

## COMING EXHIBITION

# FASHION AND APPEARANCE IN QUEBEC ART, 1880-1945

9 FEBRUARY TO 6 MAY 2012



From 9 February to 6 May 2012, the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec invites you to an exhibition that challenges the myth, found widely in art and literature, that until the Second World War Quebec was a traditional rural society whose inhabitants wore “old-fashioned” clothing. What was clothing back then really like? Were Canadian women able to follow fashions and appear elegant? Was the clothing worn by Quebec women, men and children during this period similar to the great trends in international fashion?

The 132 paintings and drawings in the exhibition – along with department store catalogues, advertising posters and photographs – will enable audiences to discover a very particular history, that of fashion and appearance in Quebec as seen by painters. With its diverse themes, which examine elegance in city and country, workers’ clothing, the modern city, its streets, shop windows and department stores, changes in appearance brought about by the democratisation

of sports, etc., the exhibition will explore an entire facet of Quebec’s social history and material culture.

The seventy-year period from 1880 to 1940 was crucial to the industrialisation and urbanisation of Quebec society, but also for its art history. Through this new perspective on Quebec art, viewers will be able to revisit artists’ many approaches, both academic and modern, before the emergence of abstraction. The artists represented include Antoine Plamondon, Eugène Hamel, Ozias Leduc, Adrien Hébert, John Lyman, Alfred Pellán, Jean Paul Lemieux, Louise Gadbois, Agnès Lefort and many others.

## PRESS CONTACT

Linda Tremblay, Media Relation Officer  
418 644-6460, ext. 5520 / 1 866 220-2150 / [linda.tremblay@mnba.qc.ca](mailto:linda.tremblay@mnba.qc.ca)  
Parc des Champs-de-Bataille, Québec (Québec) G1R 5H3

## EIGHT QUEBEC FASHION DESIGNERS INSPIRED BY THE MNBAQ COLLECTION



*Fashion and Appearance in Quebec Art, 1880-1945* will also make it possible to highlight in an original way the MNBAQ's mission, which is to make known creative expression of every description in Quebec. Eight fashion designers have been invited to take inspiration from the paintings in the collection being presented in the exhibition to create a contemporary work of fashion. This original encounter between painters of the past and today's creators – Christian Chenail (Muse), Michel Desjardins, Marie Dooley, Philippe Dubuc, Christiane Garant (Myco Anna), Yves Jean Lacasse (Envers), Jean-François Morissette and Marie Saint Pierre – will provide visitors with a stimulating complement to the exhibition.

*Fashion and Appearance in Quebec Art, 1880-1945* will be accompanied by a profusely illustrated 200-page publication edited by the exhibition's two curators, Véronique Borboën, professor of set design in the École supérieure du théâtre at the Université du Québec à Montréal, and Esther Trépanier, professor in the Département d'histoire de l'art at the same university. This exceptional volume, the third in the series *Arts du Québec*, brings a new perspective to the history of Quebec fashion with its many sections on topics such as fashion design firms, department stores and the dissemination of fashion.

ELLE  
QUEBEC

SEMAINE  
MODE  
MONTRÉAL  
EN COLLABORATION AVEC  
**P&G** beauté & soins

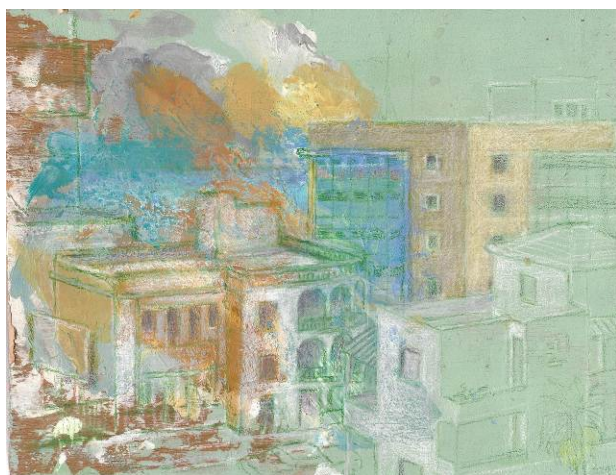
### ▲ PRESS CONTACT

Linda Tremblay, Media Relation Officer  
418 644-6460, ext. 5520 / 1 866 220-2150 / [linda.tremblay@mnba.qc.ca](mailto:linda.tremblay@mnba.qc.ca)  
Parc des Champs-de-Bataille, Québec (Québec) G1R 5H3

