

## Éric Lamontagne

*Se voir contempler / Paysage-intérieur, 2016*

Acrylic and oil painting, Russian birch, mirror, digital photography  
Council room, Sutton's Town Hall

Artwork produced under the *Policy of integration of the arts to architecture and the environment of buildings and public and Government sites*



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Éric Lamontagne features a piece of artwork in three dimensions: wood paintings are displayed on both sides of the entrance to the Council room and inside the room itself. The paintings, illustrating Sutton's symbolic landscapes and produced by using photographs, contain Victorian motifs in which we can see mirrors. Thus, looking at the artwork, we may distinguish three dimensions : the landscape painting, the Victorian motif and the reflection of the room in the mirrors (or the visitors gazing at the artwork).

### **The landscapes**

Painting and photography are closely linked in this work. The painting allows us to look beyond the photographic image to enjoy an emotional experience in relation to the artwork. « The overall effect is at certain moments an optical illusion while at other times it has special significance. Abstract art allows for revealing or concealing landscapes. I purposely left traces of the digital processing. For those that know how to decode this, it becomes another way of looking at the art and the landscape can be seen as real or a virtual image ».

## **The Victorian motifs**

The artwork combines the interior and exterior dimensions of our lives by juxtaposing motifs from old-fashioned wallpaper typical of our kitchens in the past with the landscape. Traditionally, nature is the source of inspiration of Victorian designs. Plants and flowers have been replaced here by woodworks found on Sutton's heritage buildings. Playing a game of role-reversal, the exterior is now found inside! Look closely, you will distinguish particularly in the wallpaper the scrolled brackets holding up Rumeur affamée's porch roof.

## **The mirrors**

The patterns in the wallpaper on Russian birch produce a lacy effect. Laser cutting was necessary in order to create them. The artist chose to cover them with mirrors; by seeing their reflection in the mirrors, citizens become part of the artwork, the territory and Sutton's households.

## THE JOURNEY OF THE ARTIST<sup>1</sup>

Since 1993, Montérégie artist Éric Lamontagne has had his work featured in both group and solo exhibitions in the province of Quebec and internationally. His exhibition « *Du haut de mon sous-sol* », shown at the Salle Alfred Pellan of the Maison des arts in Laval, earned him first prize in the category awarded to the best exhibition of the year held in an art centre, at the 2012 Visual Arts Gala of the Contemporary Art Galleries Association (AGAC). The same show was named among the top three best exhibitions of 2012, according to Canadian Art magazine. Éric Lamontagne's pieces are held in many public and private collections including the art-lending program of the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec, and the Musée du Bas St-Laurent, Cirque du Soleil and Loto-Quebec collections.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://artmur.com/artistes/eric-lamontagne/>