

The New and the Timeless

Dorota Kozinska

Volume 52, Number 212, Supplement, Fall–October 2008

URI: <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/62090ac>

[See table of contents](#)

Publisher(s)

La Société La Vie des Arts

ISSN

0042-5435 (print)

1923-3183 (digital)

[Explore this journal](#)

Cite this document

Kozinska, D. (2008). The New and the Timeless. *Vie des Arts*, 52(212), 1–1.

THE NEW AND THE TIMELESS

The cover of our magazine heralds a new beginning, as much in art as in the life of Vie des Arts. In selecting a work by avant-garde artist Zhang Huan, we wanted to showcase the astounding phenomenon that is contemporary Chinese art, as well as introduce the new independent English Edition of the magazine with an image that speaks both of tradition and modernity.

Inadvertently eclectic, the Canadian art scene, and the Quebec art milieu in particular, as seen at the first Quebec Triennial, represents myriad styles and approaches, creative explorations via mediums as classical as painting and as avant-garde as video and digital technology.

This edition touches upon all of the above, beginning with a review of Zhang Huan's controversial art-cum-spectacle, in which he uses his body as canvas, literally writing upon his skin, blurring the already fine line between the artwork and its creator, between the message and the medium. Highly stylized, intellectually uncompromising, his is the voice of a new generation, pushing the frontiers of art to the very edges of the Global Village.

The work of Montreal graffiti artist Zilon, is equally original and unabashedly outspoken. With a great economy of gesture, he has created iconic images that were symbolic of the punk movement of the '70s and early '80s, turning him into a street artist of mythical status. From graffiti drawn in back alleys, to major exhibitions of his graphic works and paintings, Zilon's career has taken a commercial turn, that has the artist longing for his lost anonymity. What is definitely not lost in the oeuvre of this peripatetic wanderer, is the cry of the rebel, and the ever-present influence of the street and the young people that call it home.

This year marked the 400th anniversary of the founding of Quebec's provincial capital, Quebec City, celebrated year-long with cultural events on a vast scale, including art exhibitions featuring Canadian and international artists.

One of the major events was the inauguration of a sculpture-installation by Montreal sculptor Michel Goulet. Offered as a gift from one metropolis to another, it paid homage to the history of Quebec using the words of its many poets and writers, which the artist inscribed into his pieces.

John Heward needs no introduction. In a mini-retrospective at the Musee du Quebec, this Montreal multiform artist continues his fascinating experimentation with materials and space. From painting to installation, to sound... his art is on a continued quest, surprising at every corner, stimulating, and definitely not the last word in the career of this prolific artist.

Photography holds a particular place on the Quebec art scene, and it is at the moment going through a major transition from analog to digital. It has created quite an upheaval in the field of photography, as we find out in an interview with Michel Campeau, one of Quebec's best-known photographers, who like many others, has abandoned traditional camera for a digital one. The move is traumatic, and in his latest series of works, Campeau focuses on the inadvertent demise of the darkroom, and of an era some are beginning to call romantic.

The work of Geoffrey James has by now acquired iconic status and his exhibition at the National Gallery of Canada combines many of his best-known works, large format photographs of the highest caliber and visual aesthetic. Utopia/Dystopia is a voyage through our changing landscape, a poignant, elegant look at a disappearing world of green spaces and the encroaching of industry. In classical, nuanced black and white, James's photographs are as timeless as they are pertinent.

Another Montreal photographer, Linda Rutenberg, has in the past few years focused on night photography, a time-consuming endeavour that resulted in several exhibitions and two hardcover albums. Her latest series was dedicated to the Montreal Botanical Gardens, which she photographed through the seasons, producing images that are as beautiful as they

are otherworldly. Eschewing the flash, taking pictures under the light of the moon, or a nearby streetlamp, Rutenberg presents flora in its nocturnal guise, shining a gentle light on scenery hidden from our eye by the night, offering a truly magical experience.

Vie des Arts English Edition is an offering of art in all its forms, showcasing not only the rich creative environment that is the Montreal art scene, but especially those artists that have achieved the most, regardless of medium or place.

In our articles and reviews we will seek new points of encounter between art and the art viewer, between the artist and the public, erasing barriers that art does so well. We would like this magazine to be a kind of guide not only to art, but also to creative imagination, an invitation to explore this fascinating world, to venture into contemporary galleries and boldly look at the new art, and say what you feel, for art is eternally subjective, and you can never be wrong. Take my word for it!

Dorota Kozinska
Editor

CONTENT

| | | |
|--------------|--|------------------|
| 1 | EDITORIAL | Dorota Kozinska |
| MAIN STORIES | | |
| 2 | VANCOUVER ZHANG HUAN | Melissa Lam |
| 4 | VICTORIA JOSEPH PLASKETT | Brian Grison |
| 6 | QUEBEC CITY MICHEL GOULET AND THE 400 th OF QUEBEC CITY AN ODE TO THE NEW WORLD | |
| 8 | MONTREAL MUSEE D'ART CONTEMPORAIN: TRIENNALE QUEBECOISE | |
| 10 | LAVAL CARLOS AND JASON SANCHEZ | Vincent Lavoie |
| INTERVIEW | | |
| 12 | MICHEL CAMPEAU | Marine Van Hoof |
| 14 | ZILON | Dorota Kozinska |
| REVIEWS | | |
| 16 | VANCOUVER REBECCA BELMORE | David Gameau |
| 17 | TORONTO KATIE BETHUNE-LEAMAN | John K. Grande |
| 18 | OTTAWA GEOFFREY JAMES | Dorota Kozinska |
| 19 | QUEBEC CITY JOHN HEWARD | John K. Grande |
| 21 | MONTREAL EDITH DORA RAY | Dorota Kozinska |
| 22 | HALIFAX DONIGAN CUMMING | Sophie Pilipczuk |
| BOOKS | | |
| 23 | LOUISE BOURGEOIS | John K. Grande |
| 23 | LINDA RUTENBERG | Dorota Kozinska |