Pictures for an Exhibition is a new series of projects based on works from the Collection. This evolving cycle will feature various chapters, beginning with the presentation titled “For time is the longest distance between two places.” This exhibition comprises works that express the need to define our relationship to time and space, and that reveal artists’ propensity to want to depict that relationship, from the infinitely large to the infinitely small. It takes a form akin to a colour chart, juxtaposing different conceptions of time — measured, divided, standardized, numbered, accumulated, punctuated, determined, infinite, abstract — as represented by the artists in linear or cyclical fashion. While some temporal measurements coincide with natural cycles, others allow us to locate, on a human scale, places of origin and the distance that separates us from them. In Tennessee Williams’ 1944 play The Glass Menagerie, the characters turn out to be victims of time, faced with its irreversible nature, “for time is the longest distance between two places.” The exhibition takes this quotation as a premise and offers a selection of works drawn from the Musée Collection in which time is a subject of examination. The pieces by Nicolas Baier, Patrick Bernatchez, Eric Cameron, Paterson Ewen, Charles Gagnon, Betty Goodwin, Eadweard Muybridge, Roman Opalka, Alain Paiement, Guy Pellerin, Jana Sterbak, Françoise Sullivan, Serge Tousignant, Bill Vazan and Lawrence Weiner are all presented from this perspective and set in dialogue with a splendid sculpture by Sarah Sze titled Measuring Stick, 2015, which looks at the measurement of time and space through the moving image.

The Musée d’art contemporain de Montréal is grateful to Québec’s Ministère de la Culture et des Communications for a grant provided under its program to support permanent exhibitions, which has made this project possible.

Marie-Eve Beaupré
Curator of the Collection
Francoise Sullivan
Montréal, Québec, Canada, 1960
Lives and works in Montréal, Québec, Canada.

Lives and works in New York, New York, United States.

This photographic work is the result of a performance action carried out by Françoise Sullivan in collaboration with David Moore. It suggests a dialogue between visual arts and choreography, and shares certain formalist elements with Sullivan's portfolio of prints, on display nearby. Inspired by the myth of the eternal return, the image depicts a continuing choreographed movement performed by the artist on the site of a ruin. Bringing together past and present, memory of a culture and current nature of a practice, Marche circulaire challenges the permanence of art by making it current again.

2 Lawrence Weiner
New York, New York, United States, 1942
Lives and works in New York, New York, United States, and Amsterdam, Netherlands.

This photographic work is the result of a performance action carried out by Françoise Sullivan in collaboration with David Moore. It suggests a dialogue between visual arts and choreography, and shares certain formalist elements with Sullivan's portfolio of prints, on display nearby. Inspired by the myth of the eternal return, the image depicts a continuing choreographed movement performed by the artist on the site of a ruin. Bringing together past and present, memory of a culture and current nature of a practice, Marche circulaire challenges the permanence of art by making it current again.

3 SERGE TOUSIGNANT
Montréal, Québec, Canada, 1942
Lives and works in Montréal, Québec, Canada.

This work is made up of a photographic image juxtaposed with an explosion of colour, so that the two elements of the picture are connected with a painted material that looks rather like them. Acting as both detail and enlargement, colour suggests a palatable representation of landscape. It enables us to interpret the materiality of the subject, deconstructed by the formal structure and produce a timeless portrait of it.

4 Robbi nutrient
Toronto, Ontario, Canada, 1933
Lives and works in Montréal, Québec, Canada.

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5 BILL VAZAN
Toronto, Ontario, Canada, 1933
Lives and works in Montréal, Québec, Canada.

This photographic work is the result of a performance action carried out by Françoise Sullivan in collaboration with David Moore. It suggests a dialogue between visual arts and choreography, and shares certain formalist elements with Sullivan's portfolio of prints, on display nearby. Inspired by the myth of the eternal return, the image depicts a continuing choreographed movement performed by the artist on the site of a ruin. Bringing together past and present, memory of a culture and current nature of a practice, Marche circulaire challenges the permanence of art by making it current again.

6 GUY PELLERIN
Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts, Québec, Canada, 1954
Lives and works in Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts, Québec, Canada.

This photographic work is the result of a performance action carried out by Françoise Sullivan in collaboration with David Moore. It suggests a dialogue between visual arts and choreography, and shares certain formalist elements with Sullivan's portfolio of prints, on display nearby. Inspired by the myth of the eternal return, the image depicts a continuing choreographed movement performed by the artist on the site of a ruin. Bringing together past and present, memory of a culture and current nature of a practice, Marche circulaire challenges the permanence of art by making it current again.

7 ALAIN PAIEMENT
Montréal, Québec, Canada, 1960
Lives and works in Montréal, Québec, Canada.

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8 PATERSON EWEN
Ontario, Canada, 1925 – London, Ontario, Canada, 2002
Lives and works in Montréal, Québec, Canada.

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9 JANA STERBAK
Prague, Czechoslovakia, 1955
Lives and works in Montréal, Québec, Canada.

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10 PATRICK BERNATCHEZ
Montréal, Québec, Canada, 1979
Lives and works in Montréal, Québec, Canada.

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