

PRESS RELEASE

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CLAIRE BEUGRAND-CHAMPAGNE. TOUCHING REALITY. PHOTOGRAPHS FROM 1970 TO 2013 EXHIBITION AT THE McCORD MUSEUM

Montreal, December 4, 2013 – From December 5, 2013, to April 13, 2014, the McCord Museum presents *Claire Beaugrand-Champagne. Touching Reality. Photographs from 1970 to 2013*, an exhibition dedicated to works by this celebrated Montreal photographer. The exhibition, featuring close to 200 mostly black and white photographs, represents an important body of work in the history of documentary photography in Canada and particularly in Quebec.

The first female press photographer in Quebec, Claire Beaugrand-Champagne has, since the 1970s, photographed the people who surround and inspire her, managing to deftly capture the emotional impact of each encounter. Her work, which spans more than 40 years, primarily consists of portraits of individuals in their living and work environments. Her photo essays, which paint an eloquent portrait of Quebec society, find the extraordinary in everyday life and remind us that each individual is unique and every life is worth recounting. "In keeping with our commitment to display the best documentary photography from here and elsewhere, it was only natural that the McCord Museum would present the work of Claire Beaugrand-Champagne," declared Suzanne Sauvage, President and Chief Executive Officer of the McCord Museum. Claire Beaugrand-Champagne figures prominently in Quebec photography, and for more than 40 years, her work has never ceased to move us and speak to us."

A unique view of unique encounters

Claire Beaugrand-Champagne has always remained true to the documentary approach she adopted when she began her career. As a socially involved artist, she is personally committed to each new endeavour, having worked on long-term projects captured in black and white photos and uncropped shots. In recent years, she has also incorporated an increasing number of digital and colour photographs into her work.

Claire Beaugrand-Champagne. Touching Reality. Photographs from 1970 to 2013 has been broken down into three components. Visitors will first have the chance to admire more than 100 photos by the artist, which will be displayed by project. Included in this selection is the first team project she was part of, *Disraeli* (1972), as well as many other documentary photographs from her own collections, such as "The Elderly," "People of the Fur Trade" and "People from Montreal." Next, exhibition visitors will discover a range of documents, including reproductions of publications and photographs displayed in glass cases. Rounding out the exhibition will be a video projection of a number of her photographic series. Featured among these will be shots taken in political refugee camps in Thailand in the 1980s.

Activity presented in conjunction with the exhibition

A discussion between the artist and H el ene Samson, Curator, Notman Photographic Archives, will be held on Wednesday, February 12, 2014, at 2 p.m. This event, presented as part of Les Belles Soir ees of the Universit e de Montr eal, will take place in the J. Armand Bombardier Theatre of the McCord Museum. The discussion will be held in French and will be followed by a bilingual question period.



Danielle Plamondon, Flamenco Dancer, Piano Accompanist and Urban Explorer, with Her Dog Jos ephine Saint-Henri, Montreal, 2006
  Claire Beaugrand-Champagne



Elderly Actors, *C't a ton tour Laura Cadieux* Montreal, 1978
  Claire Beaugrand-Champagne



Mr. Korzun (Age 101), H opital Notre-Dame-de-la-Merci Montreal, 1973
  Claire Beaugrand-Champagne

About Claire Beaugrand-Champagne

Claire Beaugrand-Champagne's photographs have been displayed in numerous galleries at home and abroad. Her works are part of both private collections and those of major Canadian museums. She has taught photography and has been involved in a number of group initiatives to promote the medium. In 2004, her book *Des gens de mon quartier* was published by Éditions Libre Expression. The McCord Museum presented her series on the elderly in 1977 and on Vietnamese immigrants in 1984.

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 1,440,000 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 on request. We would be pleased to arrange interviews with Claire Beaugrand-Champagne, photographer, Hélène Samson, Curator, Notman Photographic Archives, and Suzanne Sauvage, President and Chief Executive Officer of the McCord Museum.

Source and information:

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