



## communiqué

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### THE 8TH INTERNATIONAL GARDEN FESTIVAL OPENS WITH CONTEMPORARY GARDENS THAT CELEBRATE SOUND

**Grand-Métis, June 22, 2007.** – Sounds resonate in the gardens presented this summer at the International Garden Festival that opens on June 23rd and runs until September 30th, 2007. The 8th edition includes twelve outstanding contemporary gardens by designers from France, Germany, the United States, Québec and Ontario, as well as a special project by high school students from Rimouski. A new publication entitled *Hybrids: Reshaping the Contemporary in Garden in Métis*, which presents over 40 gardens created at the Festival since 2000, will be launched. A round table on sound in the garden will be held on the opening weekend, and guided tours will be given throughout the summer.

While sound is an important part of how we experience the garden, we often pay attention only to birdsong or rustling leaves. In ingenious new gardens, designers propose myriad ways sound may have an impact on visitors' experience and heighten their awareness of the audible in the landscape. The result of collaborations between landscape architects, architects and sound artists, the gardens become musical instruments in themselves, include sound elements activated through the movement of the visitor, or are pure soundscapes.

#### Keep an ear to the ground

**Angela Iarocci, Claire Ironside and David Ross**, from Ontario and Québec, have conceived *Pomme de parterre*, in which the lowly spud becomes a generator of light and sound, creating a visual and sonorous environment within a potato patch.

*soundFIELD*, by **Doug Moffat and Steve Bates**, from Québec, is an open-ended listening experience in which electronically treated sounds of poplar trees are transmitted within a buffer of these same trees.

In *La boîte noire* by **Jasmin Corbeil & Stéphane Bertrand** with **Jean-Maxime Dufresne**, from Québec, the sounds of children's voices emanate from an enigmatic black box that rises out of a fallow field.

*Cat's Cradle* by **Catalyse Urbaine** (Juliette Patterson and Michel Langlois) with **Gerard Leckey**, from Québec, is a garden-sized aeolian harp, in which a lattice of piano strings, objects, and plantings combine to transform the site into a veritable musical instrument.

#### Reflections on the landscape

In keeping with a recent tradition, the Festival has invited six teams of designers to revisit their gardens created last year. These thoughtful and playful reinterpretations of the landscapes of the Gaspé region, as well as far-off lands, will enchant and delight visitors anew.

**CÉDULE 40** (Québec) evokes vernacular rural, agricultural, and playground vocabularies in *Terrain fertile*, an interactive garden in which visitors participate in the planting the garden, but the earth is not as collaborative.

In *bois de biais*, **Atelier le balto** (Germany) reaffirms the force of vegetation alone to transform a space and advocates the garden as a place of movement and evolution.

In *Core Sample*, by **North Design Office** (Ontario), a grid of fabricated core samples filled with organic and non-organic materials collected from the region traverses the site, which is structured with beautiful grassy landforms.

Playing with the phonetics of the translation for “greenhouse effect” **Bosses design** (Québec) evokes the dramatic effects of climate change on our planet in *L’effet désert*.

In *Safe Zone*, by **Stoss Landscape Urbanism** (United States), an array of commercial products designed for potentially dangerous situations are turned to whimsical uses.

*Le jardin des Hespérides*, by **Cao | Perrot Studio** (United States and France), draws on the sounds, scents, and materials of Vietnam, Cao’s country of origin, while in its own way evoking the riverine landscape of the St. Lawrence. A traditional Vietnamese lantern looms oversized in a black reflecting pond.

And finally, the elegant and visually intriguing garden installations by **Hal Ingberg** (Québec) and **Benjamin Aranda & Chris Lasch** (United States) are being held over from previous editions.

### ***Mosaïque – a community art project***

Eight intriguing sculptures created by 28 students from l’École secondaire Langevin, in Rimouski, Québec, are installed on the Festival site. Developed and coordinated by Centre d’artistes Caravansérail, the students worked in collaboration with a local visual artist and a professor in visual arts to create extravagant ceramic sculptures whose forms are based on the plants and flowers found in the Jardins de Métis – including the azalea, the blue poppy, the rose and the fern. The aim of the project is to encourage students to express themselves through the visual arts and develop their creativity and imagination.

### ***Launch of Hybrids: Reshaping the Contemporary Garden in Métis***

This new publication, edited by Lesley Johnstone, artistic director of the Festival, presents over 40 gardens created in Métis since 2000. Challenging commonly held assumptions about what a garden is, or can be, this book provides a portrait of current thinking on the contemporary garden, a hybrid that draws as much on art and architecture, urban and industrial design, popular culture, and new technologies as on the history and art of the garden. Includes 150 spectacular photographs and texts by 22 designers who have participated in the Festival. Published in English and French versions by Blueimprint/Simply Read Books. 168 pages, 150 full colour photographs. Retail price \$39.95. ISBN 978-1-894965-80-4.

### ***A Benefit-cocktail in support of the Festival***

On August 12th, the second annual benefit cocktail will be held in support of the International Garden Festival. Normand Laprise and his team from the restaurant Toqué !, are coming especially from Montréal for this event. They will interpret with the brio for which they are known the delicacies of the Lower St. Lawrence and Gaspé, offering sumptuous hors d’œuvres and a selection of fine wines. Tickets are \$150. Reserve early, places are limited, at 1-418-775-2221, ext. 228 or [info@jardinsmetis.com](mailto:info@jardinsmetis.com).

The eighth International Garden Festival gratefully acknowledges the support of its partners: Canada Council for the Arts, Canadian Heritage, Canada Economic Development, Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, Emploi-Québec, Ministère du Tourisme. The Festival also thanks Hydro-Québec, a partner since 1999, Alcoa Canada, Premier Tech, Telus, Les Amis des Jardins de Métis, and Les Jardins de Métis.

### **Les Jardins de Métis/Reford Gardens**

Les Jardins de Métis are located on the shores of the St. Lawrence and Mitis rivers in eastern Québec. A national historic site, the gardens are one of North America's premier garden and tourist destinations with as many as 100,000 visitors every summer. Created by Elsie Reford over a period of 30 years, they are a living testimony to her passion for gardening and plants. The gardens are open to the public daily from 2 June to 30 September 2007.

### **International Garden Festival**

Launched in 2000, the International Garden Festival takes place on a site adjacent to the historic gardens. A unique forum for innovation and experimentation, the Festival presents temporary gardens created by Québec, Canadian, and international designers. This artistic event allows visitors to discover inspiring spaces bringing together the visual arts, architecture, design, the landscape, and nature.

Since its inaugural edition, the Festival has won several awards, including the National Post Design Exchange Awards, the Grand Prix du tourisme québécois, and the Société des musées québécois prize for the best exhibition. In addition, numerous gardens have received awards from the Institut de Design Montréal (IDM), the Ordre des architectes du Québec, the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects, Canada Blooms, and the Design Exchange.

For further information, visit [www.refordgardens.com](http://www.refordgardens.com) or call (418) 775-2222.

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### **HIGH-RESOLUTION PHOTOGRAPHS AND DETAILED DESCRIPTIONS OF EACH OF THE GARDENS ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST**

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