

## PARC JEAN-DRAPEAU WELCOMES ONCE AGAIN LOUIS ARCHAMBAULT'S ARTWORK *PERSONNAGES*

**Montréal, June 1, 2023** – The Société du parc Jean-Drapeau is pleased to announce that the artwork *Personnages*, by Montréal artist Louis Archambault, is being donated to the City of Montréal, following an initiative undertaken by the Canada Council for the Arts to showcase the sculpture and make it more accessible to the Montréal public.

As part of Parc Jean-Drapeau's transformation, the artwork will be installed over the next few years in the canals' gardens area, where it was first exhibited during Expo 67, after it was commissioned by the Canadian Industry and Business Ministry.

"I'm very happy to see Louis Archambault's *Personnages* added to the municipal public art collection. The welded metal ensemble, created for the major event that was Expo 67, is a work of significant artistic and historical value, which joins those of other renowned Quebec artists, such as Pierre Heyvaert, Robert Roussil and Yves Trudeau", said Ericka Alneus, responsible for culture and heritage on the City of Montreal's Executive Committee.

"For the Canada Council Art Bank, making contemporary art from Canada even more accessible to the general public is a priority. We are proud to have contributed to the preservation of such an iconic work as Louis Archambault's *Personnages* over many years. Today, we are delighted to see this work returned to the public arena, and more specifically to Parc Jean-Drapeau. The work and the artist are deeply linked to the history of this place. It is therefore with great emotion that we make this donation, which will enable countless visitors to discover or rediscover this work", mentioned Simon Brault, Director and CEO of the Canada Council for the Arts

"Promoting the Parc's cultural and patrimonial heritage is fundamental to each and every one of our development projects," added Véronique Doucet, director general of the Société du parc Jean-Drapeau. "In this regard, we are delighted to welcome this important legacy of Expo 67, at a time when we are accelerating the implementation of the Canal's gardens redevelopment project."

Louis Archambault, who died in 2003, is now regarded as a pioneer in contemporary sculpture in Canada and one of the greatest sculptors of his generation. This highly significant donation is the culmination of the combined efforts of the Canada Council for the Arts, the Montréal Public Art Bureau and the Société du parc Jean-Drapeau, who joined forces to bring this vision to fruition.

The artistic body comprising the 19 artistic works of the municipal public art collection that are housed at Parc Jean-Drapeau, are a testament to Montréal's modern history and the bonds of friendship the metropolis has with other cities, worldwide. The conservation, showcasing, acquisition and promotion of Parc Jean-Drapeau's public artworks have, since 1989, been under the charge of the City of Montréal's Public Art Bureau, a key partner in the development of the park.



Artwork *Personnages* at the Canadian Museum of History, Gatineau - 2011.

### **About the Société du parc Jean-Drapeau**

Established by the City of Montréal, the Société du parc Jean-Drapeau has a mission to preserve, plan, promote and develop this huge urban park, oversee the healthy coexistence of activities which occur there and ensure its longevity for current and future generations.

### **About the City of Montréal's Public Art Bureau**

The Public Art Bureau has been in charge of managing the municipal public art collection since 1989, which currently consists of more than 360 works, the oldest of which dates to 1809. The artistic works are set up in public areas (parks, squares and public places) and in municipal buildings (libraries, cultural centres, sports facilities, and other places). [Discover the City of Montréal's public art collection](#)

### **About the Canada Council for the Arts**

The Canada Council for the Arts is Canada's public arts funder. The mandate of the Canada Council is to "foster and promote the study and enjoyment of, and the production of works in, the arts."

The Canada Council's Art Bank operates art rental programs and helps further public engagement with contemporary art through exhibition and outreach activities.

The Canada Council's investments foster greater engagement in the arts among international audiences and within Canada. This contributes to the vibrancy of a creative

and diverse arts and literary scene and supports the presence of this scene across Canada and around the world.

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