

PRESS RELEASE For immediate release

Winter 2009 at the MAC

Montréal, January 13, 2009. Winter at the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal offers a dizzying array of events, with a major retrospective devoted to artist *Claude Tousignant*, a presentation of *Some Installations* selected from the Collection, a *Projections* series spotlighting Japanese video art, and an electrifying, chocolaty All-Nighter, not to mention our *Nocturnes*, the hippest Fridays in town.

Exhibitions

Claude Tousignant, A Retrospective **February 5 to April 26, 2009**

The event of the season at the MAC is a major retrospective devoted to Claude Tousignant, a leading light of abstraction. The exhibition covers the artist's career of fifty-plus years through ninety works (paintings and sculptures), from his famous *Monochrome orangé* and his *Transformateurs chromatiques*, *Gongs*, *Accélérateurs chromatiques*, *Diptyques circulaires*, *Polychromes* and *Monochromes* series to his most recent pieces.

Both a painter and a sculptor, Tousignant has shown an unwavering commitment to abstract art throughout his career. From the start, he was associated with the second generation of the Montréal movement known as the Plasticians, who advocated an abstract, geometric art. He explored the expressive power of colour the most rigorously and boldly of all this group. Tousignant has been the subject of numerous exhibitions in the principal Canadian museums, and his target paintings and large-scale compositions have become an essential reference in Canadian abstract painting. In the mid-1950s, he broke away from the expressionist aesthetic of the time and began developing a form of abstraction based on the idea of painting as "pure sensation." Tousignant was born in 1932 in Montréal, where he continues to live and work.

The Collection: Some Installations **February 28 to August 16, 2009**

The Musée Collection includes a significant number of works of installation art. This exhibition features three major installations acquired over the last two years: *Not I / Pas moi*, 2006-2007, by Christine Davis, *Cuba Still (Remake)*, 2005, by Adad Hannah, and *Chameleon*, 2004, by Franz West.

Projections Series

Takashi Ishida and Yuki Kawamura
January 8 to March 15, 2009

Japanese-born artists Takashi Ishida and Yuki Kawamura now live in Toronto and Paris, respectively. In *The Art of Fugue*, 2001, Ishida transforms sound into image, revealing his personal way of understanding and analyzing music. Kawamura, in his works, composes fleeting, floating images that mingle nature and dreams.

Friday Nocturnes

The first Friday of every month, the Musée stays open until 9 p.m. for entertaining evenings where you can expect the unexpected! Enjoy all the current exhibitions, enhanced by live music and bar service. Coming Nocturnes: February 6, Socalled; March 6, The Besnard Lakes; April 3, Pawa Up First; May 1, Plants and Animals. **No reservation necessary.** Admission with regular Musée ticket or our \$10 Wired card.

All-Nighter - Montreal High Lights Festival February 28, 2009

Night of February 28 to March 1
From 6 p.m. to 5 a.m.

For the 2009 edition, the Musée has dreamed up a night that appeals to all the senses: sight, of course, with its exhibitions and the *Projections* series, but also sound, motion and taste: a Grandbois Chocolatière chocolate “shop” in the foyer offering tastings of chocolates and chocolate “espresso,” a rock/mash-up atmosphere provided by the electrifying DJ Abeille Gélinas in the Atrium (from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.) and street entertainment in the *Flexigloo*, a mobile shelter set up on the plaza outside. All night long, you can roam as you please through the museum’s three floors and its nine exhibition galleries. Apart from the chocolate (from \$3 to \$5), it’s all free!