



YEHOUDA CHAKI

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NEW WORKS

ODON
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GALLERY

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LONG DISTANCE RUNNER

New Works By Yehouda Chaki

By Donald Brackett

"I wonder if I'm the only one in the running business with this system of forgetting that I'm running because I'm too busy thinking. You should think about nobody and go your own way, not on a course marked out for you by people holding water and bottles of iodine in case you fall, and to get you moving again. All I knew was that you had to run, run, run without knowing why you were running."

Alan Sillitoe

Chaki is a well seasoned artist in the mature phase of his long career, a poet of the visual image in his prime so to speak. During his many laps in the marathon race of modern painting, his skills have been honed the way a warrior's are: forged in the intense heat of those fresh challenges faced with each new canvas. But he also knows well why he is running. And it's not to win anything as simple as a race. He won that race a long time ago. He has become what we all might become if we dedicate our actions to a singular path: almost a balsamic reduction of himself, with each new painting also being an ultra-balsamic reduction of the history of painting per se, purified and reduced to its final essence. All he knows is that you have to paint, paint, paint.

In his case however, he forgets that he's painting because he's too busy feeling, and in fact, it seems to me that it is *feeling* that he's actually painting in his vibrant expressionistic images. He visually renders the *sensation* of what it means to have a face, a body, and to stand in a landscape and become such an integral part of it that you all but disappear. He's also been actively engaged in these alchemical renderings while running his devoted race across the terrain of the art world over a lengthy trajectory. First arriving on our planet 81 years ago in Athens Greece, he migrated to Tel Aviv and then to art studies in Paris, before settling into a busy studio life in Montreal.

It strikes me that there is a quaternity operating in many of the aspects of his life and work, a four cornered vector commencing with those four pivotal cities and subsequently branching out into the four key themes in art and the four principal formats in aesthetics. Like most artists, he has a creative menu available to him comprising the four themes of self, nature, society and spirituality, while also overlapping with art history's four formal preoccupations: portrait, still life, landscape, and abstraction. What most sets him apart perhaps is the fact that he explores those four themes with equal vigor and experiments with those four formats almost simultaneously. This current exhibition is an ideal example of that core versatility.

Intimate little portraits such as "1915" and "Fresh Air", for instance, are inherently aggressive dream faces confronting the viewer from beneath a veil of painted textures. Similarly, the small but still huge portrait called "Lips" contains a bursting facial energy within a halo of light. While two strikingly candid self-portraits of the artist share an affinity for painters such as Chaim Soutine, Eugene Leroy and Frank Auerbach. Such historical resonances are good ones by the way, not limitations at all, since they reveal a shared love for the sensuality of paint. Indeed, there's almost a three dimensionality to the way this sheer joy of paint is celebrated in Chaki's able hands.

The second format of the classical still life is also one where he shines: objects in space, frequently vases of flowers on a table, vibrate with deeply human nature with which our gaze infuses them. "Pink Window" and "Blue Window", as well as "Windows on a Landscape", all remind us that a table suspended within an architectural environment is still nonetheless a geographical feature. And among the most charming of his still life compositions (which often embrace a lively vibrancy far from stillness per se), "Small Flowers" seems to contain within its dark interior, entire galaxies of remote space. Flowers in a Chaki still life often appear to be engaged in a primeval gesture of escaping from their glass or ceramic enclosures.

In a parallel manner, a figure denoted by him frequently feels like merely a human version of a vase, similarly imbued with life energy, as in the suitably vigorous running female figure in "1503". But the stationery female figures in "1461" and "1468", captured in their net of aura-like nerves, still feel as if they might be capable of getting up suddenly and running away from the viewer. Thus his figures, whether static or dynamic, also reveal their essence as a still life study, with a body in a chair echoing those flowers in a pot, while situated in a room that is in itself also a *built landscape*.

But it is when he finally does move us from the closeness of the face, to the middle distance of a still life or figure, out into the long distance of the landscape that this painter truly comes into his own. "Long Grass", "Black Roots" and "Across the Lake" are all prime examples of his command of the vista made intimate, the mutually shared environment made up close and personal. He also has a special fondness for mountains, large or small, as in "Dark Mountain", with its accumulating mass of almost molten rock, and "Three Mountains" with its sweeping elegance of form and content fused in a single impression of oneness. It is perhaps the most abstract and most enlivening of all his works.

