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Published May 28, 2008 08:02 pm - There's a little something for everyone in Musee d'Art contemporain's Quebec Triennial, including the kitchen sink. The result ignites every emotion possible from playful to poignant, mesmerizing to mainstream, seductive to just plain silly.

### Exhibit highlights works of 38 artists from Quebec

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MONTREAL -- Innovative artistic expression abounds at Musee d'Art contemporain's Quebec Triennial titled "Nothing is Lost, Nothing is Created, Everything is Transformed."

The exhibit highlights the creations of 38 artists who all hail from Quebec province. There are some 135 works on display, including videos, installations, sculptures, photography, oil paintings and even a room devoted to karaoke. The result ignites every emotion possible from playful to poignant, mesmerizing to mainstream, seductive to just plain silly. There's a little something for everyone, including the kitchen sink.

Yes, the kitchen sink is represented by a bevy of anonymous actors/artists who wear wigs, fuchsia scarves and masks on the backs of their heads in the video created by WWKA -- Women With Kitchen Appliances. Think cooking show hosted by the likes of the Stepford Wives.

Other found household objects make their way into the program, as well. Nicolas Baier shows what you can do with discarded, broken antique mirrors in a simple yet beautiful wall display called "Vanities." Then, artist Adrian Norvid transforms vinyl gouache on paper into "Very, Very Shaky," a full-size black and white organ with keys that offer options such as VIBE (you can select "good" or "bad") or FLIP (here, the choices are "out" or "your lid"). Meanwhile, Michel de Broin's "Black Whole Conference" is a perfectly round sphere of 72 office chairs that resembles a La Ronde Amusement Park ride gone awry.

There are lots of spaces and separate rooms in which to duck inside and explore. Karen Tam created "Tchang Tchang Karaoke Lounge," a fully replicated karaoke room complete with plush seating, television and microphone -- yes, you can sing along. The artistic team of Cooke-Sasseville created "Jeu de blocs," a Google SketchUp-inspired 3D room that's quite impressive in sheer size -- it's an actual scale model of two floors of two apartments complete with inhabitants, as well as kitchen, dining and living areas dressed in high-gloss whites, grays and reds.

More color is explored with Chih-Chien Wang's beautiful collection of ink-jet prints of muted greens, shadowy oranges and charcoal grays with the subjects of goldfish and what looks like Niagara Falls at night. Then artist Michael Merrill offers perhaps the more mainstream approach in the exhibit with a collection of oil paintings that appropriately highlights art galleries, museums and artist spaces.

Videos make a strong presence throughout the exhibition. Romeo Gongora spent six months visiting a Luxembourg prison interviewing inmates for his videos who sometimes unconvincingly try to persuade you of their innocence. His inspiration began with a newspaper article in which criminals asked for pardons.

"I was really touched by their story," Gongora said at the exhibit's opening last week. "There is so much power involved in this decision. But how can you decide who is truly innocent or not -- are they really telling the truth?"

Finally, the most poignant works of the exhibition belong to Emanuel Licha and his "War Tourist" series of videos. Licha embarks us upon an unsettling journey to five hot spots of the world where natural or man-made conflicts have taken place. Each video is led by a local guide in tours that explore Chernobyl, Auschwitz, New Orleans, Sarajevo and the suburbs of Paris, where there were violent street clashes in 2005 and 2007. Each presentation runs about 20 minutes and lingers long after your visit.

The Quebec Triennial continues until Sept. 7.

Musee d'Art Contemporain is at 185 Ste. Catherine St. W. Hours are Tuesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; until 9 p.m. on Wednesdays. Admission costs \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors and \$4 for students. Entry is free for children under 12 at all times and for all ages Wednesday evenings from 6 to 9 p.m. Guided tours are available in English on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. and weekends at 1 and 3 p.m. Call (514) 847-6226 or visit [www.macm.org](http://www.macm.org) for more information.