

David Altmejd at the MNBAQ

*His work The Flux and the Puddle
will be on view from 2016*

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Québec City, Friday 19 June 2015 ✕ On the occasion of the major retrospective *David Altmejd: Flux*, devoted to this Québec artist with an international reputation and being presented at the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal from 20 June to 13 September 2015, the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec is proud to announce that the work *The Flux and the Puddle*, acquired by the Giverny Capital Collection, will be on loan to the Musée for a period of ten years. "Our dearest wish is for the Québec public to have the opportunity to discover, or rediscover, this magisterial work by David Altmejd. The Giverny Capital Collection is committed to donating *The Flux and the Puddle* to a museum located in the province of Québec. The goal is to bequeath this key work to future generations," remarked François Rochon, president of Giverny Capital. For its redeployment at the MNBAQ, which will attain new heights in 2016 with the opening of the Pierre Lassonde pavilion, this magisterial work will have a dedicated location, gallery 1 of the Gérard Morisset pavilion.

The Flux and the Puddle is seen by the artist as a summation of the various styles and diverse figures – werewolves, giants, body builders – and aesthetics which have run through his protean work for nearly twenty years. An immense plexiglas structure inhabited by these figures, but also by materials which appear not to have completed their transformation, the work is seen as “a museum within a museum.”

David Altmejd’s “master work,” a complex maelstrom of styles whose fusion has not yet exhausted its potential, *The Flux and the Puddle* maintains a boundless sense of evolution. The idea of transformation, central to the artist’s project, to which this work is no exception, makes tangible the creative potential of the constant renewal of style and perishable products, drawing attention to the birth of life contained in putrefaction. There reigns a keen sense of the permeability of spaces and processes in this interlacing of forms, figures and vectors of energy highlighted by the many edges of the plexiglas and the threads between them, connecting otherwise isolated sections. Riddled with references to art history and run through with references to the artist’s work, *The Flux and the Puddle* activates a sense of energy that is difficult to pin down. Between the moments of violence and the magma of exchanges between beings, the work breaks the orders to which we are accustomed. Even the space is redefined by the density of what unfolds there.

“I would like to thank François Rochon, who was convinced from the beginning, as was the Musée, that this key work by David Altmejd, the most renowned Québec artist of his generation on the international scene, should remain in Québec. Thanks to his generosity, it will be presented at the MNBAQ and will be a major attraction for visitors to Québec City from around the world,” remarks Line Ouellet, director and chief curator of the MNBAQ.

David Altmejd in a few words

David Altmejd was born in Montréal in 1974 and currently lives and works in New York. He is seen as one of the explosive forces of the international contemporary arts scene. He represented Canada at the 52nd Venice Biennale 2007 with a work subsequently acquired by the Art Gallery of Ontario. His work has also been exhibited at the 8th Istanbul Biennial in 2003 (Turkey); at the Whitney Biennial in New York in 2004 and at the first Triennale québécoise of the Musée d’art contemporain de Montréal in 2008. He also received the Sobey Art Award in 2009. His work has been shown in major exhibitions at the Brant Foundation Art Study Center (2011), the Vanhaerents Art Collection, Brussels (2010), the



National Gallery of Canada (2010), the New Museum (2010) and the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum (2010).

David Altmejd is represented in the following collections: Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal; Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec; National Gallery of Canada; Art Gallery of Ontario; Montreal Museum of Fine Arts; Les Abattoirs, Toulouse; The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; L.A. MoCA – Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art, and MUDAM – Musée d'art moderne Grand-Duc Jean, Luxembourg. Recently, he was made a Companion of the Ordre des arts et des lettres du Québec.

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

David Altmejd, *The Flux and the Puddle*, 2014. Installation, various materials, 327.7 X 640.1 X 713.7 cm.