

Jacques Bilodeau

January 25 – February 22, 2014

Masses

Opening:

Saturday January 25, 4pm– 18 h

InSitu installation



Jacques Bilodeau, *Masses*, 2013-2014 (detail)
Installation, variable sizes

In both his architectural projects and art installations, Jacques Bilodeau's primary focus is always the body – his and ours. Known for his large-scale architectural initiatives that radically challenge the assumptions defining domestic life, the artist has, since 2000, created sculptures and installations that invite spectators to immerse themselves in the piece.

With *Masses*, his new *in situ* work, Bilodeau forcefully returns to the formal preoccupations and materials that have long had him in their grip: vaguely menacing geometric and organic forms crafted from steel, felt and leather.

Powered by a hydraulic system, the sculptures unfurl slowly within the space, constantly redefining themselves. Highly enigmatic, these elements represent a formal experiment that quickly transforms into a pronounced physical experience for the spectator. Rife with mood (or fantasy), at once strange and divergent, the sculptures attract or repel us, swathe or confine us. Visitors may enjoy simply contemplating the components as they stroll around them, or they may be tempted to enter and be enveloped by them. The sculpture becomes an *event*.

Bilodeau's art consists of various experiential propositions that rely on the state of mind of the spectator. Clearly, *Masses* reminds us that it is not the eye that sees but indeed the body, as an open entity.

This text was translated from french by Cory McAdam.

Biography

Jacques Bilodeau was born in Garthby, Quebec , in 1951. He works and lives in Montreal.

Jaques Bilodeau artworks were presented by architectural and art centers nationally and internationally. He notably exhibited at Joyce Yahouda Gallery (Montreal, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2014), Center Saidye Bronfman (Montreal, 2006) and Arch 2 Gallery (Winnipeg, 2006). He has been invited to participate to many events such as Biennale of Contemporary Art of Le Havre (France, 2006), Artefact Monteal Urban Sculptures (Montreal, 2007), Gladstone Hotel's Annual Alternative Design Event (Toronto, 2008) and Traffic Art Biennale (Saguenay, 2010).

His most important architectural projects are Studio Clark (Montreal, 1982 – 85), Carillon Residency (Montreal, 1986 -90), Poitevin Studio (Montreal, 1999), Chateaubriand Residency (Montreal, 2005-06), and Cormier Residency (Montreal 2003-2013).

Jaques Bilodeau is represented by Joyce Yahouda Gallery.

Gallery hours / Thursday to Saturday from 12pm to 5pm and by appointment / Office hours / Tuesday to Saturday from 10pm to 6pm