

La Grande Vague ou la mémoire de l'eau salée (*The Great Wave or Salt Water Memory*)

by **Marc Lincourt**

From May 28th to June 13th, 2008

Accompanying the exhibition is a series of photographs by **Barbara Laborde**, bearing witness to the creation process of this work.



Photo : Barbara Laborde

*"Carriers of stories, sculptors of country,
400 family names and just as many memories."*

As part of the 400th anniversary of the foundation of Quebec, the Canadian Cultural Centre is pleased to present *La Grande Vague ou la mémoire de l'eau salée*, a monumental work by Quebec-born artist Marc Lincourt.

In 2008, France has chosen to actively participate in the celebrations of Quebec's 400th anniversary by proposing a rich programme of activities across the country. The exhibition *La Grande Vague ou la mémoire de l'eau salée* is part of the numerous large scale events presented in this programme. This occasion celebrates the arrival of the first French settlers from different provinces of France (Perche, Saintonge...) *La Grande Vague ou la mémoire de l'eau salée* is a significant oeuvre, combining artistic creation and history to attest to this founding journey.

Quebec-born artist **Marc Lincourt's** *La Grande Vague* is a grandiose work shaped by the movement of four hundred books – a metaphor for the history of four hundred families – four hundred French family names established in Canada, in reference to the 400th anniversary of the foundation of Quebec. This symbolic work is fragmented into four hundred parts, for four hundred family names of French ancestry. Each of the four hundred parts is a sealed book, carrier of a story. The superimposition of the letters that seals each book illustrates an entanglement of signs through which a family name appears. Each fragment is raised above the floor and the entire work is presented as an installation in the shape of a large wave: a symbol of the journey undertaken 400 years ago.

The publication "*La Grande Vague ou la mémoire de l'eau salée*", presenting the work of **Marc Lincourt** (Editions Talmart, 2008) accompanies the exhibition and is available at the Canadian Cultural Centre. This bilingual publication (English-French, 80 pages) includes essays by **Henri Dorion**, **Marc Lincourt**, **René Viau** as well as photographs by **Barbara Laborde**. Sale price: 15€ / \$20.



Photo : Barbara Laborde

www.lagrandevague.com

La Grande Vague is presented by the Association Les Passeurs de Lettres in partnership with:

- the Embassy of Canada in France,
- le Conseil Général de La Charente-Maritime,
- le Syndicat Mixte de Brouage,
- les Muséales in Tourouvre,
- the Canadian Cultural Centre in Paris

In 2008, this travelling exhibition is presented in parts of France directly related to the departure of these French travelers towards New France:

- March 8th to May 10th – La Tonnellerie, Brouage
- May 28th to June 13th – Canadian Cultural Centre, Paris
- June 30th to September 13th – Les Muséales, Tourouvre
- October 29th to November 11th – Le Grenier à Sel, Honfleur

Canadian artist **Marc Lincourt** was born February 24th, 1944 in Terrebonne, Québec. Since 1999, he has been living and working in Montreal and Paris. His work and exhibitions attest to his double existence on both sides of the Atlantic. His creations are part of numerous public and private collections.

www.marclincourt.com

The Association **Les Passeurs de Lettres** supports and accompanies artistic projects related to French-speaking communities and cultures. The association also promotes emerging musicians and the work of the dance company Vrac de Gonzesses. Since 2002, Les Passeurs de Lettres has been collaborating with Marc Lincourt and has presented several of the artist's projects in France (*A l'origine de l'Alphabet*, *Pluie et Lettres/ Vent de mots*, *Territoires des Mots Apprivoisés*).

Canadian Cultural Centre

5, rue de Constantine 75007, Paris – T. (+33) 1 44 43 21 90

Opening hours: Mon. to Fri., 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thurs. until 8 p.m.

The Canadian Cultural Centre will be open on Saturday June 7th, 2008 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Contact for Les Passeurs de Lettres:

Franck Pinon

T. (+33) 6 88 32 78 24

contact@lagrandevague.com

www.passeursdelettres.net

Media contact:

Leslie Scanlon

T. (+33) 1 44 43 22 90

leslie.scanlon@international.gc.ca

