

Press release
New exhibition
Starting from March 24, 2022

Healing: The Sanitorium Experience

A new project of the MNBAQ's Alcôve-école

Parc des Champs-de-Bataille
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Québec City, Wednesday, March 23, 2022 ✕ Starting March 24, 2022, the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec (MNBAQ), a community-oriented, public museum, is proud to present *Healing: The Sanitorium Experience*, the new Alcôve-école exhibition produced by two Université Laval students.

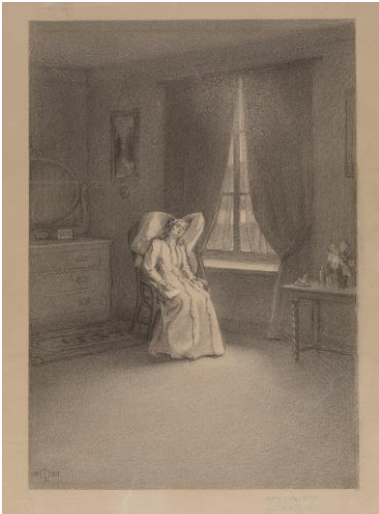


In the wake of the success of *Pouvoir(s)*, the first Alcôve-école exhibition, the MNBAQ wanted to evoke the COVID-19 pandemic and, more specifically, all the patients who were in isolation, by proposing an exhibition devoted to experiences in Québec sanitoria in the last century, since the tragic aspect of tuberculosis has served as a source of inspiration for many artists.

Musée national
des beaux-arts
du Québec

Situated in the heart of the *350 Years of Artistic Practices in Québec* exhibition in the Feeling room, the Alcôve-école is a unique creative forum and exploration space for up-and-coming museologists that affords a contemporary perspective of the MNBAQ's Québec collection by fostering fruitful dialogue between the works, our history, and contemporary life.

Moreover, collaboration between Université Laval and the MNBAQ would not have been possible without the commitment of Université Laval Associate Professor Jean-François Gauvin, who heads the postgraduate degree program in museology and holds the Chaire de leadership en enseignement en muséologie et mise en public.



We have seen isolation before

Healing: The Sanatorium Experience stems from the research of **Énya Kerhoas**, a trainee in the postgraduate degree program in museology at Université Laval and **Léonie Théberge**, a trainee studying for an MA with thesis in design at Université Laval. Inspired by the pandemic, the trainees explored the Québec collection and assembled a selection of works but also objects, artefacts, and testimonials to illustrate tuberculosis, a scourge that struck the world in the late 19th century.



It should be recalled that in the early 20th century, pulmonary tuberculosis was one of the leading causes of death in Québec. Given the medical establishment's powerlessness faced with the disease's ravages, sanatoria became the solution. These vast treatment centres, usually situated in the countryside, educated and isolated patients to avoid the contagion. By offering the patients personal health practices hinging on rest and the open air, it was hoped that the body would develop resistance against the infection. A sanatorium is a micro-society. Sick people are far removed from what they hold dear sometimes for years and are stigmatized by popular fear and uncertain of recovery. They build a separate world.

Truly astonishing works



The tragic aspect of tuberculosis has inspired certain artists, in particular Ozias Leduc, who illustrated Ernest Choquette's rural novel *Claude Paysan* in 1899. The novel recounts the impossible love between a farmer and Fernande, a middle-class woman suffering from an incurable disease. Marc-Aurèle de Foy Suzor-Coté's painting *L'enfant malade* captures the solemnity of a family contending with sickness. Another work is by teacher and artist Marie-Anne Simard, who stayed twice in a sanitorium, where painting filled 12 years of inactivity.

Other works, including paintings by Alfred Pellan and Rita Briansky and a striking selection of photographs drawn from donations by Yves Beaugard and Michel Lessard, attempt instead to recreate the atmosphere that prevailed in sanatoria, timeless venues built in the countryside to take advantage of its many benefits.

Several photographs and objects from the remarkable collection of the Monastère des Augustines, such as radio, newspapers, playing cards, and medical equipment, will bring back to life our collective memory of this episode in our history that was forgotten during the 1950s.



Striking testimonials

Lastly, who but the individuals who experienced this period are best placed to reflect on how tuberculosis affected their lives? In collaboration with the Musée de la mémoire vivante, in the comfort of a setting evocative of the interiors of sanatoria of yesteryear recreated in the rotunda of the Gérard Morisset Pavillon near the Alcôve-école, museum visitors can hear the testimonials of Ida Archambault, who stayed in the sanitorium in Mont-Joli, and Antoine Lindsay, who worked in a sanitorium in the Haute-Mauricie region near Lac Édouard.



