

A larger-than-life artist
A retrospective of Frédéric Back's animated films
June 17 to 26 at the Cinéma québécoise

Montreal, June 9, 2009 – From June 17 to 26, the Cinéma québécoise will screen the complete works of animated filmmaker Frédéric Back. The retrospective, featuring excellent 35mm prints, includes every one of Back's magnificently and meticulously crafted films. The program includes his final two masterpieces in both French and English versions *L'Homme qui plantait des arbres/The Man Who Planted Trees* (1987) and *Le Fleuve aux grandes eaux/The Mighty River* (1993), and Phil Comeau's touching documentary, *La Nature avant tout* (2009), a portrait of Back the man, the citizen and the committed artist. It all adds up to an exceptional opportunity to rediscover the art of one of Quebec's greatest animated filmmakers, a man passionate about nature and devoted to his art.

"Our retrospective's purpose is to allow audiences to rediscover how Back's attachment to nature is reflected in a coherent, seamless aesthetic. In Back's work, the representation of flora and fauna is grounded in his uncanny talent for portraying what can only be called nature's 'beauty' – its innocence and harmony. In addition to graceful, delicate drawing, the films also feature an impressive mastery of light."

Marco de Blois, programmer - conservator of film, television and new media – animation, Cinéma québécoise

The retrospective, which will run again in September, accompanies the exhibition *Frédéric Back, Artist: A Force of Nature*, on display at the **Montreal Museum of Fine Arts** from June 18 to September 27, to which the Cinéma québécoise has loaned a number of Back's original drawings.

Wednesday, June 17 at 4 p.m.: **Abacadabra** (1970), **Inon ou La Conquête du feu** (1971), **La Création des oiseaux** (1973), **Illusion ?** (1972), **Taratata !** (1977), **Tout rien** (1978) and **Crac !** (1981).

Wednesday, June 18 at 4 p.m.: **L'Homme qui plantait des arbres** (1987), **Le Fleuve aux grandes eaux** (1993) and **Frédéric Back, la nature avant tout** by Phil Comeau (2009).

Friday, June 19 at 4 p.m.: **The Man Who Planted Trees** (1987) and **The Mighty River** (1993).

Wednesday, June 24 at 4 p.m.: **Abacadabra** (1970), **Inon ou La Conquête du feu** (1971), **La Création des oiseaux** (1973), **Illusion ?** (1972), **Taratata !** (1977), **Tout rien** (1978) and **Crac !** (1981).

Thursday, June 25 at 4 p.m.: **The Man Who Planted Trees** (1987) and **The Mighty River** (1993).

Friday, June 26 at 4 p.m.: **L'Homme qui plantait des arbres** (1987), **Le Fleuve aux grandes eaux** (1993) and **Frédéric Back, la nature avant tout** by Phil Comeau (2009).

Program info: www.cinemaquebec.gc.ca

The Cinéma québécoise is Montreal's museum of moving images. It is a non-profit organization whose mandate is to collect, preserve, show and interpret film, television and new media works for historical, educational and artistic purposes.