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## TOURING EXHIBITIONS TO BE PRESENTED IN EDMUNDSTON

**Moncton, January 4 2016** - Galerie Colline and the Musée historique du Madawaska in collaboration with the Centre des arts d'Edmundston will present *Les Mikeys de Paul Édouard Bourque* and *Claude Roussel: Eros and Transfiguration*. The opening of both exhibitions will be held on Thursday, January 14 2016, at 5 PM. All are invited to hear both curators during a public presentation at 5:30 PM in Galerie Colline's exhibition space.

Both exhibitions are presented simultaneously at Galerie Colline, in the Salle du patrimoine of the Musée historique du Madawaska and at the Centre des arts d'Edmundston from January 14 to February 21 2016.

These exhibitions are organized and toured by Galerie d'art Louise-et-Reuben-Cohen of Université de Moncton, with the support of the Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture of New Brunswick.

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### ***EROS AND TRANSFIGURATION:***



Organised by Paul Édouard Bourque, guest curator, *Claude Roussel: 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.

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### **LES MIKEYS DE PAUL ÉDOUARD BOURQUE:**



The exhibition *Les Mikeys de Paul Édouard Bourque* proposes more than fifty works from the *Mikey* series, presented together for the first time. Produced during Paul Édouard Bourque's student years at Université de Moncton up until today, the works in this series have been described as "like the weather, always changing" by celebrated photographer Robert Frank, and represent a multitude of variations in technique and media superimposed onto a reoccurring image. The curator, Rémi Belliveau, suggests that the artist was "searching for a way to counter the multiplicity of images through the ritual act of painting" in compositions where "mutated surface concealed a complex but intelligible universe".

The exhibition is also complemented by an overview of the series' history by Rémi Belliveau and critical texts from Mario Doucette and Herménégilde Chiasson included in the publication supported by artsnb and published by Galerie d'art Louise-et-Reuben-Cohen.

Born in Moncton in 1956, **Paul Édouard Bourque** is a visual artist whose career spans 37 years at the heart of New-Brunswick's artistic community. He has exhibited widely in Canada and internationally, most notably *Six Inventions* at the Confederation Centre Art Gallery (1997) and *Plexus* organized by the Beaverbrook Art Gallery (2000). He has also contributed to many exhibition projects as technician, preparator, interpreter and guest curator. In 2005, he was elected a member of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts.

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#### **For more information, please contact:**

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