

**communiqué /press release****For immediate release****LE PANTHEON: SYMBOL OF REVOLUTION**

A MAJOR EXHIBITION AT THE CCA FROM  
20 SEPTEMBER - 19 NOVEMBER 1989

**Montréal, Monday, 18 September 1989 – Le Panthéon: Symbol of Revolution**, a collaboration between the CCA and the Caisse Nationale des Monuments Historiques et des Sites, Paris, coincides with the international celebrations of the bicentennial of the French Revolution and focuses on one of the central architectural episodes of the Revolution, the transformation of Saint Genevieve, J.-G. Soufflot's controversial votive church, into the secular Pantheon of French national heroes. The exhibition examines the important role this building played in French artistic and political life from its foundation in 1744 well into our own century.

The symbolic life of this public edifice is as much the subject of the exhibition as its design history. A great deal of newly-discovered material is presented about the building's construction and the numerous debates that centred on its design and structure, but the focus throughout remains the shifting symbolic aims and political agendas of the numerous actors who over time shape buildings which are integral to a country's political self-image.

A major illustrated publication **Le Panthéon: Symbole des révolutions** accompanies the exhibition. It includes essays by the curators and invited specialists addressing the broad themes of the exhibition. This catalogue is on sale at the CCA Bookstore, for \$60, along with brochures available in both English and French.

The exhibition is supported in part by the Ministère des Affaires internationales of Québec, the Ministère des Affaires culturelles of Québec, and the Ministère de la Culture et de la Communication, des grands Travaux et du Bicentenaire of France. It is sponsored by the Groupe Magil.

Scientific Committee:

Barry Bergdoll, Columbia University; Monique Mosser, Université de Paris ;  
Daniel Rabreau, Université de Bordeaux ; Mark Deming, Université de Paris.

Over 300 objects are exhibited including projects by Soufflot; a bronze and marble sacristy table by Louis-Pierre Baltard (France 1764-1846); bronze sculptures including the first study for Rodin's Second Monument for the Apotheosis of Victor Hugo; oil paintings by well-known artists such as Puvis de Chavannes; competition drawings from the École des Beaux-arts dating back to the early 19th century and a pendulum used by Léon Foucault in the Pantheon's dome during an experiment to demonstrate the movement of the earth. A wide selection of prints, books and manuscripts also illustrate the various projects concerned with the Pantheon. The objects are drawn in large part from the collections of the Canadian Centre for Architecture, the Archives Nationales de France, the Bibliothèque Nationale de France, the Bibliothèque Historique de la Ville de Paris, the Musée Carnavalet (Paris), the Louvre, the École nationale supérieure des Beaux-Arts (Paris), the Musée des Beaux-Arts de Lyon, and the Getty Museum (Los Angeles), as well as other collections in France and North America.

This exhibition was presented at the Hôtel de Sully in Paris from 31 May to 30 July 1989 and will be in the Main Galleries of the CCA until 19 November 1989.

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Source: J. Gerald Valiquette  
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Canadian Centre for Architecture

Information: [www.cca.qc.ca/press](http://www.cca.qc.ca/press)