

NEW

JEAN-PAUL RIOPELLE

SEE *TRIBUTE TO ROSA LUXEMBURG* IN A NEW LIGHT!

FROM 28 JANUARY 2014



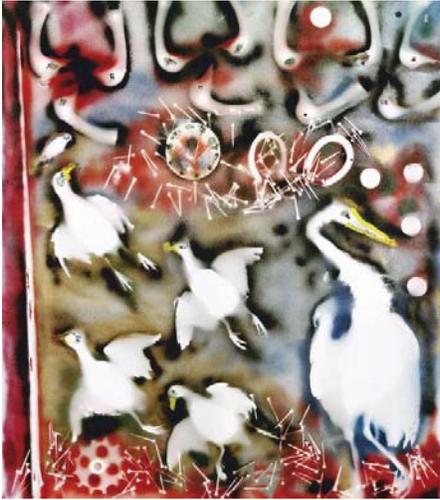
Québec City, Wednesday 29 January 2014 – See Jean-Paul Riopelle’s *Tribute to Rosa Luxemburg* in a new light! Starting today, a new hanging of this monumental fresco by the famous artist is on view in gallery 3 of the Gérard Morisset pavilion, part of the rearrangement of the Musée’s collections, which will include a brand new gallery devoted to this artist in the Charles Baillaigé pavilion beginning 20 February. Take advantage of this opportunity to see, or see again, this work in an exhibition gallery before it is moved and installed in a public area of the future museum complex, the passage which will connect the Charles Baillaigé pavilion with the Pierre Lassonde pavilion in 2015. A selection of works involving Riopelle’s signature technique – his use of spray paint, a popular tool more closely associated with graffiti – along with previously unseen works, including a recent acquisition, will complete the new gallery.

Since it was acquired in 1996, nearly 1,300,000 people visiting the MNBAQ have viewed the largest work ever made by Jean-Paul Riopelle, the largest work ever acquired by the Musée. The work is a narrative sequence of 30 paintings forming a triptych more than 40 metres in length. It is in a sense Riopelle’s legacy work, which he began in his studio on Île-aux-Oies in November 1992 after learning of the death in Paris of his former companion, the American painter Joan Mitchell (1926-1992). You can be the next person to appreciate Jean-Paul Riopelle’s genius and burning passion.

PRESS CONTACT

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A quick look back at the brief history of Rosa



The title of this piece comes from the anecdote according to which Riopelle, when they were together, called Mitchell his “Rosa Malheur” (“Rosa Misfortune”), a reference to Rosa Bonheur (1822-1899), a brilliant painter of animals whose last name means “good fortune”. Rosa was also the first name of the German Communist Party activist Rosa Luxemburg, who was famous for her coded prison letters.

This giant colourful fresco, made using spray paint, takes the form of a sequence of animal paintings replete with everyday objects, most often depicted in silhouette, creating atmospheric effects by means of a celestial technique. Its brief history is this: the work was first exhibited in Mont-Rolland, in the Laurentians region of Québec, in April 1993. For more than five days, a hundred or so friends of the artist, art lovers and passers-by got an advance viewing of the work. In the fall of that same year, it was exhibited in a Montréal gallery, Michel Tétreault Art Contemporain. After a period at the La Roche-Guyon chateau not far from Paris in 1995, it was shown at the MNBAQ (then known as the Musée du Québec) for five weeks in the spring of 1996, when it was viewed by 33,000 visitors. Through an agreement with Loto-Québec, the work was finally acquired as a gift, at the same time as the purchase of two other major works by Riopelle, *Pangnirtung* (1977) and *La Victoire et le Sphinx* (1963). Initially intended to be exhibited for twenty years at the Hull Casino, in the end it spent only three years in the Outaouais region before being brought back to the MNBAQ in May 2000 to ensure its permanent presence. That year, the *Riopelle – Loto-Québec* gallery opened in the form it has been known to the present day.

Four Figures of Modern Art in Québec, which includes the exhibitions Jean Paul Lemieux: Of Silence and Space, Alfred Pellán: The Wide-Awake Dreamer, Fernand Léduc: Painter of Light and Jean-Paul Riopelle: Metamorphoses, will be presented in the Charles Baillairgé pavilion of the MNBAQ beginning 20 February 2014.

CREDITS

The exhibition *Jean-Paul Riopelle: Tribute to Rosa Luxemburg* is an original production of the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec.

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

Design Jean Hazel, MNBAQ

Graphic design Marie-France Grondin, MNBAQ

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Opening hours of the Musée

Until 31 May 2014

Tuesday to Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Wednesdays until 9:00 p.m.

Closed Mondays

1 June to 1 September 2014

Daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Wednesdays until 9:00 p.m.

Admission

Adults: **\$18** ▪ Seniors (65 years and over): **\$16** ▪ 18 to 30 years: **\$10** ▪ 13 to 17 years: **\$1** ▪

12 years and under: **free** ▪ Members: **free** ▪

Wednesdays from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.: **half price** ▪ Reduced rates for groups

Contact us

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

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