## ▲ COMING EXHIBITION

# OPEN AIR. THE NEW *PLEINAIRISME*

15 MARCH TO 25 JUNE 2012



What does the concept “plein air” mean to artists today? What impels an artist to choose an approach with a long tradition in an age when new media are all the rage in contemporary art? And what, today, can be described as “plein air” art? These are some of the questions to which the exhibition *Open Air. The New Pleinairisme* will try to provide answers from 15 March to 25 June 2012 at the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec.

The great variety of works, attitudes and approaches found in the exhibition – drawings, watercolours, prints, collages, paintings, texts, videos, sculptures and photographs – will provide a range of responses. Work by some fifteen artists from Quebec, the rest of Canada, Europe and Latin America will enable visitors take the pulse of the various forms that open air artistic creation can take today. This technique has been around for a long time, going back to the seventeenth century, when a few painters carried out small studies out of doors. It was only at the beginning of the nineteenth century, however, that plein air painting became the basis of modern landscape art. Still today, an astonishing number of contemporary artists have embraced this approach. Projects by artists such as Francis Alÿs, Michel de Broin, Geneviève Cadieux, Janet Cardiff and George Bures Miller, Cyprien Gaillard, Janice Kerbel, Irene Kopelman and many others have been created out of doors. Some of them have chosen to work by daylight, while others have preferred night or dusk, taking advantage of modern-day energy sources to extend their working day. Ideas around questions of time, the passing seasons and the artist’s imaginative potential and creative energy are some of the present and observable forces in these works.

## ▲ PRESS CONTACT

Linda Tremblay, Media Relation Officer  
418 644-6460, ext. 5520 / 1 866 220-2150 / [linda.tremblay@mnba.qc.ca](mailto:linda.tremblay@mnba.qc.ca)  
Parc des Champs-de-Bataille, Québec (Québec) G1R 5H3

## ARTIST PIERRE DORION SELECTS 48 WORKS FROM THE MNBAQ'S COLLECTION



abstract conception of painting.

To accompany the exhibition on contemporary plein air artistic practice, the exhibition curator, Kitty Scott, invited the artist Pierre Dorion to select a number of pieces representative of plein air creation from the MNBAQ's collection. The fifty works chosen by Dorion, including studies, sketches, finished studio paintings and prints, date from the nineteenth century to the present day and are an intuitive sampling of an approach to landscape that has gradually been contaminated by photography and urban life, revealing a gradual movement towards a more

A catalogue produced by the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec in collaboration with the Banff Centre's Walter Phillips Gallery will accompany the exhibition *Open Air. The New Pleinairisme*. Along with brief descriptions of the artists included in the exhibition, this illustrated volume will include essays by guest curator Kitty Scott, director of visual arts at the Banff International Curatorial Institute, the artist Pierre Dorion, and Johanne Sloan, professor of art history at Concordia University.

### ▲ PRESS CONTACT

Linda Tremblay, Media Relation Officer  
418 644-6460, ext. 5520 / 1 866 220-2150 / [linda.tremblay@mnba.qc.ca](mailto:linda.tremblay@mnba.qc.ca)  
Parc des Champs-de-Bataille, Québec (Québec) G1R 5H3

## ▲ COMING EXHIBITION

# IN WONDERLAND: THE SURREALIST ADVENTURES OF WOMEN ARTISTS IN MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES

7 JUNE TO 3 SEPTEMBER 2012



A grand premiere: the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the Museo de Arte Moderno in Mexico City are jointly organising an international exhibition spotlighting the tremendous contribution of women to the Surrealist movement in Mexico and the United States. Next summer, the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec will have the privilege of being the sole Canadian venue to host this exhibition, from 7 June to 3 September 2012.

