

**MICHEL LEMIEUX - VICTOR PILON**  
**DREAMSCAPES**

**30 YEARS OF INNOVATIVE PERFORMANCES**

**A COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE MONTREAL MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS  
AND LEMIEUX & PILON 4D ART IN THE CONTEXT OF  
THE INTERNATIONAL DIGITAL ARTS BIENNIAL**

**Montreal, April 30, 2014** – The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts (MMFA) and Lemieux & Pilon 4D Art present, as part of the International Digital Arts Biennial (IDAB) and the Printemps numérique, the exhibition *Michel Lemieux - Victor Pilon: Dreamscapes. 30 Years of Innovative Performances* from May 1 to August 31, 2014. This retrospective, an immersive installation, commemorates the thirtieth anniversary of the company founded in Montreal in 1983. Past masters in the mounting of multimedia performances, Michel Lemieux and Victor Pilon create hybrid shows that erase the boundaries between theatre, film, dance, poetry, the visual arts, music and sound, producing immersive spectacles that delight and amaze spectators. In the past thirty years they have created and directed over thirty original productions shown all over the world and seen by some five million spectators.



Nathalie Bondil, Director and Chief Curator of the MMFA says: "With this retrospective art exhibition celebrating, thirty years later, the avant-gardist dream team, the Museum keeps promoting a multidisciplinary, bold and disinhibited programming by exploring new ways and by inviting new artistic voices. Storytellers of the imaginary realm, Victor and Michel master the magical power of images that open the doors of the soul to major myths. By coming back to the Museum and combining visual and scenic arts, they make the journey back to their origins."

Michel Lemieux and Victor Pilon add, "The digital arts, by making possible an authentic encounter of the real and the virtual, enable us to extend the possibilities of theatrical representation while transforming and manipulating our perception of reality and questioning our relationship to the inexplicable. Our integration of digital images and theatre has always been designed to develop a language that can explore these arts while acknowledging the essentially human nature of the flesh-and-bone body. Our creations present a performer whose corporeal exterior can be evanescent, whose body, as in film, can be fragmented and divided.

They conclude, "From the first moments of our lives we are torn between two poles: the inner self and the outer self, body and soul, feeling and reason. Our era, which is increasingly based on a disembodied digital world and virtual technology, offers us the opportunity to question how our duality, rooted in the physicality of our bodies, can operate in this new reality."

## **Lemieux Pilon 4D Art's avant-garde productions**

Founded in Montreal in 1983-84, Lemieux Pilon 4D Art is a multidisciplinary company with more than 30 original productions to its credit. Internationally recognized for their mesmerizing fusion of dance, theatre, music, visual arts and film, Michel Lemieux and Victor Pilon are the dynamic duo who create unique hybrid productions that merge the real and the virtual, the performing arts and multimedia. Lemieux and Pilon have also collaborated on other types of shows, as well as on exhibitions and special events. Past project partners include the Rio Tinto Planetarium, Cirque du Soleil, the Montreal and Quebec City opera companies, the Montreal International Jazz Festival, Montreal's 350th anniversary celebrations, Notre-Dame Basilica in Quebec City, the Laval Cosmodome and the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 in Halifax. Two of their collaborative works, *Delirium* and *Midnight Sun*, made the top-ten list of the city's most memorable shows of the decade, as selected by the Journal de Montréal, the city's most popular daily newspaper. Lemieux Pilon 4D Art's avant-garde productions are lauded throughout Quebec, across Canada and around the world.

## **An exhibition that immerses you in the world of Michel Lemieux and Victor Pilon**

At the MMFA, visitors become real players in the famous duo's show, following the path of an idea, a creative process. An installation in the Museum's Contemporary Art Square allows them to manipulate the images screened onstage around the performers. This material enables them to re-create visual poems, four to five-minute tableaux revolving around six creations produced by Lemieux & Pilon. The public, instead of looking on passively, enters the tableau. The space is transformed into a maze composed of several screens and the walls of the gallery. Clips from the shows, images from the theatrical context, models, prompt scripts and other working documents will be displayed in the Museum's Graphic Arts Centre.

Save the dates:

Wednesday, May 14, 6 p.m.: Lecture in French with Michel Lemieux and Victor Pilon at the Maxwell-Cummings Auditorium at the MMFA.

Sunday, June 1st, 8:30 p.m., the documentary « Au-delà de l'image : Le monde de Michel Lemieux et Victor Pilon », will be broadcast on ICI ARTV.

- 30 -

### **Source and requests for information:**

Sophie Labat  
Attachée de presse  
Musée des beaux-arts de Montréal  
514-285-1600, poste 205  
[slabat@mbamtl.org](mailto:slabat@mbamtl.org)

Marie-Christine Dufour  
Directrice générale  
Lemieux Pilon 4D Art  
514 284-5005  
[info@4dart.com](mailto:info@4dart.com)

### About the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts

The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts has one of the highest attendance rates among Canadian museums. Every year, over 1 million people visit its unique encyclopedic and its original temporary exhibitions, which combine artistic disciplines (fine arts, music, film, fashion, design) and feature innovative exhibition designs. It conceives, produces and circulates many of its exhibitions across Europe and North America. It is also one of Canada's leading publishers of art books in English and French, which are distributed worldwide. Over 200,000 families and schoolchildren take part in its educational, cultural and community-oriented programmes each year. The fall of 2011 saw the opening of a fourth pavilion at the Museum – the Claire and Marc Bourgie Pavilion of Quebec and Canadian Art – and a 444-seat concert venue – Bourgie Hall – housing an outstanding collection of Tiffany stained glass windows. This expansion also brought about the reinstallation of the Museum's rich holdings in its other three pavilions, which house the world cultures, international art, Medieval to contemporary European art, and decorative art and design collections. Music is now an integral part of the Museum, providing another perspective on the visual arts, through musical audioguides and other innovative activities. The Studios Art & Education Michel de la Chenelière, which were inaugurated in 2012, have almost doubled the Museum's facilities for schools, families and community groups. A fifth pavilion devoted to international art and education will open its doors in 2017 for Montreal's 375<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

### About Lemieux & Pilon 4D Art

Since founding Lemieux Pilon 4D Art in 1983, Michel Lemieux and Victor Pilon have been combining their talents to produce hybrid productions that merge the real and the virtual in a unique amalgam of the performing arts and new media. Their productions, such as *La belle et la bête*, *The Tempest*, *Orfeo and Anima*, have been performed all over the world. The duo also created and directed several multimedia productions for other companies, including *Delirium* for Cirque du Soleil; the sold-out hit *Starmania: The Opera* for the Opéra de Québec and the Opéra de Montréal; and *Continuum*, celebrating the beauty of our universe, for Montreal's new Rio Tinto Planetarium, a Space for life, inaugurated in 2013. Lemieux and Pilon work has been seen all around the world by some 5,000,000 spectators. The Company is supported by the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, the Canada Council for the Arts and the Conseil des arts de Montréal.

### About the Printemps Numérique 2014

*Michel Lemieux - Victor Pilon: Dreamscapes. 30 Years of Innovative Performances* is part of the Printemps Numérique 2014, an initiative of the Conférence régionale des élus (CRÉ) de Montréal, a partnership with seventy organizations from the city's digital arts milieu. The first edition takes place from mid-March to mid-June 2014. By connecting science, industry and art, it expresses the multifarious effervescence of Montréal's digital creativity community.