

Celebrated Montreal artist Isabelle Hayeur at Oakville Galleries at Centennial Square this summer!

Inhabiting the works of Isabelle Hayeur

Curated by Serge Bérard

23 June to 27 August 2006
At Centennial Square

Isabelle Hayeur's art is an ecological critique of the effect of urbanization on the environment. This exhibition concentrates on her analysis of the impact *suburbs* have had on nature, and is a selection of photographic works from three series: 'Model Homes', a succession of frontal portraits of suburban homes; 'Excavations', ground-level views of suburban groupings and the soil surrounding them; and 'Destinations', large-scale depictions of the coexistence of human habitats and their natural surroundings.

Each photographic work by Isabelle Hayeur incorporates several images, using Adobe® Photoshop® software to form an apparently seamless representation. The smoothness with which she integrates views of sometimes widely differing perspectives and scales is such that it takes a moment to realize that what she is offering is an elaborate, artificial construction, not a natural scene. We have to look at these works with a mental lens that has to adapt its focus back and forth, and in the process we come to understand that issues that appear disconnected are, in fact, related to one another.

Hayeur's work is militant in spirit, and it is interesting to see that her technique of composition of the image recalls an earlier contentious period in art - the time that produced the photomontages of the avant-gardes of the first decades of the twentieth century. There too, the essential mode of articulation was to bring together, on the same surface, cut-outs from photographs of various realities; to let them produce discordant effects to reflect the clash of forces of modern society. There is a difference, however, that time has made. Then the debate centered on the sharing of resources of a plentiful planet. Now, at the beginning of the twenty-first century, when it looks as if Alfred Hitchcock is going to be in charge of the weather, it is the fate of the planet itself that is the object of debate.

- Serge Bérard

OPENING ON THURSDAY 22 JUNE FROM 7 TO 8 PM AT CENTENNIAL SQUARE.
Isabelle Hayeur will conduct a walk-through the exhibition commencing at 7 PM.

Exhibition organized by Oakville Galleries and the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec.

Musée
national des beaux-arts
du Québec
Québec 

The hardcover, illustrated, bilingual English and French publication *Inhabiting: the works of Isabelle Hayeur / Habiter: les oeuvres d'Isabelle Hayeur*, by Serge Bérard (Oakville Galleries / Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec, 2006), will be available for purchase from Oakville Galleries for \$35.

High resolution Isabelle Hayeur images available for the media upon request.

For media inquiries, contact Tony Hewer, Communications Officer, at 905.844.4402, ext 28 or <tony@oakvillegalleries.com>



Oakville galleries

Oakville Galleries at Centennial Square is located at 120 Navy Street in downtown Oakville. The gallery is open 12:00 to 9:00 p.m. Tuesday to Thursday; 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. Friday; 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday; and 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Sunday.

Oakville Galleries in Gairloch Gardens is located at 1306 Lakeshore Road East, 2 km east of downtown Oakville. The gallery is open 1:00 to 5:00 p.m., Tuesday to Sunday.

Admission to Oakville Galleries is free. For further information please call 905.844.4402 or visit <http://www.oakvillegalleries.com>

Media inquiries contact Tony Hewer, 905.844.4402 ext. 28 or email <tony@oakvillegalleries.com>

Oakville Galleries acknowledges the ongoing support of the Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council, the Corporation of the Town of Oakville, and the Ontario Trillium Foundation along with our many individual, corporate and foundation partners.