

Métis-sur-Montréal 2017

Traces – First Waterways by William Vazan

Montréal, July 3, 2017 – Château Ramezay – Museum and Historical Site of Montréal and Jardins de Métis present **Traces – First Waterways** in the ninth edition of *Métis-sur-Montréal*. Artist **William Vazan** invites you to follow the path of the First Peoples along lost waterways in an installation presented at **Place De La Dauversière** from July 3 through October 9, 2017.



Traces – First Waterways, inspired by garden mazes, channels the multiple streams that wound through the island of Montréal before the arrival of Europeans. These rivulets, long since erased from the landscape by urbanization, infrastructure, and drought, are etched into the grass of Place De La Dauversière. The artist hopes to inspire those who experience the piece to ponder, “what the pre-colonial territory looked like when the Amerindians crossed the island of Montréal by river on a web of waterways.” Visitors to this installation at the heart of historic Old Montréal are encouraged to meander these paths that once flowed from the island.

William Vazan is a Canadian artist who has lived and worked in Montréal since 1957. He is internationally renowned for his “land art” practice, and distinguishes himself by working directly onsite, in nature, parks, and public spaces. Vazan is a canonical figure in Quebec’s conceptual art scene; his large-scale projects focus on expressing memories of places and the marks humans have left behind.

Traces – First Waterways is presented **for free** from July 3 to October 9 at Place De La Dauversière, located between Château Ramezay and Place Jacques-Cartier, in front of Montréal City Hall. Make the most of your visit by also viewing the nearby photo exhibit *Montrealers: A Story in Portraits*.

Jardins de Métis, also known as the Reford Gardens, is located at the gateway to the Gaspé Peninsula, beside the majestic Saint Lawrence River. It has been classified as a historic monument by the Quebec government. Some 3,000 species and varieties are displayed, in addition to the 25 contemporary gardens of the 18th International Garden Festival. The site is acclaimed for its successful marriage of horticulture and gastronomy. Visit www.refordgardens.com to learn more.

The Château Ramezay – Historic Site and Museum of Montréal, a non-profit organization, safeguards and makes accessible a collection that reflects and attests to the history of Montréal and Quebec. It was the first building in Quebec to be classified an historic monument and is the province’s oldest private historical museum. Visit our website: chateauramezay.qc.ca

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Press contact :

Louise Brazeau

Head - Education and Promotion

communications@chateauramezay.qc.ca

Phone : 514 861-3708 ext. 229 | Fax : 514 861-8317

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