As he recently told Sharon Azrieli, "My landscapes are not just landscapes. There are never any roads; there is no perspective. There are no telephone poles, no human elements. That is why they are so restful. Faces are not restful; faces are not kind; faces do all the bad things in the world. If I paint a face, I invent it, I don't copy a face. But we are still living in a beautiful time." That hopeful attitude is

most likely the ample reflection of a positive spirit unable to be extinguished even by something as traumatic as the nightmare of the second world war and its childhood impact on family and friends.

But one of his most startling images in this current crop of gems, arresting for its simplicity, and indeed, its absence of paint altogether, is the gracefully rendered drawing in ink, "Front Row Tree", a medium sized evocation of a single tree made to feel at once human, figure-like, facial and landscaped, all at once. This thinly executed drawing is not quite a sketch at all, though it does resemble something that Rembrandt may have done as a preparatory study. Rather it is a full-throated song, a kind of hymn to the deceptive simplicity of nature, one which throbs before us in all its nakedness and apparent absence of colour. In many ways, it is the true shocker of the entire show.

There is an ongoing light and life in all his works, regardless of their theme, subject, or format, a light which obviously originates solely from inside him as it makes its spiraling way outward towards us. That light touches us and changes us permanently. He makes our retina happy, that's the long and short of it. We are still living in a beautiful time.



