



EROS AND TRANSFIGURATION: REVISITING WORK BY CLAUDE ROUSSEL



Claude Roussel, *Éros Corten*, 1971, Corten steel, 274 X 559 X 213 cm

MONCTON, December 1, 2014 – From December 10 2014 to February 1 2015, the Louise and Reuben Cohen Art Gallery presents *Claude Roussel: EROS AND TRANSFIGURATION* organised by Paul Édouard Bourque, guest curator. **The opening will be held at 5 pm on Wednesday, December 10, with the artist and curator present.** Claude Roussel will also give an artist talk at noon, on Wednesday, January 7, at the Université de Moncton Fine Arts Department (Neil-Michaud Room, 001-B, Arts Building). *Please note that the artist-talk will be in French.*

EROS AND TRANSFIGURATION is an exhibition that looks at work produced by Claude Roussel in the '70s, in particular works produced with vacuum formed plastic sheets. The curator suggests looking at this series through the spirituality and sensuousness involved in the merging of material and creative forces at work: "The artist succeeds in bringing together two defining aspects of his work, be they Eros or spirituality, by using a manufacturing process that he has made his own; and through which he elaborates on an aesthetic quality which is firmly anchored in his personal vision of the world. Synthetic materiality meshes with the very depths of human intimacy, and the creative act is thereafter externalized, its effects manifested in a fixed and permanent manner".

Through the production of a large and important corpus of works, as well as by the sharing of his knowledge, Claude Roussel has been at the forefront of modern art in Acadie. The exhibition project is proposed by Paul Édouard Bourque, curator and artist himself, in order to demonstrate that: "[Roussel's art] presents a wide array of styles, methods, and artistic preoccupations based on intensive research. This experimentation has always been associated with great sensitivity, technical ability and an elevated and engaged expressive quality that are manifest throughout his work."

Claude Roussel was born in 1930, in Edmundston, New Brunswick and studied at l'École des Beaux-Arts de Montréal (1950 to 1956). In 1963, he was Artist in Residence at l'Université de Moncton with funds from the Canada Council where he participated in the establishment of the Department of Visual Arts, founded the art gallery, and taught for almost 30 years. To date, he has to his credit 48 solo exhibitions and 120 group exhibitions. His work was recognized by the commissioning of major works of public art. He is a Member of the Order of Canada (1984), and the Order of New Brunswick (2002), and has been awarded a Lieutenant-Governor's Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Arts (2005). In February 1992, he retired from teaching and is now dedicating his time to his artistic career.

The Louise and Reuben Cohen Art Gallery is located at 405 Université Avenue, in the Clément Cormier building, on the Université de Moncton Campus. Admission is free and the Gallery is open from 1 pm to 4:30 pm, from Tuesday to Friday, and from 1 pm to 4 pm on Saturday and Sunday. For more information, please call (506) 858-4088, write to galrc@umoncton.ca, or go to www.umoncton.ca/umcm-ga. To receive activity updates from the Gallery, "like" us on our [Facebook](#) page.

The Université de Moncton's Galerie d'art Louise-et-Reuben-Cohen is supported by the Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture of New Brunswick.