

# White Mirage



Parc des Champs-de-Bataille  
Québec (Québec) G1R 5H3

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mnbaq.org

**Press Contact**

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Québec City, Wednesday, November 14, 2018 ✕ “My country is not a country, it’s winter!” poet Gilles Vigneault sang with conviction. Whether we love, detest or fantasize about it, the season that is the key to the Québec identity does not inspire writers alone. Indeed, it is the focus of a new exhibition presented at the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec (MNBAQ) in conjunction with the reopening of the Gérard Morisset Pavilion. From November 15, 2018 to May 12, 2019, *White Mirage*, which is part of the major reorganization of the collections of ancient and modern art and the MNBAQ’s recent acquisitions presented in the ground floor exhibition rooms, assembles more than 70 works from the national collection produced by more than 40 artists. The assembled works are from different periods and encompass paintings, drawings, prints, photographs, sculptures, ceramics and glass and evoke northern environments or delight visitors through their evocative power.

## Micheline Beauchemin's *Mirage blanc*

The exhibition opens with a strikingly beautiful textile creation. *Mirage blanc* is the lyrical title of a work by Micheline Beauchemin, a tapestry that the artist produced in the wake of a lengthy stay on Baffin Island in Nunavut. The blue monochrome and the mother-of-pearl threads used for the weaving recall the sparkling light on the frozen expanses of the Far North.



### *Exhibition highlights*

Whether they are poetic, historical or humorous, all of the works in the *White Mirage* exhibition evoke winter. The photographs of Montminy & Cie, including *Le Raquetteur* (1894), will delight visitors, who will appreciate the beauty of painter Edmund Willoughby's *Iceberg dans le détroit de Belle Isle* (1875), or the strength emanating from Manasie Akpaliapik's *Sedna, déesse de la mer* (2000). Other exhibition highlights include François Lacasse's fascinating work *Grandes pulsions I* (2007), *B.r.e.e.z.e.*, Susan Edgerly's remarkable wall-mounted sculpture comprising disks of glass and paper evoking frost and ice, and Pascal Grandmaison's spectacular installation *Desperate Island* (2010).



### *Reflection on the Québec winter*

A thematic exhibition has the power to move us but also to foster reflection. Whether we appreciate it or not, winter is part of who we are and demands resilience and adaptation. It acts as a social binder that assembles us under the same wool tuque. Regardless of our origins, gender, age, education or language, in Québec we must all live our winter. It is the source of great joy, complaints and anxiety and it pervades conversations from December to March.



Outside the country, our winter experience intrigues and fascinates: How do we survive cold snaps? We contribute to sustaining the imaginative universe linked to northern latitudes by relating our adventures, thereby transforming our exasperation into pride. Climate change is now threatening this white season that we simultaneously love and loathe. Réjean Ducharme's *L'hiver de force (Wild to Mild)* (1973) could one day be

nothing more than a *White Mirage* whose disappearance takes with it part of what we are.

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## A space to speak out on winter

As they visit the exhibition, visitors can appreciate a *vox pop* that assembles testimony from individuals of all ages and backgrounds questioned about their relationship with winter. The participants shared their recollections and impressions of the Québec winter, which inhabits our landscapes, defines our ways of life and enlivens our imaginative universe. Winter can be synonymous with pleasure, adversity or discovery, whether we have lived through several winters or are encountering our first one.

An enveloping space has been set aside to enable visitors to express their personal experience of winter. Cards are available on which they can record their stories and impressions, to be deposited in a box. MNBAQ staff will collect the cards and, over time, display the participants' impressions, stories and words on the walls of the exhibition rooms. They will create a vast mosaic of murmurs that illustrate our collective imagination.

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## Credits

*Mirage blanc is an exhibition developed by the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec.*

### *Project Directorship*

**Annie Gauthier**

Director of Collections and  
Research, MNBAQ

### *Curatorship*

**Maude Lévesque**

Curator of CPOA and public  
engagement, MNBAQ

### *Project Manager*

**Kasia Basta**

### *Operations Management*

**Yasmée Faucher**

Department Head, MNBAQ

### *Exhibition and Graphic Design*

**Danièle Lessard**

**Nathalie Racicot**

*In Gallery Programs*  
**Marie-Hélène Audet**  
Mediation Coordinator,  
MNBAQ  
**Catherine-Eve Gadoury**  
Coordinator of Cultural Action,  
MNBAQ

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Gouvernement du Québec.*



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***White Mirage***  
**November 15, 2018 to May 12, 2019**  
**Gérard-Morisset Pavilion of the MNBAQ**

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Page 1 – Photos: Left to right: Marie-Claire Blais, *Brûler les yeux fermés, s.11*, 2012. Peinture acrylique en aérosol sur toile, 152 x 114,5 cm. Collection du Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec, achat pour la collection Prêt d'oeuvres d'art du Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec (CP.2013.67) © Marie-Claire Blais Crédit photo: MNBAQ, Denis Legendre // Joe Talirunili, *Chasse au béluga en kayak*, 1963. Gravure sur pierre, 10/30, 53,5 x 57 cm. Collection du Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec, achat (2011.205) © Succession Joe Talirunili Crédit photo: MNBAQ, Idra Labrie // Montminy & Cie, *Le Raquetteur*, hiver 1894. Épreuve à l'albumine argentique, 55,8 x 41 cm (carton); 42,7 x 32 cm (image) Collection du Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec, don de la collection Michel Lessard (2011.104) Crédit photo: MNBAQ, Denis Legendre

Page 2 – Photos: Micheline Beauchemin, *Mirage blanc*, 1981-1983. Basse lisse et tressage, 225 x 210 x 70 cm. Collection du Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec, don de l'artiste en hommage à John R. Porter, directeur général du Musée de 1993 à 2008 (2007.287) © Succession Micheline Beauchemin / SODRAC Crédit photo: MNBAQ, Patrick Altman // Edmund Willoughby Sewell, *Iceberg dans le détroit de Belle Isle*, vers 1875. Huile sur toile, 26,7 x 33,8 cm. Collection du Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec, don de Suzanne Thomas-Bossé à la mémoire de son époux, André Bossé (2015.697) Crédit photo: MNBAQ, Idra Labrie // Lacasse, François, *Grandes Pulsions VII*, 2008. Acrylique et encre sur toile, 190,5 x 152,7 cm. Collection du Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec, don de l'artiste (2017.279) © François Lacasse Crédit photo: MNBAQ, Idra Labrie

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## General Information

OPENING  
HOURS OF THE  
MUSEUM COMPLEX

### Until May 31, 2019

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

Wednesday till 9 p.m.

Closed Mondays (except December 31, 2018, March 4, April 1 and May 20, 2019)

Closed December 24 et 25

### ADMISSION

Adults: **\$20**

Seniors (65 and Over): **\$18**

Ages 18 to 30: **\$11**

Ages 13 to 17: **\$6**

Families (2 adults and 3 children  
13 to 17): **\$44**

Families (1 adult and 3 children  
13 to 17): **\$24**

Children 12 and under: **free**

Members: **free**

Wednesdays from, 5 p.m. to  
9 p.m.: **half-price**

Reduced rates for groups

### SERVICES AVAILABLE

Parking, Librairie-Boutique,  
café, restaurant, free Wi-Fi and  
Cloakroom

### CONTACT US

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