2

THE THREE MOUNTAINS 1909 | oil on canvas, 38 x 80 in. / 96 x 202 cm



3

BLACK ROOTS 1862 | oil on canvas, 37 x 58 in. / 94 x 147 cm



4

ACROSS THE LAKE 1859 | oil on canvas, 37 x 58 in. / 94 x 147 cm



5

THE LAKE & THE OCEAN 1858 | oil on canvas, 38 x 56 in. / 97 x 142 cm

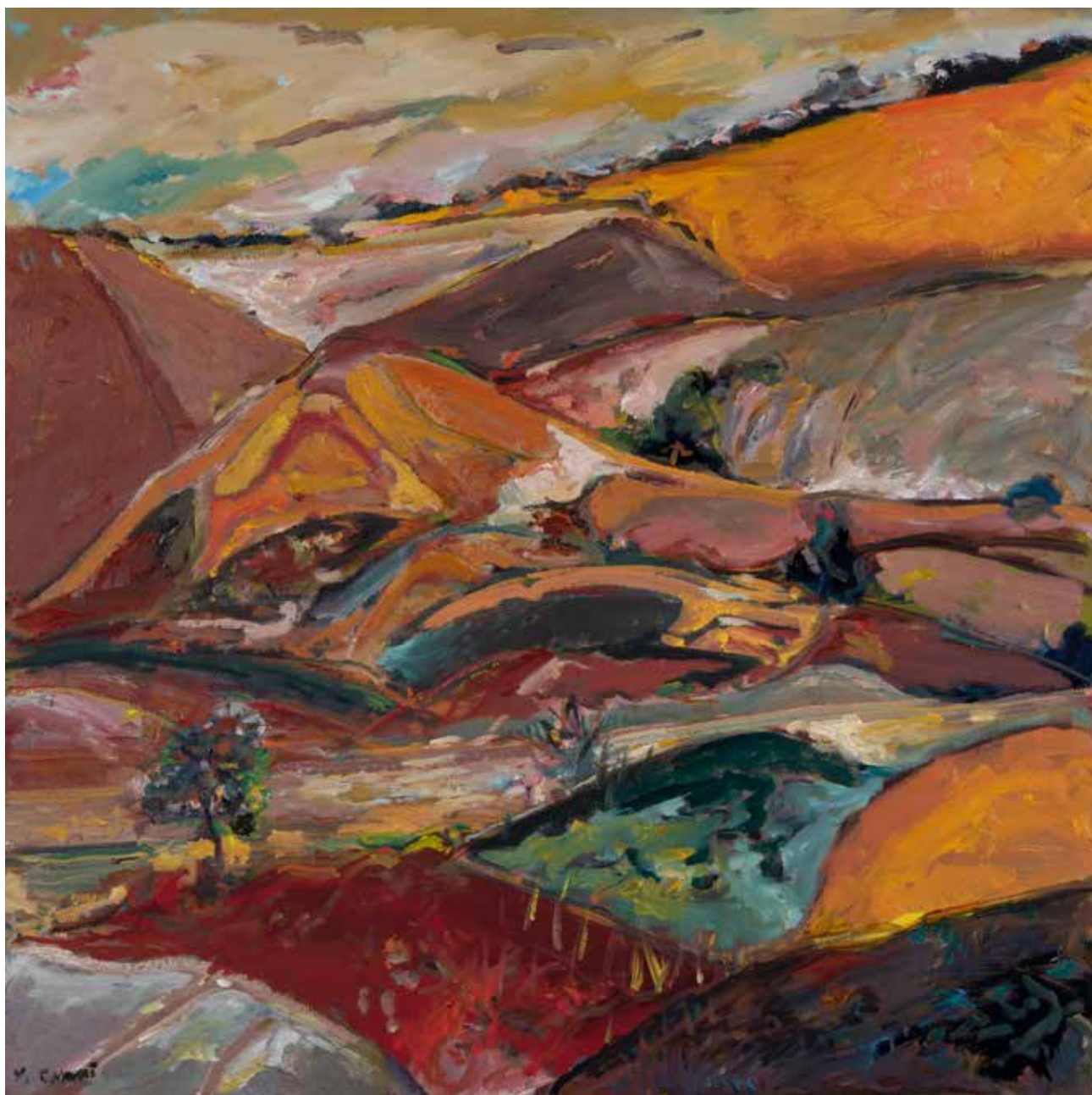




7

BLUE WINDOW 1868 | oil on canvas, 46 x 37 in. / 117 x 94 cm







10

A TREE ON RED 1910 | oil on canvas, 30 x 38 in. / 76 x 97 cm





12

WINDOWS ON A LANDSCAPE 1912 | oil on canvas, 36 x 26 in. / 91 x 66 cm



13

SMALL FLOWERS 1806-w | oil on wood, 16 x 13 in. / 41 x 33 cm



14



15

14 SELF-PORTRAIT STUDY 1723-w | oil on wood, 16 x 13 in. / 41 x 33 cm

15 ARTIST'S PORTRAIT 1916-w | oil on wood, 16 x 13 in. / 41 x 33 cm



16



17

16 1468-w | oil on wood, 14 x 12 in. / 36 x 30 cm

17 1872-w | oil on wood, 14 x 12 in. / 36 x 30 cm



- 18 1503-w | oil on wood, 14 x 12 in. / 36 x 30 cm
- 19 THE LAST MUSKETEER | oil on wood, 14 x 12 in. / 36 x 30 cm

YEHOUDA CHAKI

Born in Athens, Greece in 1938. Lives in Montreal, Quebec (Canada) since 1963.

ART STUDIES

1952-56 Studied under Prof. Joseph Schwartzman, Tel Aviv, Israel
1958-60 Avni Academy, Tel Aviv, Israel, under Stematsky, Mokadi, Streichman
1960-63 École des Beaux Arts, Paris, France under Prof. Bercier

