



René Lemay with vietnams sculptor Huong Hoc Bao who made his bust.

René Lemay (1934-2015), the multidisciplinary Quebec artist, distinguished himself in his field for over 30 years. Self-taught, he favoured the expression of the here and now, of joy and life over academicism, in whichever medium he chose to work—first drawing and water colour, then acrylic, etching, lacquer, and bronze sculpture. His works have been featured in numerous solo and group exhibitions in North America and Asia, as well as in many galleries and public and private collections.

Born in Montreal in 1934, Lemay developed an interest in art at a very early age, though he worked in several other fields before devoting himself entirely to art in 1983. He began exploring ceramics and lithography, and in the 1970s and 80s founded a pottery studio and a publishing house. This unusual career path led him back to the visual arts, and he subsequently made a name for himself as a watercolourist. In 1990, he participated in the first of many professional exhibitions and turned to acrylics, producing works that stand out for their vibrant hues, their energy, and the joy they convey. In 1997, art critic Paul Gladu, who was among the first to celebrate the artist Alfred Pellan, noted Lemay's significant talent, comparing his work to that of the Automatistes, Miró, and Pellan.

At the end of the 1990s, he began to travel extensively between Asia, the Magdalen Islands, and Montreal, and this marked a turning point in his artistic production. During these years, he associated with artists such as Charles Daudelin, Armand Vaillancourt, Tex Lecor, and Daniel Gautier, all of whom participated in major symposia that took place in the Magdalen Islands. Le

Havre Atelier-Galerie became the centre of the region's art scene, and the group of artists that formed around this venue created AdMare, an organization that exists to this day, promoting the visual arts in the Magdalen Islands.

It was also during this period that Asia became a focus of his creative universe, influencing both his colour palette and the subjects of his paintings. He travelled to Thailand, China, Bali, Vietnam, and Singapore, among other places, to produce the sketches from life that were the inspiration for his works. In Hanoi, he learned new techniques, including lacquer on wood, from masters of the Hanoi School of Fine Arts. His lacquer works produced in Hanoi and the Magdalen Islands were shown in a solo exhibition at the Galerie l'Harmattan in Baie-Saint-Paul, generating enormous interest among collectors and critics. During his many travels, he also befriended numerous artists who were important in their home countries, such as Arie Smith, Paul Husner, Made Sumadiyaasa, and Vuong Hoc Bao, with whom he studied bronze sculpture. This last significant encounter led to an exchange of works between the two artists as a token of their friendship. The artistic network that Lemay built and his entrepreneurial background resulted in numerous solo and group exhibitions in Hanoi, Bangkok, Singapore, and Bali, attracting diplomats and national media. Few Quebec artists have made their mark in Asia as Lemay did.

His independent approach, both in terms of career development and pictorial research as a self-taught artist, makes his signature and career unique and easily distinguishable from his peers.

BIRTH

- Montreal, Canada, 1934

DEATH

- Quebec City, Canada, 2015

MEDIUM

- Acrylic | Lacquer | Mixed media | Etching | Dry points | Bronze sculpture

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- Regroupement des Artistes en Arts Visuels du Québec (RAAV) | 2002
- Arrimage | 2003

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Bronze Sculpture - Vuong Hoc Bao | Vietnam | 2012
- Lacquer - Fine Art University | Vietnam | 1998-2000
- Engraving - Evelyn Dufour | Canada | 1995-1996

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- Sea Museum | Canada | 2018
- Michel-Ange | Canada | 2013
- Carpediem Galleries | Thailand | 2010
- Joie de vivre Art Exhibition | Thailand | 2010
- Vie Hotel | Thailand | 2010
- Sofitel Silom | Thailand | 2007
- Viet Fine Art Gallery | Vietnam | 2006
- Carpediem Galleries | Thailand | 2006
- Maison de la Culture Ahuntsic | Canada | 2005
- L'Harmattan Gallery | Canada | 2003
- Basque Gallery | Canada | 1991 & 2001
- Klimantiris Gallery | Canada | 1994-1995 & 1998
- Café de la Grave | Canada | 1994
- Aird Gallery | Canada | 1991

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- Panorama | Magdalen Islands | 2022-2023
- À Marée Basse Gallery | Magdalen Islands | 2017
- Michel-Ange Gallery | Montreal | 2017
- Hommage Symposium de peinture figurative de l'Étang-du-Nord | Canada | 2016
- Belvedere Gallery | Singapour | 2014
- Michel-Ange Gallery | Canada | 2011
- Exposition Agenda Art Quebec | Canada | 2010
- Michel-Ange Gallery | Canada | 2010
- Celebrations | Canada | 2010
- L'Harmattan Gallery | Canada | 2003-2012
- Michel Ange Gallery | Canada | 2004-11
- Arma Museum | Indonesia | 2004
- Hanoi Fine Arts University | Vietnam | 2003