Bringing together 179 works by 46 artists made between 1930 and the late 1970s, *In*

*Wonderland: The Surrealist Adventures of Women Artists in Mexico and the United States* invites viewers on an unusual journey, studded with strange and fabulous encounters like that of Alice in Wonderland. Plunging visitors into this colourful survey will be works in a variety of forms: painting, sculpture, assemblage, film, photography, collage, drawing and engraving. Among the fantasies and phantasms expressed can be found questions of identity, sexuality, witchcraft, creativity, psychoanalysis, memory, dreams, sentimentality, politics and war, indigenous culture, Mother Earth and universal mythology.

Surrealism took root in Europe following the Great War. It lived on artistically elsewhere, however, particularly in New York and Mexico. The visit to Mexico in 1938 by the French author and theorist of Surrealism André Breton and the great number of exiled European Surrealists fleeing the Second World War in the 1940s to come live on this side of the Atlantic Ocean contributed to the movement's growing influence in the Americas. This one-of-a-kind exhibition shows how Surrealism became a means of self-discovery in North America, where women artists felt neither the effect of European traditions nor the consequences of the war.

## ▲ PRESS CONTACT

Linda Tremblay, Media Relation Officer  
418 644-6460, ext. 5520 / 1 866 220-2150 / [linda.tremblay@mnba.qc.ca](mailto:linda.tremblay@mnba.qc.ca)  
Parc des Champs-de-Bataille, Québec (Québec) G1R 5H3



Among the artists represented in the exhibition are expatriate Europeans such as Leonora Carrington, the companion of the German painter and sculptor Marx Ernst, and Jacqueline Lamba, the wife of André Breton, and American and Mexican women who explored and reinvented their dreams with all the freedom of expression that the surrealist approach allowed them. *In Wonderland* leads us into the fascinating and stunning worlds of Frida Kahlo, Louise Bourgeois, Dorothea Tanning and many other

artists worthy of attention and greater familiarity. Their remarkable work testifies to the way in which all these artists set out to discover universal truths alongside their own personal truths.

**After opening in January 2012 in Los Angeles, the exhibition will be presented in Quebec City in the summer before finishing its tour in Mexico City in the fall. Thanks to the participation of the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec, the remarkable volume accompanying the exhibition will include nearly a dozen captivating essays on the subject and will be available in French.**

## ▲ PRESS CONTACT

Linda Tremblay, Media Relation Officer  
418 644-6460, ext. 5520 / 1 866 220-2150 / [linda.tremblay@mnba.qc.ca](mailto:linda.tremblay@mnba.qc.ca)  
Parc des Champs-de-Bataille, Québec (Québec) G1R 5H3

## ▲ COMING EXHIBITION

# FINE ARTS IN NEW FRANCE

2 AUGUST 2012 TO 28 APRIL 2013



The Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec is particularly proud to present a major new exhibition, from 2 August 2012 to 28 April 2013, surveying the arts of New France. What kind of art was created between 1608 and 1760? Did local production of objects exist or did they simply come from elsewhere? In the event, locally-produced objects were found alongside those imported from France. The presence of active artists in the colony in the eighteenth century ensured that local objects came to play a growing role in society.

The works presented in the exhibition will be organised around the three functions of art at the time: prayer, decoration and figuration. While the Church was the largest sponsor of artistic production, laypeople also sought out works for needs tied to the exploration and understanding of this new land and their interaction with indigenous groups. A large selection of portraits will enable viewers to familiarise themselves with the faces of several major figures of the period.

Several works have recently been restored for the event *Fine Arts in New France*, making it possible to appreciate them fully. These restorations have led to a number of discoveries and new attributions. Among them, the portrait *Catherine de Saint-Augustin* (around 1672, Augustinians of Hôtel-Dieu, Quebec City) is now attributed to Frère Luc, the *Tabernacle* in the Jesuit chapel in Montreal (1694, Musée des maîtres et artisans) has been reattributed to Jacques LeBlond de Latour, and the unpublished *Plan* of Quebec City (1685, Company of Jesus), can now officially be said to have been drawn by Robert de Villeneuve.

