

Press release / For immediate distribution

Sainte-Catherine Street: revisiting its past with a Gabor Szilasi photo exhibition, enjoying its present with colourful arts programming

MONTREAL, August 7, 2013 – Starting today, Sainte-Catherine Street will host a photo exhibition and colourful new arts programming. **Until September 29, *À l'enseigne de la Sainte-Catherine***, by Hungarian-born Montreal photographer Gabor Szilasi, will take you back to the 1970s with a series of photographs presented at the corner of Sainte-Catherine and Clark. Nearly 30 images of building façades on the city's most famous commercial strip convey the unique energy of the era and help us grasp the changes that have happened since. Plus, **until September 1**, several different kinds of performance will be presented daily at various times, in the pedestrian zone between Bleury Street and Saint-Laurent Blvd. Benches and umbrellas have been installed to encourage students, workers and visitors to enjoy the performances over lunch.

À l'enseigne de la Sainte-Catherine

August 7 to September 29

Corner of Sainte-Catherine and Clark

Gabor Szilasi – curator: Mona Hakim

Gabor Szilasi has immortalized the many facets of Sainte-Catherine Street. Between 1977 and 1979, he walked the street almost every day, taking more than 225 photographs of stores, churches, movie theatres and banks, capturing the spirit of the city and a key part of Montrealers' identity. He returned in 1989 to re-photograph a dozen façades, highlighting their transformation with the passage of time. This exhibition features 27 images from this rich body of work. Most of the photos in the show were taken between Saint-Laurent and City Councillors, in the current Quartier des Spectacles.

A key figure in Quebec photography, Szilasi was immensely influential for an entire generation of his peers. In 2009, he received the Paul-Émile-Borduas prize, Quebec's highest honour for visual artists. In 2010, he won a prestigious Governor General's Award, presented to artists who distinguished themselves in their discipline. More recently, Canada Post honoured him with a stamp featuring one of his photographs.

An exhibition description and artist biography are included with this mailing.

Sainte-Catherine s'anime!

August 7 to September 1

Sainte-Catherine, between Bleury and Saint-Laurent

Tuesday to Friday, 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. and 4 to 6 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday, 2 to 4 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m.

Unusual and wonderful street theatre, music, dance and circus performances will surprise and delight the public daily. This street performance series, presented by Quartier des Spectacles in collaboration with several partners – including the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal, Orchestre de la Francophonie, Vision Diversité and Place des Arts – will feature both established and up-and-coming artists.

The performances include a *Le Projet T*, by Satellite Théâtre. The work is the product of a creative residency hosted jointly by Place des Arts and Quartier des Spectacles. It is an improvisational tea room with audience participation, to be presented on August 16, 17 and 18.

There will also be two special events for children on the Place des Arts Esplanade, on Sunday, August 11 and 25 at 2 p.m.: *Opéra de légumes*, by the Mobile Home theatre company, and *Hansel and Gretel* by Théâtre La Roulotte, presented by Place des Arts as part of its PDA Junior series.

Complete details can be found at quartierdesspectacles.com

ABOUT QUARTIER DES SPECTACLES

Quartier des Spectacles has been Montreal's cultural heart for more than a century. Today, it is also a hub of economic, urban and cultural development, with many assets that are helping establish Montreal as a leading cultural metropolis. A vibrant creative zone, open to artistic diversity and cultural cross-pollination, the Quartier has something for everyone, from digital-arts aficionados to fans of world music. Every month of the year and every hour of the day, Montrealers and visitors converge on its 80 venues, 40 festivals and seven squares and public spaces. Part of a unique urban fabric, the boldly illuminated Quartier des Spectacles is an essential destination for anyone looking for a thrilling cultural experience. For more information, visit quartierdesspectacles.com.

-30-

Media enquiries: Marie-Joëlle Corneau | marie-joelle.corneau@quartierdesspectacles.com | 514-348-9676