



éTERREnelle!?

A new exhibition at TOHU from January 8 to February 20, 2016

Montreal, January 4, 2016 – It's that time of year when we make New Year's resolutions, which is why artist Michel Gautier is inviting the general public to visit his new experimental installation—where he takes a closer look at his relationship with nature and the urgent need to protect our ecosystems. With his unique brand of poetry, Michel invites visitors to take a walk through the forest, where your senses will be treated to his éTERREnelle!? exhibition, on at TOHU from January 8 to February 20, 2016.



Surrounded by a unique soundtrack that will appeal to the senses of young and old alike, the audience will be greeted with images as they enter a forest of totem-like trees made from recycled material. What footprints do humans want to leave behind? What will remain of our journey on the earth? Do we cherish our planet—or take it for granted? These existential questions are just a few that will fill visitors' minds during their stroll through the artist's imaginary world, which is designed to awaken our thoughts and senses.

Michel Gautier was inspired by his many life experiences around the world. He lived for many years in Africa, France, and the Caribbean, as well as on an island in the Indian Ocean. He now resides in Quebec. He is president of the *C.A. du Conseil de la Sculpture du Québec*, a presenter at various educational arts workshops, and a multidisciplinary artist. At the start of 2016, he will set up his new exhibit at TOHU and offer a multi-sensory look at our interaction with the world.

His totem-like forest is filled with spirits, highlighting the sanctity of nature that surrounds us. These spirits appear before us thanks to a mix of engravings, digital photos and graphic arts. Although the artist makes use of modern technology through fibre optic images and LED bulbs, his work nonetheless focuses on the aspects of nature that are wild and raw. Michel's goal is to guide visitors through a world where they feel part of nature—connected to the trees and rooted to the earth. We are, after all, beings who bloom in the sun and return to the same soil.

This unique installation combines sound and scents, diffused by the totems as visitors manually activate the controls. Each scent was meticulously designed by Michel Moisseeff, who holds a PhD in Plant Biology and is a scent sculptor. His expertise allows him to uncover the mechanisms activated by scents in order to awaken memories and stimulate the imagination.

This ability to blend sounds, music, scents, and poetic images is the result of Michel Gauthier's over 30 years of intense research.

The vernissage will take place at TOHU's Espace Cascades on January 12, 2016, at 5 p.m.

Artist's website: www.michelgautier.com

To get to TOHU: 2345 Jarry street east (corner of d'Iberville)
Métro Jarry (bus193 — east)/Métro d'Iberville or Frontenac (bus94 — north)

Opening hours: Every day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. until 30 minutes after the presentation on show nights.

Information & Ticket Office: Tel.: 514-376-TOHU (8648) or 1-888-376-TOHU (8648)

Full programming: www.tohu.ca

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LOCATED AT THE HEART OF THE *CITÉ DES ARTS DU CIRQUE*, TOHU IS A MAJOR HUB FOR THE DISSEMINATION, CREATION, EXPERIMENTATION, AND CONVERGENCE OF CULTURE, ENVIRONMENTALISM AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN NORTH AMERICA. TOHU HAS CONTRIBUTED TO MONTREAL'S ACENSION AS AN INTERNATIONAL CAPITAL FOR CIRCUS ARTS WHILE BECOMING AN EXAMPLE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH CULTURE.

TOHU IS FINANCED IN PART BY THE GOVERNMENT OF QUEBEC, THE *CONSEIL DES ARTS ET DES LETTRES DU QUÉBEC*, THE CITY OF MONTREAL, CANADIAN HERITAGE, AND THE *CONSEIL DES ARTS DE MONTRÉAL*. TOHU ACKNOWLEDGES THE VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS OF RADIO-CANADA AND THE *CIRQUE DU SOLEIL*, OUR MAJOR PARTNERS, AND AIR FRANCE, OUR OFFICIAL CARRIER. WE ALSO THANK UNIBROUÉ, KEURIG CANADA, TD FRIENDS OF THE ENVIRONMENT FOUNDATION, CASCADES, THE CAISSES DES JARDINS MOVEMENT, AS WELL AS THE STM, BCF S.E.N.C.R.L., UNIVINS, AND OUR MEDIA PARTNERS, LA PRESSE AND COGÉCO MÉTROMÉDIA.

Source: TOHU

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