music became a source of inspiration. During the 1960s, he was an innovator in Québec printmaking, and gained international recognition from 1963 on for his contribution to this medium. He first showed his work at Galerie L'Échange in Montréal in 1958. After a series of exhibitions in Canada and abroad, he was chosen to take part in the Venice Biennale in 1966, followed by Expo 67 in Montréal. Three major Canadian institutions have devoted solo exhibitions to him: the Art Gallery of Ontario in 1979, with *Yves Gaucher: A Fifteen-Year Perspective / Une perspective de quinze ans 1963-1978*, the Musée d'art contemporain in 1976, with *Yves Gaucher, peintures et gravures: Perspective 1963-1976* and, more recently, the Musée du Québec in September 2000, with *Yves Gaucher: Récurrences*.

This retrospective forms part of the series of major monographic shows presented at the Musée, including *Alfred Pellan* (1993), *Henry Saxe* (1994), *Guido Molinari* (1995), *Mousseau* (1997), *Jacques de Tonnancour* and *Paul-Émile Borduas* (1999), *Marcelle Ferron* (2000) and *Charles Gagnon* (2001). It offers the Musée an opportunity to display 17 works chosen from the 27 by the artist in its collection. These pieces will be shown alongside others on loan from private and public collections.

The exhibition *Yves Gaucher* will be accompanied by a 276-page catalogue containing essays by curator Sandra Grant Marchand as well as by Roger Bellemare, Danielle Blouin, Jean-Jacques Nattiez and David Tomas. A chronology and a bibliography complete the publication.

The exhibition has received financial support from Essilor.

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Visual material available at:
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