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- | | | | |
|------|--|------|---|
| 2019 | Odon Wagner Gallery, Toronto, Ontario
Galerie St. Laurent + Hill, Ottawa, Ontario | 1990 | Galerie Dresdnere, Toronto, Ontario
Robertson Galleries, Ottawa, Ontario
Galerie Madeleine Lacerte, Quebec City, Quebec
Galerie Barbara Silverberg, (ceramics), Montreal, Quebec |
| 2018 | Gallery Jones, Vancouver, British Columbia | 1989 | Buschlen Mowatt Gallery, Vancouver, British Columbia
Galerie Daniel, Montreal, Quebec |
| 2017 | Odon Wagner Gallery, Toronto, Ontario | 1988 | Robertson Galleries, Ottawa, Ontario
Galerie Dresdnere, Toronto, Ontario |
| 2016 | Galerie de Bellefeuille, Montreal, Quebec
Galerie St. Laurent + Hill, Ottawa, Ontario | 1987 | Galerie Madeleine Lacerte, Quebec City, Quebec
Galerie Daniel, Montreal, Quebec |
| 2015 | Odon Wagner Gallery, Toronto
Gallery Jones, Vancouver, British Columbia | 1986 | Robertson Galleries, Ottawa, Ontario
Galerie Dresdnere, Toronto, Ontario |
| 2014 | Galerie de Bellefeuille, Montreal, Quebec
Galerie St. Laurent + Hill, Ottawa, Ontario | 1985 | Galerie Daniel, Montreal, Quebec |
| 2012 | Gallery DeNovo, Sun Valley, Idaho
Gallery Jones, Vancouver, British Columbia
Newzones Gallery, Calgary, Alberta
Galerie de Bellefeuille, Montreal, Quebec | 1984 | Galerie Dresdnere, Toronto, Ontario |
| 2011 | Odon Wagner Gallery, Toronto
Galerie St. Laurent + Hill, Ottawa | 1983 | Arras Gallery, New York City, New York
Galerie Lacerte-Guimont, Quebec City, Quebec
Robertson Galleries, Ottawa, Ontario |
| 2010 | Buschlen Mowatt Gallery, Vancouver, British Columbia
Four Seasons: JMSB Concordia University, Montreal, Quebec
Galerie de Bellefeuille, Montreal, Quebec | 1982 | Galerie Dresdnere, Toronto, Ontario |
| 2009 | Gallery De Novo, Sun Valley, Idaho
Odon Wagner Gallery, Toronto, Ontario | 1981 | Galerie Don Stewart, Montreal, Quebec
Galerie Dresdnere, Toronto, Ontario
Robertson Galleries, Ottawa, Ontario |
| 2008 | Buschlen Mowatt Gallery Vancouver, British Columbia | 1979 | Galerie Dresdnere, Toronto, Ontario
Robertson Galleries, Ottawa, Ontario |
| 2007 | Galerie de Bellefeuille, Montreal, Quebec
Galerie St-Laurent + Hill, Ottawa, Ontario | 1977 | Goldmann Gallery, Haifa, Israel |
| 2006 | Buschlen Mowatt Gallery Vancouver, British Columbia
Odon Wagner Gallery, Toronto, Ontario | 1976 | Galerie Dresdnere, Toronto, Ontario
Galerie Gilles Corbeil, Montreal, Quebec |
| 2005 | McIntosh Gallery London, Ontario
Buschlen Mowatt Gallery Vancouver, British Columbia
UNB Art Center Fredericton, New Brunswick | 1975 | Arras Gallery, New York City, New York
Modern Art Gallery, Old Jaffa, Israel |
| 2004 | Galerie deBellefeuille, Montreal, Quebec
Galerie St-Laurent + Hill, Ottawa, Ontario | 1974 | Galerie Dresdnere, Toronto, Ontario |
| 2002 | Odon Wagner Gallery, Toronto, Ontario | 1973 | Waddington Galleries, Montreal, Quebec |
| 2001 | Buschlen Mowatt Gallery, Vancouver, British Columbia
Hart House Gallery, Toronto, Ontario | 1972 | Pucker/Safrai Gallery, Boston, Massachusetts |
| 2000 | Buschlen Mowatt Gallery, Vancouver, British Columbia
The Robert McLaughlin Gallery, Oshawa, Ontario | 1971 | Waddington Galleries, Montreal, Quebec
Galerie Dresdnere, Toronto, Ontario |
| 1999 | Waddington & Gorce, Montreal, Quebec | 1969 | Modern Art Gallery, Old Jaffa, Israel
Galerie Dresdnere, Toronto, Ontario |
| 1998 | Odon Wagner Gallery, Toronto, Ontario
Buschlen Mowatt Gallery, Vancouver, British Columbia | 1968 | Waddington Galleries, Montreal, Quebec |
| 1997 | Virginia Christopher Gallery, Calgary, Alberta
Buschlen Mowatt Gallery, Vancouver, British Columbia | 1967 | Galerie Dresdnere, Toronto, Ontario |
| 1996 | Odon Wagner Gallery, Toronto, Ontario | 1966 | Waddington Galleries, Montreal, Quebec |
| 1995 | Waddington & Gorce, Montreal, Quebec
Virginia Christopher Gallery, Calgary, Alberta
Buschlen Mowatt Gallery, Vancouver, British Columbia | 1964 | Waddington Galleries, Montreal, Quebec
Pollock Gallery, Toronto, Ontario |
| 1994 | Galerie Dresdnere, Toronto, Ontario
Buschlen Mowatt Gallery, Vancouver, British Columbia | 1963 | Gallery 1640, Montreal, Quebec
Montreal Gallery, Montreal, Quebec
Beit Yad leBanim, Holon, Israel |
| 1993 | Odon Wagner Gallery, Scottsdale, Arizona
Buschlen Mowatt Gallery, Vancouver, British Columbia | 1962 | Musée du foyer d'Israel, Brussels, Belgium
Gallery 22, Oslo, Norway |
| 1992 | Robertson Galleries, Ottawa, Ontario
Waddington & Gorce, Montreal, Quebec | | |
| 1991 | Buschlen Mowatt Gallery, Vancouver, British Columbia | | |

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

Chaki has participated in over 450 group exhibitions in galleries across North and South America, Europe and the Middle East. He continues to exhibit in multiple group exhibitions.

