

## communiqué / press release

For immediate release

## ***Absent Wall: Recalling Gordon Matta-Clark's Garbage Wall (1970)*** **An installation at CCA**



Photo Michel Boulet © CCA, Montréal

**Montréal, 1 June 2004** – CCA presents ***Absent Wall: Recalling Gordon Matta-Clark's Garbage Wall (1970)***, in conjunction with the exhibition *out of the box: price rossi stirring + matta-clark*, until **6 September 2004 in the CCA Baile Park**. This symbolic structure evokes Matta-Clark's interest in recycling, in leftover spaces and in alternatives to architectural design.

On the occasion of the first Earth Day, Gordon Matta-Clark orchestrated an event at Manhattan's St. Mark's Church that took place from 20 to 23 April 1970. Passers-by were invited to participate in depositing all kinds of urban debris into a mould, together with plaster and tar. The wall served as a backdrop for various performances that were related to everyday activities. After three days, the *Garbage Wall* was dismantled and dumped into a container. In May of the following year Matta-Clark produced a smaller version of the wall, which was featured in *Fire Child*, his first film, presented in the exhibition.

Although nothing remains of the original *Garbage Wall*, its power can still be felt in recent copies constructed by exhibition curators for various Matta-Clark retrospectives. With *Absent Wall: Recalling Gordon Matta-Clark's Garbage Wall (1970)*, CCA has decided not to re-create the lost original using "new" garbage. Instead, this installation pays homage to this playful monument to some of the core issues of 1970s' culture.

In the 1970s, American artist Gordon Matta-Clark (1943–1978) brought a fresh view to bear upon architecture. Trained as an architect, he chose to make buildings and the spaces around them the subject of compelling and often witty investigations into the nature of cities, property, and the social order. His "sculptures," produced by interfering with or cutting into the built environment, were documented in photomontages and films. Blurring the boundaries between artist and architectural theorist, Matta-Clark questioned the very concepts of architecture and space, thus challenging the fundamental assumptions of both disciplines.

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The installation *Absent Wall: Recalling Gordon Matta-Clark's Garbage Wall (1970)* is presented in conjunction with *out of the box: price rossi stirling + matta-clark*. With this exhibition CCA presents four archives that only recently entered its collection, and invites the public to share its own first moments of discovery. Cedric Price, Aldo Rossi, James Stirling, and Gordon Matta-Clark were four of the most provocative and influential figures in architecture and art of the 1970s. Their radical rethinking of the status, history, and purpose of architecture is particularly pertinent today. The exhibition is presented until 6 September 2004.

*The Canadian Centre for Architecture is an international research centre and museum founded on the conviction that architecture is a public concern. Based on its extensive collections, CCA is a leading voice in advancing knowledge, promoting public understanding, and widening thought and debate on the art of architecture, its history, theory, practice, and role in society today.*

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