



**LE MOIS DE
LA PHOTO**
À MONTRÉAL

**Press Release
For immediate release**

maintenant. images du temps présent
now. images of present time

Montreal, August 26th, 2003 – Le Mois de la Photo à Montréal and L’Espace VOX present **UN DICTIONNAIRE...** by Melvin Charney.

For its 8th presentation, Le Mois de la Photo à Montréal is launching a revamped and unified concept: all activities will henceforth be organized around a single theme selected by an artistic director. This year, the photography historian and critic Vincent Lavoie is proposing that we look at the photography of current events from the perspective of the theme, “NOW. Images of Present Time.” The event will present more than 20 free individual and thematic exhibitions featuring works by many local, national and international artists (USA, Europe, Israel, China) at various venues throughout Greater Montreal. Taking note of the historical legacy of photojournalism and its spin-offs in the field of contemporary artistic practice, the 8th presentation of Le Mois de la Photo à Montréal intends to take stock of the most innovative artistic approaches to the representation of events.

Photography’s monumentality derives not so much from the sometimes exceptional nature of the events depicted as it does from the immeasurable volume of pictures that have been taken and reproduced since the 19th century. The constant sedimentation of images forms a thick photographic bedrock into which Melvin Charney cuts. For more than thirty years, Charney has been compiling newspaper pages bearing photographs in which architecture comes into contact with current events. This compilation of images gives rise to an imposing cartography of news events, one that is inseparable, moreover, from a meditation on architecture and time.

Born in Montreal, Quebec. Lives and works in Montreal, New York and Paris. Internationally acclaimed artist Melvin Charney has created a unique body of work characterized by a preoccupation with urban space. He is best known for photographic works like UN DICTIONNAIRE... and for a series of large-scale installations, including the Canadian Centre for Architecture sculpture garden in Montreal (1987-1991). Charney’s works has been often exhibited and are in the collections of many museums. He has represented Canada twice at the Venice Biennale. Recently, his work was featured in an exhibition at the Centre national de la photographie, Paris. Notable among numerous publications on his work is a recent monograph published by the Musée d’art contemporain de Montréal, which examines the essential role of photography in his work.



© Melvin Charney, *UN DICTIONNAIRE...*, 1970-2001, Series 1-9 *The structure of events* (detail), 250 plates, each 27.8 x 35.5 cm or 28 x 35 cm, total dimension of installation: 420 x 2430 cm. Courtesy of the artist.

Information

From September 4th to November 2nd, 2003
Open Tuesday to Sunday (and public holidays),
from 10 am to 6 pm
L’Espace VOX,
350, rue St-Paul East, 3rd floor.

Opening September 3rd, 2003, at 5 pm