2003	Art 2003, Galerie de Bellefeuille, Montreal, Quebec	1975	Les Amis de l'Art, Trois Pistoles, Quebec
2002	Art 2002, Galerie de Bellefeuille, Montreal, Quebec		Galerie Dresdnere, Toronto, Ontario
2000	Clay 2000, Eretz Israel Museum, Tel Aviv, Israel		Arras Gallery, New York City, New York
1999	The Park: An Artist's Eye, McLure Gallery, Montreal, Quebec	1974	Arras Gallery, New York City, New York
1996	Avmor Collection Exhibition, Musee Marc-Aurele Fortin		CEGEP de Rouyn, Noranda, Quebec
	Jerusalem 3000, Jerusalem, Israel	1973	59th Annual meeting of CPPA, Queen Elizabeth Hotel, Montreal, Quebec
1994	Artists in Bloom, Buschlen Mowatt Gallery, Vancouver, British Columbia		Pembroke Industries Association, Pembroke, Ontario
1992	Rio: 1992 Conference for the Ecology, Museo do Arte Moderna, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil		National Wallpaper & Paints Limited, Sherbrooke, Quebec
1991	Waddington & Gorce, Montreal, Quebec		L'atelier des Arts du Grand-Portage, Riviere du Loup, Quebec
1989	From Sea to Sea, The Great Canadian Landscape, Buschlen Mowatt Gallery, Vancouver, British Columbia		Ecole Polyvalente de Matane, Quebec
1988	Galerie Dresdnere, Toronto, Ontario		Le Musee Regional de Rimouski, Quebec
	Galerie Madeleine Lacerte, Quebec City, Quebec		Centre Social Municipal de la Tuque, Quebec
	Buschlen Mowatt Gallery, Vancouver, British Columbia		La Societe des Arts de Chicoutimi, Quebec
1987	Galerie Dresdnere, Toronto, Ontario		Le Syndicat de Quebec, Quebec City, Quebec
	Place des Arts, Montreal, Quebec		Le Conseil de Ville du Cap de la Madeleine, Quebec
	Galerie Daniel, Montreal, Quebec		Les Secteurs Socio-culturels du -Service de loisirs ed du CEGEP de Victoriaville, Quebec
	Robertson Galleries, Ottawa, Ontario		Le Centre Culturel de -Drummondville, Quebec
	Buschlen Mowatt Gallery, Vancouver, British Columbia	1972	La Galerie du Centre Culturel de Joliette, Quebec
1986	Diane Farris Gallery, Vancouver, British Columbia		County of Peel Museum & Art Gallery, Brampton, Ontario
	Art Amaze, Museum of Art, Fort Lauderdale, Florida		Art Gallery Foundation of St. Thomas & Elgin, St. Thomas, Ontario
	Galerie Daniel, Montreal, Quebec		Niagra College of Applied Arts and Technology, Welland, Ontario
1985	Galerie Daniel, Montreal, Quebec		Sheridan College of Applied Arts and Technology, Oakville, Ontario
	Arras Gallery, New York City, New York		The Winnipeg Art Gallery, Winnipeg, Manitoba
	Diane Farris Gallery, Vancouver, British Columbia		Pucker/Safrai Gallery, Boston, Massachusetts
	Fay Gold Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia	1971	Canadian Exhibition, Man and His World, Montreal, Quebec
1981	Nickel Arts Museum, Calgary, Alberta		Pucker/Safrai Gallery, Boston, Massachusetts
	Arras Gallery, New York City, New York		Le Centre Culturel de Beloeil, Quebec
1980	Elca London Gallery, Montreal, Quebec		Sir Sanford Fleming College, Peterborough, Ontario
	Galerie Don Stewart, Montreal, Quebec	1968	Public Library, Fort Frances, Ontario
	Quebec Government House, Quebec City, Quebec		Richelieu Centennial, Richelieu, Quebec
	Chaleur History Museum, New Brunswick		Restigouche Arts Society, Campbellton, New Brunswick
	Art Gallery of Windsor, Windsor, Ontario		Le Cercle Artistique, Edmunston, New Brunswick
1979	The Station Gallery, Whitby Arts Inc., Whitby, Ontario	1967	City Hall, Toronto, Ontario
	Brampton Public library & Art Gallery, Brampton, Ontario	1966	Galerie Dresdnere, Toronto, Ontario
	Cambridge Public Library, Cambridge, Ontario	1965	Un festival de peintures au Quebec, Montreal, Quebec
	Sarnia Public Library & Gallery, Sarnia, Ontario		Gaby Collection, Museum of Fine Arts, Montreal, Quebec
	Service de Loisirs et de la Culture, Quebec City, Quebec	1963	La foret, Montreal Gallery, Montreal, Quebec
	Bureau Seigneurial de l'Ile des Moulins, Quebec	1962	Jewish Artists- Prix Neumann, Musee d'art Juif, Paris, France
	The Belleville Public Library, Belleville, Ontario		Palais de Compiegne, France
1978	CIL Collection, Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, Montreal, Quebec	1961	Travelling Exhibition of Israeli Painters, France Salon d'Art Moderne, Paris, France
	York University, Downsview, Ontario	1959	Young Israeli Painters, Tel Aviv, Israel
	Timmins Museum, Timmins, Ontario		Israeli Painters, Tel Aviv, Israel
	Erindale College, Toronto, Ontario		
	The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, Montreal, Quebec		
	Musee de la Mer Havre-Aubert, Quebec		
	Mouvement Socio-culturel de la Tuque, Quebec		
	Musee du Quebec, Quebec City, Quebec		
1977	The Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Halifax, Nova Scotia		
	Consolidate-Bathurst Limited, Bathurst, New Brunswick		
1976	Montreal Museum of Fine Arts Re-Opening Exhibition, Montreal, Quebec		
	Galerie Gilles Corbeil, Montreal, Quebec		
	National Exhibitions Center, Castlegar, British Columbia		
	Sir Sanford Fleming College, Peterborough, Ontario		
	La Societe d'Etudes et de Conferences, Ottawa, Ontario		
	Memorial University Art Gallery, St. John's, Newfoundland		