- Symposium de peinture figurative | Canada | 1998-2003
- Symposium mer Océane | Canada | 1998-2000
- Klimantiris Art Gallery | Canada | 1992 & 1998
- Galerie Basque | Canada | 1997
- New York Art Expo | USA | 1993 & 1995
- Eliette Dufour Gallery | Canada | 1993
- Michel-Ange Gallery | Canada | 1992
- Aird Gallery | Canada | 1991
- Manoir Globensky | Canada | 1990

GALLERIES

- L'Harmattan Gallery | Baie-Saint Paul | Canada
- Michel-Ange Gallery | Montreal | Canada
- Richelieu Art Gallery | Montreal | Canada
- Rendez-Vous Art Gallery | Vancouver | Canada
- Perreault Gallery | Quebec | Canada
- Pilar Shephard Gallery | Charlottetown | Canada
- Carpediem Galleries | Bangkok | Thailand
- Viet Fine Art Gallery | Hanoi | Vietnam
- Galerie Belvédère | Singapore | Singapore
- Agung Rai Gallery | Bali | Indonesia
- Gajah Mass Gallery | Bali | Indonesia
- Arma Museum | Bali | Indonesia

CORPORATE AND PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

- Société Générale | France-Canada
- Caisse Populaire | Canada
- Microsoft | USA
- Sofitel Silom | Thailand
- Vie Hotel | Thailand
- Hamilton Golf Club Public Gallery | Canada
- Dean Evans Inc. | Canada
- Electromaid International Fauldine | Canada
- Innovative Center | Canada
- Télé-Globe | Canada
- Gilles St-Croix | Cirque du Soleil | Canada
- La Ferme Hotel | Baie-St-Paul | Canada
- Jean-Pierre Léger | St-Hubert Restaurants | Canada
- Oratoire Saint-Joseph Museum | Canada

MEDIA COVERAGE

- Radio-Canada, Bon pied bonne heure!, Un ancien symposium d'importance aux Îles, Mer Océane, en vedette dans un film, 2023
- CFIM, Entrevue à l'Indice UV, 2023
- Magasin'Art, Sur les traces de René Lemay, 2018
- Radio-Canada, Les Îles, au coeur de l'oeuvre de René Lemay (1934-2015), 2018
- Le Radar, Deux fils : la reconstruction de l'héritage de René Lemay, 2018
- Radio-Canada, Garder en vie la mémoire, 2018

- Le Radar, René Lemay, des croquis jamais dévoilés à la Galerie Marée Basse, 2017
- Le Radar, Hommage à René Lemay, 2016
- Radio-Canada, Mort d'un artiste atypique, 2015
- World Art Book, Volume 7, 2013
- Magazin'Art, Répertoire biennal des artistes canadiens en galeries, 2000-2012
- Guide Utilis, Agenda des Arts, 1994-2012
- Guide Utilis, Page couverture d'Agenda des Arts, 2008
- Pamphlet, Contemporary Realism, In association with Galleries, 2008
- Bangkok Post, A Splash of Colors Canadian Artist Rene Lemay, 2007
- Parcours des arts, René Lemay - Du côté de l'orient, 2007
- The Nations, Canadian Artist René Lemay Exhibits in Bangkok, 2007
- Bangkok Post, Exhibition Carpediem Galleries, Canadian Artist Rene Lemay, 2006
- VietNamNet Bridge, Canadian Painter open new horizons, 2006
- Vietnam News - The national English Language Daily, Happy days in Vietnam, 2006
- Art Knowledge News, Canadian René Lemay exhibits in Bangkok, 2006
- Vietnam National Television, Opening exhibition - Happy Days in Vietnam, 2006
- LARASATI, Asia Fine Art Auction in Singapore, 2004
- Bali local television, News on Foreigner – Interview by Agung Rai, Artist René Lemay Traveling in Asia, 2004
- Guide Parcours, 1994, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2003
- Espace Musique - Radio-Canada, Interview avec Chantal Joli, 2002
- The First Informer, Symposium on the Islands, 1998
- Le Radar, Magdalen Islands to Asia, 1998
- Magazin'art, Contemporary Realism - Celebration on canvas by Paul Gladu, 1996
- Peinture, culture et réalités québécoises, La Palette ed., 1992.
- Radio-Canada, Interview avec Lise Bonnenfant sur l'exposition solo «Leitmotive» à la Galerie Basque, 1991
- 200 visions nouvelles, La Palette ed., 1990