

JEAN-MARIE GIGUÈRE | MUSIQUE DU MONDE

Opening Reception on February 13, 2014, at 6:30 p.m.

Montreal, January 30, 2014 – From February 13 to May 16, 2014, Espace VERRE's gallery is showcasing recent work by glass artist **Jean-Marie Giguère** in the exhibition *Musique du monde* (World Music). This new series marks Giguère's twenty years of working with the Graal technique. This process combines glassblowing and engraving within layers of glass, revealing a smooth decorative pattern. The exhibition's opening reception will take place in presence of the artist on Thursday, February 13, at 6:30 p.m.

The *Musique du monde* exhibition proposes an anachronistic meeting of patterns that are as much influenced by human expressions as by natural phenomena. The artist explores our relations with places, styles, and monuments, searching for balance within the polarity of the small and big, arts and crafts, naïve art and design. He is inspired by everything, while appropriating each element. "I have searched for the common denominators to all humans, to use them as themes in my compositions: the body, territory, family, home, ancestors, religion, temples, God, nature, food, lovemaking, as well as symbols of identity," says Giguère.

Like a World Music composer, Giguère delves into the many ancient and folkloric patterns and retains motifs according to his personal aesthetic. He then transforms and applies them in a very contemporary context. Rhythms and beats are transposed into friezes and drawings, becoming pictorial leitmotifs released from a creative swing.

From Afghan embroidery to Tibetan prayers, along with the striking tattoos of the Maori, Giguère has been inspired by nations worldwide, vast and cosmopolitan influences. If his work refers to the dances, body art, and apparel objects of the Maasai people of Africa, it also reflects on the beauty of tree bark or of rocks that crack from exposure to extreme cold. Creating works where religious and erotic Hindu art mingle with modern art and the abstraction of automatism, and the Nazca Lines follow the prints left in the snow by winter tires.

Giguère is among a generation of artists that have redefined the future glass art in Québec.

– Ronald Labelle, glass artist and co-founder of Espace VERRE

Jean-Marie Giguère, born on Québec's Île d'Orléans, is a descendant of one of the largest families of New France. He comes to studio glass from working with stained glass. Following studies in Visual Arts at Université Laval, he graduated from a specialized program at Espace VERRE in 1989. He honed his technical skills by enrolling in many workshops with established glass artists. From the start of his career, he has received many bursaries, has sat on numerous juries and participated in at least 45 collective exhibitions in the province of Québec and abroad. *Musique du monde* is his fifth solo exhibition.



Espace VERRE is a glass art creativity centre located at 1200 Mill Street in Montreal. The gallery is open from Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., as well as the last Sunday of every month from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free.

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Above:

Musique du monde, Blown glass, Graal technique | Photo : Michel Dubreuil

Source :

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