

Exhibition Fact Sheet – Joe Fafard

Description:

The *Joe Fafard* exhibition is a celebration of the works of one of Canada's most beloved and nationally acclaimed artists, Joe Fafard. *Joe Fafard*, will chronicle the full scope of this Saskatchewan artist's successful career—covering a period of over forty years of Fafard's remarkable oeuvre.

Where:

McMichael Canadian Art Collection in galleries 8-12, in the lobby and on the McMichael grounds.

When:

June 28 to September 14, 2008.

Exhibition Organizers:

The MacKenzie Art Gallery and the National Gallery of Canada. This project has been made possible in part through a contribution from the Museums Assistance Program, Department of Canadian Heritage.

What's unique:

- First ever major retrospective celebrating over four decades of creative work.
- Wide range of subject matter.
- Wide variety of media (plaster, clay, bronze, steel) and works on paper.
- Extremities in scale.
- His highly experimental approach.
- How he manipulates the proportions of his subjects – stretching, shortening or hollowing them out.
- Where his work is exhibited – private collections, public art institutions and public spaces.
- The production process that he invented to create his sculptures at his own Julienne Atelier foundry.

Number of works: 68

Type of works:

Sculpture (plaster, clay, bronze, steel) and works on paper.

Fafard's range of works:

Student works to large commissions, caricatures to portraits, traditional to experimental and functional to monumental (public commissions).

Subject of sculptures:

Farm animals, famous politicians, Canadian literati, visual artists, Aboriginal figures and friends and family.

Themes:

Rural and urban, east and west, light and popular, French and English family.

Lenders:

Private collectors and institutional lenders

Percentage of works from lenders

Institutional lenders: 26%

Private collectors: 74%

Unusual characteristics of the objects:

- Extreme scale – less than life-size to larger-than-life size, but never life-size
- Extreme weight: 1,364 kg – *Running Horses*, a series of eleven works
- Heaviest object: 5 works weigh more than 455 kg
- Longest object: *Running Horses*, a series of eleven works
- Smallest object: *Rainbow Cup*, 1973, measuring 13.3 cm (height) x 19.1 cm (width) x 11.4 cm (depth) Collection of Moira Swinton and Bernard Léveillé

Number of square feet used for the exhibition:

Over 10,000 sq. ft (5 gallery spaces, lobby and outdoors).

Installation challenges:

The weight and size of some of the larger works.