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## ***Tribute to Jacques Nadeau***

The **Château Ramezay – Historic Site and Museum of Montréal** invites you to discover its outdoor exhibition, "**Jacques Nadeau – L'instinct pour le réel.**" Installed along the edge of the Governor's Garden, this exhibition features twenty photographs by the renowned photojournalist and is open to the public free of charge until November 1, 2026.

### **Jacques Nadeau – The Instinct for truth**

For nearly half a century, Jacques Nadeau travelled through Quebec with a camera slung over his shoulder, wearing worn jeans, cowboy boots, an open shirt, and his trademark tousled hair. He drove old cars at breakneck speed, handling them the same way he took photographs: instinctively, with little concern for rules or comfort. For him, everything came second to the image.

This exhibition traces the journey of a rugged, free-spirited man who was always on the move, striding boldly through the realities of everyday life. Jacques Nadeau was never looking for perfect images. He was chasing life itself. He threw himself into demonstrations, climbed onto tables, got right up close to his subjects, and seemed to sometimes sense what was about to happen before anyone else did.

The selection of photographs and the exhibition texts are the work of Jean-François Nadeau, journalist and historian, and former colleague of Jacques Nadeau, in collaboration with Jacques Nadeau's daughter, Virginie Jacques-Nadeau.

According to Jean-François Nadeau, "He created an emotionally rich visual memory of contemporary Quebec. His unique photographs still carry the dust of the field, the noise of the streets, the fatigue of his long walks, and his singular way of inhabiting the world."

His daughter Virginie recalls her father's words from a recorded interview: "I pursued this profession with the goal of showing powerful moments through images that can challenge people, make an impact, and share history in order to inform." She adds: "For my father, sharing these images was essential to democracy because it gave everyone the opportunity to see what was happening, even if they were not there when it happened."

Longtime staff photographer for the newspaper *Le Devoir*, Jacques Nadeau passed away in 2025 at the age of 72. His photographs continue to move us because they faithfully preserve the unmistakable mark of his instinct for reality.

*The Museum wishes to thank Le Devoir for its invaluable collaboration.*

### **About**

The **Château Ramezay – Historic Site and Museum of Montréal** is a non-profit organization which aims to preserve and make accessible the first building in Quebec to be classified an historical monument, as well as highlight a collection centered around the history of Montréal and the province. Founded in 1895, the Museum is certified by the Government of Quebec. Visit our website at [chateauramezay.qc.ca](http://chateauramezay.qc.ca) and our Facebook page, [facebook.com/Chateau.Ramezay](https://facebook.com/Chateau.Ramezay).

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