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Aaron Faber Gallery to Host 14 of Québec's Most Celebrated Jewelry Artists

Innovation and Craftsmanship in Metal: Jewelry Artists of Québec Exhibition

NEW YORK, 15 March 2012: The celebration of artistry and creativity is as ingrained in the culture of Québec as it is a calling card for New York City. It was thus inevitable that such a shared principle would lead to the upcoming exhibition, "Innovation and Craftsmanship in Metal: Jewelry Artists of Québec", opening at Aaron Faber Gallery, 666 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY on Thursday, May 3, 2012. Ongoing through May 26, 2012, the exhibition will feature fourteen of Québec's most talented jewelry artists, and their extraordinary maneuverings in precious and semi-precious metals and stones.

- SERAFINO, jewelry design by partners in life and art, Antonio Serafino and Annegret Morf. SERAFINO reflects an intermarriage of Morf's history as an art restorer and violin maker with Serafino's upbringing in the world of fine craftsmanship and prestigious apprenticeship with Italy's most celebrated master jeweler. Morf succeeds in designing earrings, constructed as well-balanced mobiles for the ear, each pair distinctive with its use of gemstones, and in the whimsical detailing of her sculpted rings. Serafino's strength is in form, his rings with abstract-cut gemstones, as interesting from a side perspective as they are when worn.
- Barbara Stutman, whose early lessons from her grandmother in knitting and crocheting created a foundation for which her extraordinary collections in crocheted 18K gold, fine silver and colored copper wires would spawn. Inspired by the world around her, Stutman's pieces are creative responses to her reflections on social-economic conditions and the acquisition and societal interpretations of gender identities.
- Christine Larochelle, whose interest in the relationship between object and people formulates her vision of creating sculptural, wearable art inspired by nature and harmonized with the body's movement. Larochelle plays freely with matter, searching for a balance between forms, volumes and textures to create necklaces and bracelets defined by streamlined sequences of repetitive elements and visual rhythm.
- Claudio Pino, best described as a jewelry sculpturist, his collections attest to the grandest possibilities in jewelry making as his unification of kinetic movement with colors, metals and stones audaciously redefines traditional concepts of how rings should look. Under high magnification using special tools to achieve minute details, every surface is embellished in a three-dimensional design to offer a complete view at an any angle.

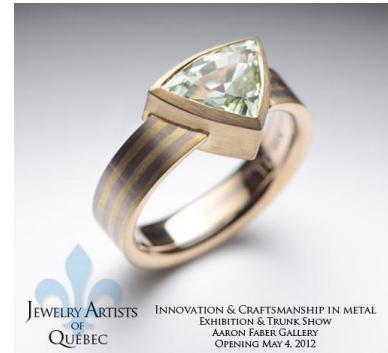


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- Élise Bergeron, an enthusiast in the underused art of hand manipulation, offers simple designs birthed from hours of intense rolling, corrugating, hammering, folding and forging thin ribbons of metal to create unrefined pieces with ornate textures and ethnic allusions. With their tactile drips, smudges and patches of molten gold or silver, the metal on her finished pieces look spontaneously gathered around the gemstone.
- Gustavo Estrada, the Guatemalan born artist whose fundamental principle themes in design – form, volume and texture – are reflected in his rich treatment of sterling silver in techniques of patina, copper on silver and repoussé to create confident, eye-catching bracelets, necklaces and rings. Estrada designs with deference towards a belief of deliverance through the creative process; he invokes tenacity and imagination to yield new objects that offer everlasting value to the final owner.
- Janis Kerman, a celebrated instructor with an extensive resume of accolades by the who's who of private collectors, awards, and prestigious exhibitions. Kerman's one-of-a-kind precious metals and gemstone geometric pieces are inspired by the inherent strength, applicability and timelessness of geometric shapes. Her work reflects an asymmetrical view of balance, where beauty is found in the opposite, of what one side has that the other doesn't, and how such differences account for a stunning, unified collection.
- Jean-Pierre Gauvreau, a lover of architecture in its most elaborate forms, whose undertaking of pleasure as a theme inspired a new stylistic approach of combined alloyed 18K gold, sterling silver, white and colored diamonds and petals to trigger emotional responses with every glance. Working in a dimensional geometric vocabulary, he constructs rings of juxtaposed squares and trapezoids in platform tiers, brightly finished sterling silver and 18K gold. The ring-as-sculpture metaphor is further enhanced by Gauvreau's bronze constructed openwork 'stands', where the ring awaits next donning.
- Laurie Dansereau, a former graphic designer whose preference for three-dimensional sculptural jewelry design has produced original works in exotic woods, 14K gold, pearls and other precious and non-precious materials to celebrate nature and the human form. Of note, her *Membrane Alvéolaire* collection groups together a series of imaginary plants made in sterling silver, 18K gold, fluorite, carnelian and colored pearls into pieces that convey an air of mystery, curiosity and are a hymn to natural order.
- Lynn Légaré, a designer through an organic process of merging and diverging precious and semi-precious metals and stones until an elaborate, statement-making one-of-a-kind piece is exposed. Her work is a forceful mélange of hand-fabricated sterling silver and 18K gold, altered into complex twists and turns and accented with semi-precious stones.



