

For immediate release

**Le Méridien Versailles presents *Timekeepers / Capteurs de temps: Works by John Latour*
First-time collaboration with Pierre-François Ouellette art contemporain.**

Montreal, March 19, 2009 – From March 18 to May 31, 2009 Le Méridien Versailles (LMV) presents *Timekeepers / Capteurs de temps*, an exhibition of sculpture, text-based art, and altered vintage photographs by artist **John Latour**. This new body of work reflects the artist's fascination for the ways in which we connect to the past through objects, texts, and images. This presentation also represents the first in a series of collaborations between the gallery Pierre-François Ouellette art contemporain (www.pfoac.com) and Le Méridien Versailles - Montréal. The **official opening** of the exhibition will take place, in the presence of the artist, at Le Méridien; 1808 Sherbrooke Street West, on Tuesday, March 31 at 5.30 p.m.

"We are honoured that this exceptional Montreal gallery has accepted to participate in Le Méridien Versailles' exhibition programme and delighted to be starting this relationship with an exhibition by Canadian artist John Latour whose works invite us to contemplate the fleetingness of time and the notion of human memory", says the general manager of the hotel Daniel Gallant.

The centerpiece for this exhibition, *Time Machine 1*, is a modified clock from the 1920s or 30s. Although it is operational, attentive viewers will remark that its hands move in a slow and deliberate counter-clockwise direction. As if through some form of wish-fulfillment, this clock from the past appears to turn time backwards. In doing so, it draws us closer to the bygone eras evoked in the accompanying text-based works and photographs on display in *Timekeepers*.

Latour's text-based works are derived from pages taken from some of his favorite works of fiction including the 19th-century Gothic English tales of *Frankenstein* and the *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. The artist applies layers of white paint over most of the printed page, leaving only a few words visible, and then mounts them individually in vintage frames. Although sparse, the remaining words create new stories that resemble inspirational mottos from the past. Works such as *The world was folly* and *She became an apparition* are, however, often ominous-sounding; and their meaning remains ambiguous. In a similar fashion, Latour uses white paint to either completely or partially erase human figures from found snapshots taken in the 1930s, 40s and 50s suggesting the eventual disappearance of all subjects over time.

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Le Méridien Versailles – Montréal's Exhibition Programme

With an aim to engage the creative side of guests, Le Méridien Versailles established a quarterly exhibition programme in 2008. This programme intends to give hotel guests the unique opportunity to come into contact with local art upon their arrival at the hotel and to learn more about the city through the arts. **John Latour** is the fifth artist to present a solo exhibition at LMV. Upcoming exhibitions in 2009 will feature **Gabor Szilasi** ; **David Gillanders** and **Bruce Roberts**.



John Latour at the Karsh-Masson Gallery, Ottawa

Running concurrently with *Timekeepers* is a solo exhibition of the artist's work at the Karsh-Masson Gallery in Ottawa. *Halcyon daysze* will be presented at this public art gallery from March 27 to May 23, 2009 (ottawa.ca/arts). In this exhibition, Latour challenges the notion of nostalgia while exploring a fragile past inhabited by elusive subjects.

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For more information:

Wanda Palma

Cultural Advisor

Le Méridien Versailles-Montréal

1808 Sherbrooke Street West

Montreal, Quebec H3H 1E5

514.933.6880 x 2611

wpalma@versailleshotels.com

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