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Abitibi-Price
Aird & Berlis, Toronto
Aldo Group, Montreal
Avmor, Montreal
Astral Media, Montreal
Beaverbrook Art Gallery
Beit Yad leBanim Museum, Holon
Ben-Gurion University, Beersheba (mural)
Bentall 5, Vancouver
Beth Tikvah, Montreal
Brookfield Asset Management Inc.
Calgary Petroleum Club, Calgary
Campbell, Godfrey & Lewtas, Toronto
Canadian Consulate, New York
Canadian Embassy, Argentina
CIL Collection, Montreal
Claridge, Montreal
Coca-Cola Limited, Montreal
Concordia University, Montreal
Concordia University – JMSB Tunnel Project (Stained Glass)
Congregation Tifereth Beth David Jerusalem, Montreal (Tapestry)
Cormark Securities Inc.

Desjardins Ducharme, Montreal
Digital Equipment, Toronto
Eretz Israel Museum, Israel
Fogler, Rubinoff, Toronto
Fort Lauderdale Museum, Florida
Gaz Metropolitain, Montreal
General Electric, Toronto
Holy Blossom Temple, Toronto
Hotel Intercontinental, Toronto
Husky Oil, Calgary
Hydro Québec, Montreal
Imperial Oil Limited, Toronto
Jerusalem City Hall, Israel
La Corporation du Groupe La Laurentienne, Montreal
Lavalin Inc, Montreal
Loewen, Ondaatje. McCutcheon, Toronto
Loto-Québec Collection, Montreal
Montefiore Club, Montreal
Montreal Museum of Fine Arts
Mouvement Desjardins, Quebec
Murray Axmith, Toronto
Musée d'Art Contemporain de Montréal
Musée d'Art Juif, Paris
Musée de Toulon, France

Musée de foyer d'Israël, Belgium
Musée du Bas-Saint-Laurent
Museo de Arte Moderna, Rio de Janeiro
National Assembly, Québec City
Olympia and York
Petrocan, Calgary
Philadelphia Museum
Plutonic Power Corporation
Reitman Collection, Montreal
Rose Museum, Boston
Royal Bank of Canada, Montreal
Royal Bank of Canada, Place Ville-Marie, Montreal (commission)
Security Pacific Bank, Toronto
Shaar Hashomayim Synagogue, Montreal (Tapestry)
Shell Resources, Calgary
SOQUIP, Montreal
SOQUIP, Quebec
The Robert McLaughlin Gallery, Ontario
Tory, Tory & Bennington, Toronto
Université de Montréal, Montreal
University of New Brunswick Museum, Fredericton, New Brunswick

CREDITS

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