

communiqué /press release**For immediate release****AN INDUSTRIAL LANDSCAPE OBSERVED: THE LACHINE CANAL****At the CCA from 15 July to 25 October 1992**

Montréal, 14 July 1992 -- In this exhibition, photographers Clara Gutsche and David Miller offer their vision of the industrial landscape and architecture surrounding an urban historical site: Montréal's Lachine Canal.

The Canal, which is over one hundred years old, played a key role in the development of Canadian industry, but its importance has yet to be fully recognized. Like so many mid-nineteenth-century industrial sites across the world, it has suffered increasing neglect.

The works in the exhibition, presented here to the public for the first time, are the product of a photographic programme undertaken by the Canadian Centre for Architecture in 1985. Fifteen years after the waterway was closed, it became crucial to document its changing landscape. The area's industrial buildings and topography, from Montreal's Old Port to the municipality of Lachine, and its relationship to the city have thus been recorded by two artists, during different seasons of the year.

This selection of twenty-three photographic prints pays particular attention to the area around the Saint-Gabriel locks. The reason for this focus is that this area, a symbol of industrialization and a hub of nineteenth-century economic activity, epitomizes the controversy surrounding the Canal today.

The photographs, presented in short thematic sequences, encourage the perception of new and unexpected relationships. The juxtaposition of different elements is designed to stimulate interest in this urban site while conveying to the viewer the personal vision of each of the artists.

For David Miller, the area's huge, abandoned industrial structures are to be apprehended as monuments, the remains of a recently extinct society. His 11" x 14" (28 x 36.5 cm)

photographs, taken with a view camera and printed directly from the negatives, enhance reality and portray a remarkable degree of visual presence.

In her photographs of interiors, Clara Gutsche expresses the human dimension through its absence. The quality of light in her works and her attention to space reveal the emotion of these empty expanses, and capture their essence. In their search for traces, for evidence left behind by a human presence, her compositions link us to the buildings' history and speak to us of what once was.

Complementing the two artists' works, an introductory selection of photographs from various archival sources presents views of the Canal during its active years. These images offer other viewpoints, further multiplying possible perceptions of a single place. The exhibition thus creates a kind of temporal overlapping which, by relating the past to the present, aims to stimulate reflection that will lead to improved understanding and more effective intervention in the realm of industrial landscape.

On view from July 15 to October 25, 1992, the exhibition will be accompanied by a forty-page illustrated publication in French and English. Guided tours of the Canal site, organized in conjunction with Héritage Montréal, are also planned.

The CCA gratefully acknowledges the support of the Canada Council through its Exhibition Assistance Programme. The exhibition is part of the official programme of the Célébrations du 350^e anniversaire de Montréal, 1642-1992. The tour of this exhibition is part of the "Exposer dans l'Île" programme of the Conseil des Arts de la Communauté urbaine de Montréal. The exhibition and its tour are sponsored by Celanese Canada and Hoechst Canada.

An Industrial Landscape Observed: The Lachine Canal has been organized by Louise Désy, Curatorial Assistant, Photographs Collections at the CCA in collaboration with Jean Bélisle, historian and professor at Concordia University.