

EXHIBITION

BILL VAZAN XXth CENTURY

7 NOVEMBER 2013 TO 4 MAY 2014



Québec City, Wednesday 6 November 2013 □ To mark the acquisition in the fall of 2012 of the work *XXth Century* by Bill Vazan and on the occasion of the exhibition *Unfaithful Mornings: The Art of Protocols*, the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec is proud to present this magisterial work, made up of ten large-format paintings and never shown in public in its entirety since it was created in 1975. Visitors have until 4 May 2014, in gallery 1 of the Gérard Morisset pavilion, to soak up at their leisure this remarkable work by Vazan, a true pillar of Canadian contemporary art, and perhaps to reflect on the notion of time.

Behind *XXth Century*

An adept of practices involving systematic and recurrent methods, especially as a way of echoing the principles of conceptual art, Vazan inscribed on the canvas every date in the twentieth century using an ink stamp. Patiently and systematically, for two years, he orchestrated an impressive temporal contraction, along with an awareness of the surface captured on the canvases by transposing the century in this manner. This imposing work thus gives a new measure of time, at once rigorous and spectacular. We see file past thousands of days on the same surface. Through changes of colour, Vazan gives the century a rhythm and provides our eye with an adventure.

Vazan's attempt to circumscribe this hundred-year period, having meaning only if carried out to its conclusion, contributes to the encounter of two temporalities: the long time of the century and the shortened time of the two years it took to create the work. We imagine all the hours spent making this repetitive gesture, and the work displays this unremitting and almost obsessive human investment in recording time.

MEDIA CONTACT

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Canada Council
for the Arts
Conseil des arts
du Canada

Experiencing XXth Century

This historical expanse of materialized time is an invitation to viewers to find their “own” date. For there is nothing more natural than to seek, in this time become writing and colour, one’s date of birth in the visual expanse on view. All those born in this century can thus find their space by scanning the columns and halting at a precise point. Everyone can take their place in time and space by appropriating the work and connecting it to a piece of their own life.

BIOGRAPHY OF BILL VAZAN

Bill Vazan was born in 1933 in Toronto and has lived and worked in Montréal since 1957. A major figure in Canadian contemporary art, he began his artistic career in the 1960s. His large-scale projects of the period had a significant impact, and he also established himself as a fervent practitioner of land art. His many-sided body of work includes sculpture, drawing, painting, performance and photography. He explores the relations between humans and their environment through interventions in the landscape, photomontage and conceptual work. Vazan’s monumental works – numerous ephemeral and permanent interventions in nature and public spaces – can be found in several countries, including China, Japan, Russia and Israel. As a professor at Concordia University and then at UQAM, and as director and then co-director of the galleries Véhicule Art and Optica, Vazan has played a decisive role in the dissemination of contemporary art in Canada. His work can be found in every major public art collection in Canada, but also in the United States, Europe and Brazil. Bill Vazan won the Paul-Émile Borduas lifetime achievement award in 2010.

A 128-page publication, sumptuously illustrated and available at the Musée’s Boutique, is being published in conjunction with the exhibitions *Bill Vazan: XXth Century* and *Unfaithful Mornings: The Art of Protocols*. For more information about all the activities around these events, consult the Musée’s brand new website: mnbaq.org.



CREDITS

The exhibition *Bill Vazan: XXth Century* was conceived and produced by the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec with the support of the assistance to art museums and public galleries program of the Canada Council for the Arts.

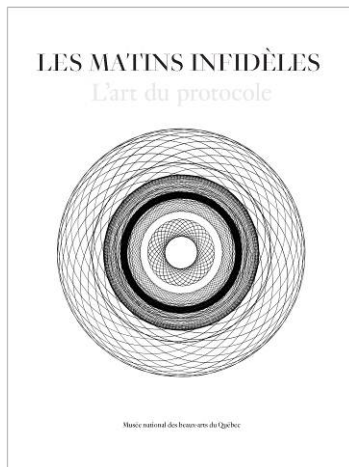
Project Director: Anne Eschapassee, director of exhibitions and publications, MNBAQ

Curator: Bernard Lamarche, curator of present-day art, MNBAQ

Graphic design: Nathalie Racicot

The Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec is a government corporation funded by the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications du Québec.

PUBLICATION



The publication produced by the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec to accompany the exhibitions *Bill Vazan: XXth Century* and *Unfaithful Mornings: The Art of Protocols* features the work of fifteen artists from Québec and the rest of Canada around the question of protocols in contemporary art. This 128-page, abundantly-illustrated volume – in English and French – offers an analysis of each work (installations, photographs, drawings, paintings, sculptures, videos, etc.) from the perspective of this systematic dimension, describing in exact terms the protocols at work. The publication contains a foreword by Line Ouellet, executive director of the MNBAQ, an introductory text by the exhibition's curator, Bernard Lamarche, analysis of the work of the 14 artists represented in the exhibition –

Patrick Bernatchez, Martin Boisseau, Martin Bourdeau, Sylvie Cotton, Robbin Deyo, David Gillanders, Raphaëlle de Groot, Immony Men, Sam Kinsley, Germaine Koh, François Lacasse, Renée Lavillante, Jocelyn Robert and Kelly Wood – biographical notes and a special 16-page section on Bill Vazan's *XXth Century*. It is available at the Musée's Boutique for the price of \$29.95.

ON THE WEB

Visit the Musée's new website to learn all the details about the exhibition and the activities around it: mnbaq.org

New: the MNBAQ on Instagram

Peek backstage at the Musée thanks to the photos published by the MNBAQ.

[instagram.com/mnbaq](https://www.instagram.com/mnbaq)

Facebook

Follow us on Facebook to learn all about *Bill Vazan: XXth Century*: activities around the exhibition, photos, special offers, etc.

[facebook.com/mnbaq](https://www.facebook.com/mnbaq)

Twitter

Follow us on Twitter to keep up to date with the Musée. The exhibition hashtag is #vazanXXsiecle

twitter.com/mnbaq

Pinterest

See the Musée in images on Pinterest!

[pinterest.com/mnbaq](https://www.pinterest.com/mnbaq)

Vimeo

Discover the latest videos published by the MNBAQ on Vimeo.

[vimeo.com/mnbaq](https://www.vimeo.com/mnbaq)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Opening Hours

Until 31 May 2014

Tuesday to Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Wednesday until 9:00 p.m.

Closed Mondays and 25 December

Admission

Adults: **\$18** ▪ Seniors (65 and over): **\$16** ▪ Ages 18 to 30: **\$10** ▪ Ages 12 to 17: **\$1** ▪

Children (12 and under): **free** ▪ Friends-Members: **free** ▪ Wednesdays from 5 to 9 pm: **half price** ▪

Reduced rates for groups ▪ Free cloakroom

Contact Us

418 643-2150 or 1 866 220-2150 / www.mnbaq.org

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