



## The Fiducie du patrimoine culturel des Augustines Unveils Artwork to Adorn Monastery Landscape

**Québec City, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015** – The Fiducie du patrimoine culturel des Augustines today unveiled the concept of the artwork to be integrated into the landscape design of the Hôtel-Dieu de Québec monastery in summer 2015. In accordance with the “Politique d’intégration des arts à l’architecture et à l’environnement des bâtiments et des sites gouvernementaux et publics” [Quebec government Art and Architecture Integration Policy], the five-member selection committee recommended the proposal by Marc-Antoine Côté entitled “Les invisibles” [“The Invisible Ones”]. This outdoor work of sculpture features five monolithic components that will line the walkways connecting the Rue des Remparts and the Rue Charlevoix to the *Monastère des Augustines*.

### An inspiring work



The work’s five components will measure 3.05 metres in height and 0.92 metres in width. As though emerging from the ground, these monoliths are intended to evoke a tree trunk slit lengthwise, thus revealing its interior. All the bronze-clad trunk forms will be lit up from within by a series of beams reflected by the stainless steel inner linings. The slit itself will measure 15.24 to 22.86 centimetres in width – too narrow for a head to pass through yet wide enough to allow viewers to gain a glimpse inside. The five curving components resemble one another but are not identical, however.

“‘Les Invincibles’ are the guardians of the premises. When people see them, they wonder where these figures came from, and when and why they were anchored here. Questions about the meaning of the sculptures also implicitly bring into play questions of time and space. The sculptures appear to have popped up randomly at some undetermined time. They are witnesses to the past and seem to stand watch over this place,” notes Marc-Antoine Côté.

### A first step toward “An adventure within”

According to Marcel Barthe, chair of the Board of Directors of the Fiducie du patrimoine culturel des Augustines, both the work and the artist’s approach square perfectly with the art integration project. “The symbolism of the trees suggests rootedness, duration and simplicity. As such, it offers a fitting tribute to the more than 300-year-long heritage of the Augustinian sisters, whose presence was strong, solid and decisive but at the same time discreet and humble. For visitors arriving at the *Monastère des Augustines*, different sculptures will dot their way before they even enter the museum, take advantage of the program of activities or receive accommodation. If they stop in front of one of these pieces, they’ll also be able to look inside themselves. This prior ritual thus prepares our guests for a genuine “Adventure within” that each may enjoy in his or her own way,” he added.

The Quebec government’s Art and Architecture Integration Policy applies to the owners of public buildings receiving grants for constructing or upgrading a building or a public site. The Ministère de la Culture et des Communications is charged with implementing this policy, which stipulates that owners must earmark 1% of their project budget for integrating a work of art.

“This policy has served to enrich the landscape of Quebec with magnificent works by professional artists from across the province and to foster recognition of their talent. By integrating art into the public space – hence, into the daily lives of citizens – this policy has become a powerful lever for the

democratization of art. Now, some 50 years on, the 3,200-odd works installed throughout Quebec represent just as many opportunities to experience our culture. We are indeed entitled to say: Mission accomplished!" commented Hélène David, Minister of Culture and Communications and Minister responsible for the Protection and Promotion of the French Language.

#### **About the artist**

Marc-Antoine Côté received training in crafts, with a specialization in sculpture, as well as in metal work at the Maison des métiers d'arts du Cégep de Limoilou (Québec City). At this time, he has to his credit seven public works, including "Le tout reste un peu flou," located in Québec City's Parc linéaire de la rivière Saint-Charles (2009), "Un objet qui nous reflète," erected on the grounds of the École de technologie supérieure de Montréal (2011) and "...tourne encore!", set up on the grounds of a primary school in Drummondville, Quebec (2012). In Canada, his work has been presented in individual and group exhibitions, and in collaboration with the Coopérative Le Bloc 5, which he co-founded with other artists. His works figure in the collections of the Maison des premières nations (Wendake, Qc.) and the City of Québec. Marc-Antoine Côté's assembled oeuvre has been exhibited in public galleries, commercial galleries and various artists' centres in Quebec and Ontario. His work is also a part of several private collections and, more recently, the Collection Loto-Québec. This summer, he will unveil "Hey Papa t'as tu vu notre stucpture" [*sic*], a work created within the framework of Québec City's cultural mediation project, at the Parc de la Grande-Oasis. Marc-Antoine Côté lives and works in Québec City.

#### **About the Fiducie du patrimoine culturel des Augustines**

Established by the Fédération des Augustines, the Fiducie du patrimoine culturel des Augustines is a social trust with charitable status. The mission of La Fiducie du patrimoine culturel des Augustines is to preserve and share the heritage and memory of the Augustinian Sisters of Quebec for the benefit of the entire community and the generations to come. As of January 1, 2013, the Fiducie became the owner of the Hôtel-Dieu de Québec monastery, which in 1639 was the first hospital to be founded north of Mexico. The Fiducie will also be gradually entrusted with the collections and archives of the 12 monasteries operated by the Augustinian sisters. The Fiducie is carrying out major restoration work on this monastery, which was designated as a national historic site of Canada and classified as a heritage site under the provisions of the Quebec *Cultural Heritage Act*, all in keeping with a three-fold objective: completing the *Monastère des Augustines* and the Centre Marie-Catherine-de-Saint-Augustin; supporting the social and cultural mission of the Augustinian sisters regarding family caregivers, people accompanying sick persons, professional caregivers, and volunteers and other groups working in the health field; and providing youth and the entire community access to the sisters' heritage and archives.

#### **About the Monastère des Augustines**

The *Monastère des Augustines* offers visitors a unique comprehensive health experience as well as living contact with the heritage of the Augustinian sisters in keeping with a non-denominational approach. As of summer 2015, a whole array of services will be on offer, including: an authentic accommodations concept, museum, archive centre, health and culture-centred program of activities, restaurant, boutique, and specialized care services.



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Pictures at high resolution are available.

**Source:**

**La Fiducie du patrimoine culturel des Augustines**

**Information and interview  
requests:**

Nathalie Deschênes  
75, rue des Remparts Québec (Québec) G1R 3R9  
T 418.780.4800 | [nathaliedeschenes@augustines.ca](mailto:nathaliedeschenes@augustines.ca)  
augustines.ca