

PRESS RELEASE

Galerie Graff presents from April 24 to May 24, 2008 an exhibition of recent works by **Fernand Leduc**. Opening on Thursday, April 24 at 5 PM, in the presence of the artist.

A signatory of Refus Global, awarded with the Prix Paul-Émile Borduas (1988) and The Governor General's Award in Visual and Media Arts (2007), Fernand Leduc is an outstanding figure of our art history. The works of « Série Mexicana » and « Ciels d'hiver à Chapala » inscribe themselves with great coherence in Leduc's production, whose interest in the relation between chromatic variations and luminous intensities has manifested itself more specifically since 1970 with his « microchromies ». Through those works that we first perceive as being completely monochrome, the formal dimension becomes transformed in tonal values, leaving all the room for an expression of light through color. The use of pastel in the works of the present series allows to push further this search for a moving and « released » light, which articulates itself through the monochromy of color, particularly because of the medium's vaporous aspect. Closer to an impressionist approach than to a minimalist aridity, « Série Mexicana » and « Ciels d'hiver à Chapala »'s luminous fields suggest to the viewer various images, materials, and textures, which we can easily associate with Mexican landscapes, where Leduc created the works of this exhibition. This illustrates all the variations of light's referential potential coming alive through color in this recent production. Far from being self-referential works, those pastels are rather true escape possibilities, as well as they give access to worlds that are quite alive, vibrating with light.

Born in Montreal in 1916, Fernand Leduc has been a predominant figure of the contemporary art scene for the past fifty years. As an abstract painter, he played a major role, especially in the 1940s, in the forming of a group of dissident artists gathered around Paul-Émile Borduas, better known as the Automatists. In the mid-1950s, dividing his time between Montreal and Paris, he became the founding member and president of the Association des artistes non-figuratifs de Montréal. In more recent years, he focused on making abstract landscapes, creating works featuring luminous fields of color. His commitment to art is also evident in his writing and teaching. After spending a good part of his life in France and Italy, he returned to Montreal in 2006.

GRAFF CLIP

Works by **Pierre Ayot**, **Gwenaël Bélanger** and **Thomas Corriveau** are part of the traveling exhibition «Décoratif! Décoratifs?» organized by Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec, which is presented at Musée d'art contemporain des Laurentides until June 15, 2008.

Jocelyne Lupien signs a text in the monograph «Georges Rouse, tour d'un monde (1981-2008)» launched during the exhibition «**Georges Rouse** 2000-2008» (April 9– June 8, 2008) at Maison européenne de la photographie, Paris.

«Itinéraire en art contemporain. Sous le signe de l'audace» is visible at Musée d'art de Joliette until April 20, and on the museum's website ww.itinerart.ca. Works by **Pierre Ayot** and **Serge Tousignant** are part of that selection.

NEXT EXHIBITION

From May 29 to June 21, 2008, we will be presenting recent works by **Gwenaël Bélanger**.