- Matthieu Cheminée, whose poignant artistry reflects a dynamic cultural experience balancing instruction in silversmith from the Navajo, Hopi and Zuni of Taos, New Mexico; a seven year sabbatical in Mali, West Africa studying jewelry making with the Touareg and Bambara tribes; and current residence in Montreal learning classical design techniques. These vast cultural experiences are revealed in his complex, multi-layered buckles, bracelets and rings, with each piece telling a new story at every glimpse.
- Pierre-Yves Paquette, an unconventional artist who deftly applies the ancient Japanese sword illustrating technique of mokume gane to evolve a single color ring, bracelet or necklace into one sleek polychromatic layer of silver, and hues of 18K gold. Paquette works with a strictly modernist vocabulary in precious materials, using his formidable skills to create pared-down mountings for gemstones and mixed-metal necklaces and earrings. The designs are understated; appealing in their pure design and crisp execution.
- Roland Dubuc, a master manipulator of single sheets of gold and silver, he cuts and folds sheets upon themselves repeatedly in a manner best described as origami, without the use of heat or solder. Dubuc spends hours working on a *maquette* in his Vieille Ville gallery/atelier in Montreal, where he then hand-fabricates the *maquette* in sterling silver, intertwining each segment without solder. The final product – whether earrings, brooch or pendant – always warrants a second look and an immediate conversation.



The general public will be able to view and purchase from the featured collections daily, with special requests available through Aaron Faber Gallery after the exhibition concludes.

The Exhibition is brought in partnership with the Québec Government Office in New York and SODEC, the Québec government body that matches the passion of artistic creation with the power of economic development; providing cultural enterprises with solutions designed to nurture Québec artists and promote the production, distribution and exportation of their work.

For additional information on the exhibition, including detailed information and images from participating artists, please visit <http://JewelryofQuebec.lmrpr.com> or contact The Lilian Raji Agency at (646) 789-4427.

About Aaron Faber Gallery

Aaron Faber Gallery was founded in 1974 to present the work of studio jewelers, those artists creating one-of-a-kind jewels that are inspired by creativity and originality, made in the artist's studio and imbued with the artist's spirit, concept and style.

The gallery, owned by Edward and Patricia Faber, opened its current location on West 53rd Street down the block from the Museum of Modern Art in 1977, where its contemporary interior is the backdrop for changing exhibitions by studio jewelers as well as permanent collections by the gallery's artist group.

About SODEC

SODEC is a government corporation that reports to the Quebec Minister of Culture, Communications and the Status of Women. It supports the production and dissemination of Québec culture in the field of cultural industries. Since 1995, SODEC resolutely pursues its mandate to promote and support the establishment and development of cultural enterprises, including the media, in all regions of Quebec.

SODEC is a bridge between the creative and business communities and facilitates interaction between the two. SODEC brings together the passion of artistic creation with the power of economic development and provides cultural enterprises with a range of solutions designed to nurture Québec creators and promote the production, distribution and exportation of their work.

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