

PRESS RELEASE

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Impressions of a City, Montreal Through a Pinhole | A Different Point of View at the McCord Museum

An exhibition by Guy Glorieux, produced in collaboration with UMA, la Maison de l'image et de la photographie

Montreal, January 25, 2012 – The McCord Museum is presenting *Impressions of a City, Montreal Through a Pinhole* by photographer Guy Glorieux, from February 3 to May 27, 2012. This exhibition, produced in association with UMA, la Maison de l'image et de la photographie, will present 18 large black-and-white photographs—some up to five metres in length—taken with a pinhole camera. Mr. Glorieux, working with this technique for more than 12 years, uses a rudimentary camera composed of a box pierced with a tiny hole about 1.5 mm in diameter. The hole allows light to enter and imprints an image on paper or photographic film placed at the back of the box.

Visitors will discover the many faces of the city, from new neighbourhoods to iconic places and buildings. They will be intrigued by images of the Quartier des spectacles (entertainment district), the Sun Life building, and the Jacques Cartier Bridge, all of which are presented in a mysterious and often surprising light. With *Impressions of a City, Montreal Through a Pinhole*, Mr. Glorieux invites viewers, in his words, “into the heart of a landscape of monumental dimensions.”

Different models of pinhole cameras will also be on display.

The Pinhole Technique

To take the photographs in this exhibition, Mr. Glorieux transformed a large room into a giant pinhole camera. Photosensitive paper placed at the back of the room was exposed to light that entered through a hole a few millimetres in diameter during a three- to five-hour period. During this time, the photographer was in near-darkness and able to manipulate the photograph. The exposed paper produces a single negative image that, according to the laws of optics, is inverted. With this technique, Mr. Glorieux allows time to do its work and produce results that cannot be attained with a regular camera. “Time vanishes in these huge landscapes that take hours to set on the gelatin silver baryta paper. In an impermanent world, the pinhole image captures only that which is immutable. There is no place for the ephemeral,” says Mr. Glorieux.

These photos depict reality in an unusual way that at times can be overwhelming. Visitors may recognize some of the places in the photos, but without being entirely certain. They will see the reflection of a car in the frame just long enough to leave a trace of its passage, or the branches of a tree swaying in the wind. They'll wonder about what they are seeing and draw on their own memory to recognize the lateral inversion produced by the pinhole camera. *Impressions of a City, Montreal Through a Pinhole*, features stunning images and an exploration of the notion of time in a city.



Guy Glorieux, Sun Life Building and
Dorchester Square, Montreal, 2008,
Collection of the artist



Guy Glorieux, Downtown, Montreal,
2008, Collection of the artist

About the McCord Museum

The McCord Museum is dedicated to the preservation, study and appreciation of Montreal's history, as recounted by its people, artists and communities living in the city's past and present. The McCord Museum is home to one of the largest historical collections in North America, consisting of First Peoples objects, costumes and textiles, photographs, decorative and visual artworks, and textual archives, totalling more than 1.4 million artefacts. The McCord Museum produces exciting exhibitions that engage visitors from Montreal, Canada, and beyond by offering them a contemporary look at the world. The McCord Museum also offers educational and cultural activities, as well as innovative projects on the Internet. **McCord Museum: Our People, Our Stories.**

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Photographs available upon request. Possibility of interviews with Suzanne Sauvage, President and Chief Executive Officer of the McCord Museum, and Photographer Guy Glorieux.

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St. Lawrence River, Jacques Cartier Bridge and Molson Brewery, Montreal, 2005, Collection of the artist