## ▲ PRESS CONTACT

Linda Tremblay, Media Relation Officer  
418 644-6460, ext. 5520 / 1 866 220-2150 / [linda.tremblay@mnba.qc.ca](mailto:linda.tremblay@mnba.qc.ca)  
Parc des Champs-de-Bataille, Québec (Québec) G1R 5H3



This immense project, bringing together more than 125 works, would not have been possible without the generous cooperation of some forty lenders. Museums, church parishes and religious orders have made major loans in order to recreate the effervescence of the visual arts in an era for which, despite limited means of

communication, art was a way of asserting its vitality and values.

**An illustrated monograph will accompany the exhibition *Fine Art in New France*. Because the exhibition's topic is directly related to that of the *New France Festival*, being held from 1 to 5 August 2012, partnering with this event will add even more activities and surprises.**

## ▲ PRESS CONTACT

Linda Tremblay, Media Relation Officer  
418 644-6460, ext. 5520 / 1 866 220-2150 / [linda.tremblay@mnba.qc.ca](mailto:linda.tremblay@mnba.qc.ca)  
Parc des Champs-de-Bataille, Québec (Québec) G1R 5H3



## ▲ COMING EXHIBITION

# ART AND NATURE IN THE MIDDLE AGES

4 OCTOBER 2012 TO 6 JANUARY 2013



From 4 October 2012 to 6 January 2013, the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec is pleased to present the exhibition *Art and Nature in the Middle Ages*, the fruit of an exceptional first-ever collaboration with the Musée de Cluny in Paris. This celebration of the medieval era is an extraordinary opportunity to discover some of the major works found in France's Musée National du Moyen Âge.

Ranging across more than 600 years of artistic production in Western Europe, the exhibition will demonstrate how medieval craftspeople and artists developed an original vision of nature through their experiments with

materials and forms. Through a selection of nearly 150 objects, viewers will come to appreciate the relationship between art and nature from the tenth to the fifteenth centuries. Limestone cornices, pieces in ivory and precious metals, enamelwork, stained glass windows, tapestries, textiles and illuminations will illustrate a number of themes: Classical, Barbaric and Islamic sources; plant and animal stylisation in Roman art; flora and fauna in Christian iconography; the fantastic from the Roman to the Gothic; stylised decor in the decorative arts and heraldry; the vision of nature in Gothic decor; real nature in people's lives and finery; religious iconography and Marian symbolism; and finally everyday life and the emergence of landscape art.

Among the major pieces from the period on display are several tapestries, including that illustrating the *Legend of St. Stephen* (the unicorn tapestry, made around 1500) as well as other equally rare textiles such as the *Leopard Embroidery* (completed between 1330 and 1340); the ivory horn from the Saint-Arnoul abbey in Metz; enamelwork such as the *Reliquary of St. Francis of Assisi* (after 1228); ceramics, including a *Large Bowl with Four Suspension Rings* (late fourteenth to early fifteenth centuries); and decorative objects such as these *Love Scenes* on a wooden chest made in Flanders in the late fourteenth century.

## ▲ PRESS CONTACT

Linda Tremblay, Media Relation Officer  
418 644-6460, ext. 5520 / 1 866 220-2150 / [linda.tremblay@mnba.qc.ca](mailto:linda.tremblay@mnba.qc.ca)  
Parc des Champs-de-Bataille, Québec (Québec) G1R 5H3

## TREASURES OF THE MUSÉE DE CLUNY IN QUEBEC CITY



The Musée National du Moyen Âge is housed in two exceptional Paris monuments: the Gallo-Roman thermal baths (first and third centuries) and the Hôtel de Cluny, townhouse of the Cluny abbots (late fifteenth century). It was created by the French government in 1843 with the collection of an amateur devotee of the art of the Middle Ages, Alexandre Du Sommerard, who resided in the Hôtel de Cluny. Over the years the collection has grown to more than 20,000 pieces, offering a unique panorama of art and history by illustrating every aspect of social life from late Antiquity to the dawn of the Renaissance.