Credits

The exhibition *Healing: The Sanatorium Experience* is organized by the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec.

Curatorship

Énya KERHOAS

Intern, DESS in museology,
Université Laval

Supervisor of interns and exhibition coordinator

Anne-Marie BOUCHARD

Curator of Modern Art
(1900-1949), MNBAQ

Marie-France GRONDIN

Designer, MNBAQ

Design and graphic design

Léonie THÉBERGE

Intern, master's student (with
thesis) in design, Université
Laval *Management*

Marie-Hélène AUDET

Head of Mediation, MNBAQ

Yasmée FAUCHER

Head of Museography, MNBAQ

Catherine GAUMONT

Head of Collections, MNBAQ



UNIVERSITÉ
LAVAL

Faculté des lettres et
des sciences humaines

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Gouvernement du Québec.*

Québec 

Healing: The Sanatorium Experience

Gallery Feeling of the Gérard Morisset Pavilion

Starting from March, 24, 2022

INFORMATION:

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

Page 1 – Photos from top to bottom: Marc-Aurèle de Foy Suzor-Coté, *L'enfant malade (Sick Child)*, 1895. Oil on canvas, 67 X 89 cm. 1978.45 Collection of the MNBAQ Photo: MNBAQ, Patrick Altman, // Jules Livernois, *Sainte-Anne Hall, Hôtel-Dieu de Québec*, around 1925. Gelatin silver print, 12.3 X 17.4 cm. Collection of the MNBAQ (2011.142). Gift of the collection of Michel Lessard Photo: MNBAQ, Denis Legendre

Page 2 – Photos from top to bottom: Ozias Leduc, *La Maladie de Fernande* (Fernande’s Illness), illustration for Claude Paysan by Ernest Choquette, 1899. Charcoal on paper, Collection of the MNBAQ (1968.254) Photo: MNBAQ, Denis Legendre // Jules Livernois, *Augustine Nun with Sterilization Apparatuses, Hôtel-Dieu de Québec*, around 1925. Gelatin silver print, Collection of the MNBAQ (2011.141). Gift of the collection Michel Lessard Photo: MNBAQ, Denis Legendre

Page 3 – Photos from top to bottom: Alfred Pellan, *Portrait de femme* (*Portrait of a Woman*), 1930?. Oil on canvas, 55.5 X 45.6 cm. Collection of the MNBAQ (1995.56) Restoration by the Centre de conservation du Québec © Estate Alfred Pellan / SOCAN (2022) Photo: MNBAQ, Idra Labrie // *Nuns on the Therapy Veranda*. Gelatin silver print, 7 x 7 cm (approx.). Archives du Monastère des Augustines de Québec (E.2022.02.10) // *Augustine Nun Playing Billiards Surrounded by Men at the Roberval Sanatorium, Some of Whom Are in Bathrobes and Others in Suit and Tie*, January 1954. Gelatin silver print, 11.2 X 8 cm. Photo: Courtesy of the Monastère des Augustines

General Information

OPENING HOURS OF THE
MUSEUM COMPLEX

Until May 31, 2022

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

Wednesday until 9 p.m.

Closed on Mondays except April 18 and May 23

ADMISSION

Featured exhibitions

Adults: 25 \$

Seniors (65 and Over): 23 \$

Ages 18 to 30: 15 \$

Ages 13 to 17: 7 \$

Families (2 adults accompanied
up to 5 children aged 17 and
under): 54 \$

Group rate (15 people or more)
for hotels, tour operators and
companies: 22 \$

12 years and under: **free**

Membres: **free**

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

MNBAQ National Collections

Adults: 16 \$

Seniors (65 and Over): 15 \$

Ages 18 to 30: 10 \$

Ages 13 to 17: 5 \$

Families (2 adults accompanied
up to 5 children aged 17 and
under): 36 \$

Group rate (15 people or more)
for hotels, tour operators and
companies: 13 \$

12 years and under: **free**

Membres: **free**

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

SERVICES AVAILABLE

Parking, Bookshop-Boutique,
Wi-Fi access, free wheelchairs,
self-service cloakroom and Baby
Changing Room

TO CONTACT US

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