

Paul-Emile Borduas

1905-1960

Chronology

- 1905 Born Nov. 1 in St. Hilaire, Quebec
- 1922 Apprenticed to Ozias Leduc, as a church decorator
- 1923 Enrolls at Ecole des Beaux Arts, Montreal. Upon earning his degree he begins to teach drawing there
- 1928 Leaves Montreal to study in Paris for two years
- 1932 Becomes a teacher of design in Primary Schools in Montreal. Influenced by children's art
- 1935 Marries Gabrielle Goyette
- 1937 Becomes a teacher of painting and art history at l'Ecole du Meuble, Montreal, a progressive design school.
- 1938 Reads André Breton's "Le Chateau Etoilé"; becomes interested in Surrealism
- 1940's Associations with Pere Couturier (Dominican teacher and artist) and Alfred Pellan. Borduas' students during this period include Jean-Paul Riopelle and Charles Daudelin, and his circle of friends includes Fernand Leduc, Pierre Gauvreau, Françoise Sullivan.
- 1941 Creates his first abstract painting, *Abstraction Verte*
- 1941 Forms the *Groupe Automatiste*
- 1942 *Abstraction Verte* shown at the Seminaire de Joliette
- 1942 Exhibition of "surrealist works" in gouache by Borduas at the Salle de l'Ermiatge, Montreal. This show was successful both critically and financially.
- 1946-7 *Groupe Automatizte* exhibits in a series of makeshift galleries in Montreal
- 1948 Publishes *Refus Global*, a manifesto countersigned by 15 members of the *Groupe Automatiste*, in which he denounces the idea of preservation of a Quebec identity based on Catholicism, French Language and rural customs; and the politics of Duplessis and the Union Nationale. This caused an uproar and led to Borduas losing his job at the Ecole du Meuble.
- 1951 Separates from his wife and two children
- 1953 *Sous le Vent de l'Île* acquired by National Gallery of Canada
- 1953 Emigrates to the New York City
- 1954 First New York exhibition, at the Passedoit Gallery
- 1955 Moves to Paris with his daughter Janine.
- 1958 Represents Canada at the Universal Exposition, Brussels
- 1959 First Solo show in Paris, at Galerie Saint-Germain
- 1960 Dies of a heart attack on Feb. 21, in Paris, after several years of poor health.
- 1960-1 Retrospective at the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam
- 1962 Retrospective at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, travelling to the National Gallery of Canada and the Art Gallery of Toronto
- 1971 *Borduas et les Automatiztes*, Paris, Galeries Nationales du Grand Palais, travelled to Musée d'art Contemporain de Montreal
- 1972 *The Borduas Collection*, National Gallery of Canada, travelling

Selected Collections

Art Gallery of Ontario	Musée du Québec
Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden,	Montreal Museum of Fine Arts
The Smithsonian Museum Washington, D.C.	National Gallery of Canada
Museum of Modern Art, New York	Vancouver Art Gallery
Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal	