

For immediate release

**THE MONTREAL MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS IS CELEBRATING
A FALL DEDICATED TO QUEBEC AND CANADIAN ART
WITH A NUMBER OF FREE EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

**Unveiling of the Museum's new Pavilion of Quebec and Canadian Art
and Inauguration of the Bourgie Concert Hall**

CARTE BLANCHE GIVEN TO QUEBEC ARTISTS

Montreal, August 10, 2011 – This fall's arrival will be a memorable one – not just because it heralds the start of the school year, but also because it is a truly historic moment for the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, with the opening of the Claire and Marc Bourgie Pavilion of Quebec and Canadian Art, and the new Bourgie Concert Hall, created from the former Erskine and American Church and now integrated in the new pavilion. The Bourgie Hall inaugural public concert will be held on Tuesday, October 11. The opening to the public of the Pavilion of Quebec and Canadian Art will take place on Friday, October 14, followed by an open-house weekend on October 15 and 16. Over these three days, all sorts of activities will be on offer to suit all ages, including lectures, films, story-telling sessions and workshops related to the collection. There is also an activity programme that will continue throughout the fall. The opening will be accompanied by various exhibitions featuring contemporary Quebec and Canadian art.



Reinstalled collections

Visitors will also be invited to discover the Museum's other pavilions, where the collections have been reinstalled in a new layout designed to spotlight their wealth and diversity:

- Discovery of the new World Culture galleries (Asian, Islamic, Pre-Columbian and African art) in the Michal and Renata Hornstein Pavilion;
- Newly arranged galleries showcasing the fine arts, from the Old Masters to Modern Art, in the Jean-Noël Desmarais Pavilion;
- New presentation and layout of the Liliane and David M. Stewart Pavilion, dedicated from now on exclusively to Decorative Arts and Design.

Bourgie Hall and "Music at the Museum"

Saving the Erskine and American Church was at the heart of the Museum's expansion project. The architecture, along with the magnificent Tiffany and other stained glass windows, will be the focus of tours given by the Museum's Volunteer Guides. In acquiring this church, the MMFA wished to restore it and give it a new purpose. The nave of this heritage building was restored and transformed to become a 444-seat concert hall, Bourgie Hall, which, with its annual programme of numerous concerts and activities, will help to promote a fresh dialogue between music and the visual arts. The Arte Musica Foundation, now in residence in this extraordinary concert hall, has programmed an outstanding first season. This musical and educational season will complement the Museum's mission and help develop a new dialogue between the visual arts and music. During the 2011-2012 season, more than 120 concerts will be presented at Bourgie Hall. Half of these concerts will be produced by the Arte Musica Foundation, and the other half by renowned music organizations and ensembles based in Montreal.

QUEBEC AND CANADIAN ART IN THE SPOTLIGHT

• A new pavilion featuring the history of Quebec and Canadian art

Visitors will be able to see some 600 works displayed on six levels in an original layout, a design that reveals the singular and coherent history of Quebec and Canadian art. There will be numerous new works on display, including a number of major acquisitions. Many works have been restored, studied and reframed, thanks to an effort unmatched in the history of the Museum to promote and exhibit this heritage collection. The collection's unique layout will reveal to visitors the singular and coherent history of Quebec and Canadian art:

- On Level 4: **Inuit Art**
- On Level 3: **Founding Identities** (1700s to 1870s)
- On Level 2: **The Era of Annual Exhibitions** (1880s to 1920s)
- On Level 1: **Towards Modernism** (1920s to 1930s)
- On the Sherbrooke Street Level: **The Age of the Manifesto** (1940s to 1960s), including a gallery dedicated to Jean-Paul Riopelle
- In the "Mountain Gallery": **Expanding Fields** (1960s to 1970s)

Access to this pavilion will be free of charge for all at all times. An audioguide (also free) will be available to visitors who wish to deepen their appreciation of the works exhibited in this new pavilion.

• Exhibitions and installations by Quebec and Canadian artists

As part of the celebrations, this fall's exhibitions will be dedicated to our own artists and – once again – admission will be free at all times for everyone. Beginning on September 21, **Quebec and Canadian Art, 1980-2010: Selected Works from the MMFA's Collection** will spotlight the Museum's contemporary art acquisitions. This presentation follows *Global Warning: Scenes from a Planet under Pressure* and *The Earth is Blue Like an Orange*. **Tête-à-tête: Portraits of Quebec Artists by Richard-Max Tremblay**, from September 21 to January 15, 2011, presents fifty photographic portraits of Quebec artists taken by Richard-Max Tremblay since 1983. Fifty works by the Montreal-born artist Dorothea Rockburne will be shown from November 4, 2011, to April 8, 2012. Twelve gouaches by the Montreal painter Michael Merrill, inspired by the worksite of the new Claire and Marc Bourgie Pavilion and the reinstallation of the collections, will be distributed among the various pavilions from October 14, 2011, until January 15, 2012. From November 6, 2011, to January 22, 2012, **Big Bang** will present the works of eighteen Quebec artists from a range of artistic backgrounds, who have each created their own interpretation of a work in the Museum's collection.

Calendar of Exhibitions

Fall 2011

The Fashion World of Jean Paul Gaultier ***From the Sidewalk to the Catwalk***

Final Weeks

Until October 2, 2011

Michal and Renata Hornstein Pavilion

This first international exhibition devoted to the celebrated French couturier covers 35 years in the career of one of the greatest creative talents of recent decades. More a contemporary installation than a fashion retrospective, this major exhibition is particularly innovative in its theatrical *mise en scène* and multimedia approach, achieved by the animated mannequins of the Quebec company UBU. The exhibition features 140 accessorized ensembles, as well as considerable archival material being shown to the public for the first time – sketches, stage costumes, film excerpts, fashion shows, concerts, video clips, dance performances and even television shows.

An exhibition initiated, developed, produced and circulated by the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, in collaboration with the Maison Jean Paul Gaultier.

Quebec and Canadian Art, 1980-2010 ***Selected Works from the MMFA's Collection***

Starting September 30, 2012

Jean-Noël Desmarais Pavilion, Level S2

In recent months, the Museum's collection has been further enriched, thanks chiefly to the donations of some remarkable works by contemporary Quebec and Canadian artists. Wishing to emphasize the current artistic generation, the Museum will present, as part of its fall programme dedicated to Quebec and Canadian art, a selection of its acquisitions from the past

thirty years, between figuration and abstraction. This presentation brings together some fifty works by artists such as Joanne Tod, Pierre Dorion, Barry Allikas, Kim Dorland, Geneviève Cadieux, Betty Goodwin, Landon MacKenzie, Jana Sterbach and Jeff Wall.

Free admission at all times

Tête-à-tête: Portraits of Quebec Artists by Richard-Max Tremblay

Jean-Noël Desmarais Pavilion

September 30, 2011, to January 15, 2012

Jean-Noël Desmarais Pavilion, Level S2

The Museum is presenting some fifty photographic portraits of Quebec artists produced by Richard-Max Tremblay since 1983. Taken sporadically, depending on when the photographer encountered his subjects, these portraits reveal four generations of artists who have worked or left their mark on the Montreal scene, from Francine Simonin (1985) to Massimo Guerrera (2011), by way of Guido Molinari (1987 and 1997), Françoise Sullivan (1988), Irene F. Whittome (1993) and Jean-Pierre Gauthier (2007). This rich corpus constitutes a singular record attesting to the vitality of the visual arts in Montreal. A significant number of these portraits, offered by the artist as gifts throughout the past decade, are in the Museum's collection of contemporary photography. Tremblay is a versatile artist, expressing himself with ease in both painting and photography, his favourite subject being the human face.

Free admission at all times

Big Bang

November 6, 2011, to January 22, 2012

Jean-Noël Desmarais Pavilion, Level 3

Nathalie Bondil, Museum Director and Chief Curator, gave carte blanche to eighteen Quebec artists working in a range of disciplines in order to pay tribute to contemporary Montreal creativity. This multimedia presentation, as innovative as it is federative, brings together Denys Arcand and Adad Hannah (film and visual arts), Melissa Auf der Maur (music), Geneviève Cadieux (visual arts), Marie Chouinard (dance), Claude Cormier (landscape architecture/urban design), Collectif Rita (design), Collectif En Masse (murals), Jean Derome (music), Nancy Huston and Jennifer Allyn (literature and film), Pierre La pointe (music) Wajdi Mouawad (theatre), Jeannot Painchaud (circus arts), Roland Poulin (sculpture), Renata Morales (fashion), Michel Rabagliati (comic strips) and Gilles Saucier (architecture). The artists give free rein to their imaginations with a view to reinterpreting a work from the Museum's collection by means of ideas whose motivations and responses are as varied as are the talents and areas of expression. These singular pieces reveal not only the attachments formed by the artists to the works of their choice, but also the inexhaustible vitality to be derived from the Museum's encyclopedic collection throughout the generations.

This exhibition is organized by the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.

Admission is free.

Dorothea Rockburne: In My Mind's Eye

November 6, 2011 – April 8, 2012

Born in Montreal, Dorothea Rockburne studied at the École des beaux-arts in Montreal and at the Museum's School of Art and Design. She pursued her studies at Black Mountain College in

North Carolina with Franz Kline, Jack Tworkov and Esteban Vicente. She studied dance with Merce Cunningham, music with John Cage and even took courses with the mathematician Max Dehn. Works by this international artist are in prestigious American collections, including the MET and the MoMA. This retrospective featuring fifty of her works will reveal the development of a Montreal artist's abstraction abroad.

An exhibition organized by the Parrish Art Museum, Southampton, New York

Free admission at all times

Michael Merrill: Inner Space

October 14, 2011 – January 15, 2012

This fall, the Montreal painter Michael Merrill will exhibit an installation in the form of a series of twelve vinyl-based gouaches on wood, inspired by the worksites of the Claire and Marc Bourgie Pavilion and the reinstallation of the Museum's collections. Representing various spaces and architectural elements of the Museum, these works will be distributed among its four pavilions like echoes of the places depicted and invitations to contemplation. This series was developed from photographs taken by the artist over the past ten years to examine the meeting point between painting and photography. These works will be displayed in various locations in the Museum's four pavilions.

Lyonel Feininger: From the Bauhaus to Manhattan

January 20 to May 13, 2012

Michal and Renata Hornstein Pavilion, Level 2

This exhibition, the first major retrospective devoted to Lyonel Feininger (1871-1956) in North America for close to fifty years, will offer a comprehensive panorama of the oeuvre of this American artist of German descent, who spent the better part of his life in Germany: oils, watercolours, woodcuts, political cartoons, hand-carved figures and little-known photographs. His animated and colourful paintings of the 1910s reveal his early work as a caricaturist. It was his participation in the Salon des Indépendants in Paris, in 1911, that exposed him to Cubism. He then developed his own personal style characterized by the fragmentation of images. He later exhibited at the Berlin gallery Der Sturm before teaching at the Bauhaus. When his art was condemned by the Nazi regime, he returned to the United States. A talented violinist and composer, Feininger often compared his art to music. A musical programme, developed in collaboration with the Arte Musica Foundation and presented in the new Bourgie Concert Hall, will accompany this exhibition.

In connection with this exhibition, the Arte Musica Foundation will present the festival "Fugue at the Museum," an incursion into the world of the fugue with lectures and concerts featuring this fascinating musical form. Throughout his life, Lyonel Feininger sought to reproduce the structure of the fugue in both his visual and musical output. When asked which artist had influenced him the most, he answered: Bach. Programming will cover from the eighteenth century (*The Art of Fugue* and *The Well-tempered Clavier* by Bach, two of the mainstays of Western music) to today, including Feininger's compositions and his pieces inspired by his paintings.

This retrospective has been organized by the Whitney Museum of American Art, in collaboration with the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, with support from the Terra Foundation and the Museum's Volunteer Association.

Images of works are available on the Museum's Web site at mmfa.qc.ca/media

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FREE ACTIVITIES FOR EVERYONE

Free Activities: Open House on October 14, 15 and 16

Programming of activities in fall 2011 and in the coming seasons will explore the multiple facets of the Museum's collection. Naturally, in connection with the opening of the Claire and Marc Bourgie Pavilion housing Quebec and Canadian art, the season will begin with a series of activities dedicated to our own art and artists. On October 14, 15 and 16, our Open House will enable everyone to experience these activities to the fullest. Story-telling, lectures given by the Museum's curators and conservators, films selected by René Rozon, Founder and Director of FIFA, and drawing workshops.

Family Weekends

Among the many highlights of this fall's programming: the reinvigorated return of family activities every weekend, the contribution of faithful collaborators like the art historian François-Marc Gagnon and the Founder and Director of FIFA, René Rozon, and the presence of various artists from among those who took part in the exhibition *Big Bang*.

The Museum and Music

The Arte Musica Foundation, now officially installed in the extraordinary Bourgie Concert Hall, has come up with some exceptional programming for its first season. This musical and educational programme will serve as a complement to the Museum's mission. Already, over 130 concerts have been confirmed for 2011-2012.

Details about these and many other activities are contained in the Museum's brochure and on its Web site: mmfa.qc.ca/activities.

Concerts and activities in Bourgie Hall: bourgiehall.ca

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