**An album in French, published by the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec in collaboration with the Musée de Cluny, will provide an overview of all the themes covered by the exhibition through a selection of fifty of the pieces presented in it.**

### ▲ PRESS CONTACT

Linda Tremblay, Media Relation Officer  
418 644-6460, ext. 5520 / 1 866 220-2150 / [linda.tremblay@mnba.qc.ca](mailto:linda.tremblay@mnba.qc.ca)  
Parc des Champs-de-Bataille, Québec (Québec) G1R 5H3

## ▲ COMING EXHIBITION

# STÉPHANE GILOT. THE PERFORMATIVE CITY

4 OCTOBER 2012 TO 24 FEBRUARY 2013



the MNBAQ.

Created in 2010 and recently acquired by the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec, Stéphane Gilot's *The Performative City* is a multimedia installation made up of several scale models which, assembled on a large platform, form a kind of miniature city. This piece is an eloquent synthesis of the artist's ideas to date. The present exhibition is the very first time that the work of this key figure on today's art scene in Quebec is being presented at

Stéphane Gilot's work explores our relationship to space, in both its architectural and social aspects. Using immersive or modelled hybrid constructions, original videos or drawings, he creates imaginary landscapes, sometimes awash in a futuristic or post-apocalyptic atmosphere, out of which strange buildings rise up. For this project, Gilot invited artists to carry out actions before the video camera, which were then included in *The Performative City* by means of small screens incorporated into several of the infrastructures. Ideas about community life in a delimited area are expressed in each of the performances screened inside the models. Focusing our attention on how society is organised and on the way we behave within it as individuals and examining our capacity to live as a community are some of Stéphane Gilot's most important concerns, with which we are confronted when we enter into contact with his work.

## ▲ PRESS CONTACT

Linda Tremblay, Media Relation Officer  
418 644-6460, ext. 5520 / 1 866 220-2150 / [linda.tremblay@mnba.qc.ca](mailto:linda.tremblay@mnba.qc.ca)  
Parc des Champs-de-Bataille, Québec (Québec) G1R 5H3

## BIOGRAPHY OF STÉPHANE GILOT



Born in Belgium, Stéphane Gilot has lived and worked in Montreal since 1996. He holds a master's degree in visual and media arts from the Université du Québec à Montréal (2005) and a diploma in advanced studies in visual and fine arts from the Institut supérieur des beaux-arts de Saint-Luc in Liège (1993).

For nearly 15 years Gilot has been making his mark in Quebec and Toronto, but he is also active on the European arts scene, particularly in Belgium, his homeland, but also in France, Germany, Spain, England and Serbia. His work has been seen in recent exhibitions such as *Reverse Pedagogy* at the Model Arts and Niland Gallery (Sligo, Ireland, 2009); *La triennale québécoise* at the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal (2008); *Ex-situ* at the F. Desimpel gallery (Brussels, 2007); *La station* at Oboro (Montreal, 2006); *Transmediale* (Berlin, 2006); *Videogame* at Paul Petro Contemporary Art (Toronto, 2005); *New Canadian Video* at Canada House (London, 2003); and *Foire d'empoigne* at Espace 251 Nord (Liège, Belgium, 2003).

**Stéphane Gilot's work can be found in the collections of the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal and the Centre d'exposition de Baie-Saint-Paul, in addition to the permanent collection and the Prêt d'œuvres d'art collection of the MNBAQ.**

### ▲ PRESS CONTACT

Linda Tremblay, Media Relation Officer  
418 644-6460, ext. 5520 / 1 866 220-2150 / [linda.tremblay@mnba.qc.ca](mailto:linda.tremblay@mnba.qc.ca)  
Parc des Champs-de-Bataille, Québec (Québec) G1R 5H3