

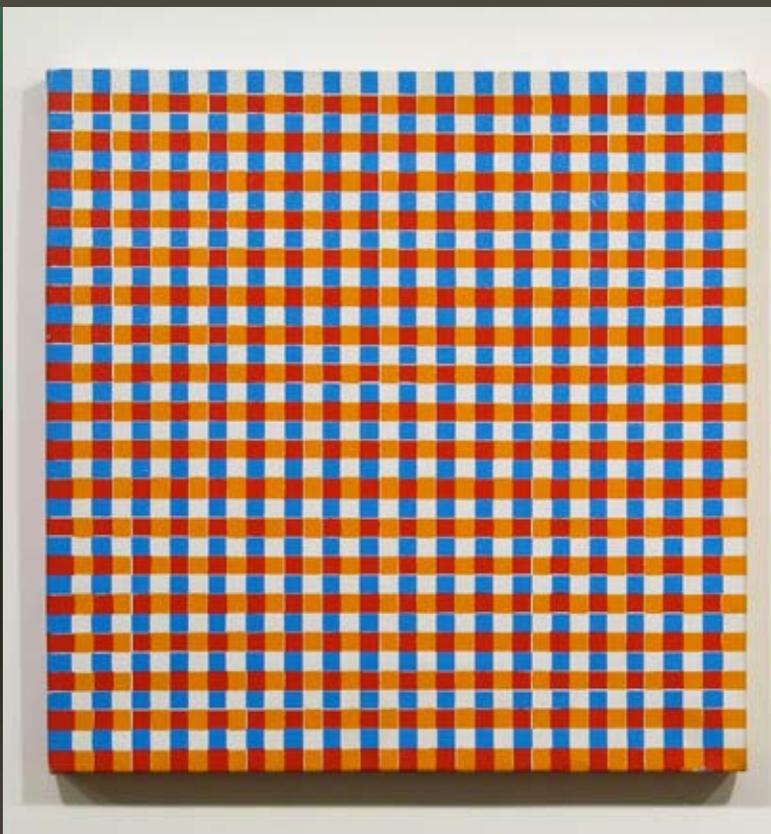
You are cordially invited to the opening reception of *Eric Cameron: Works from 1963 to 2008*, Friday April 18th, 2008. 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Mr. Cameron will be in attendance.

“ALL THINGS I VALUE MOST IN MY ART HAVE HAPPENED FOR REASONS I DIDN'T INTEND IN THE FIRST PLACE AND MOST OFTEN TRIED TO STOP HAPPENING.” Eric Cameron



Exposed/Concealed: Laura Baird VI, 1996 to present, Acrylic gesso & acrylic, 6.35 x 5.7 x 3.2 cm



Red, Yellow, Blue on White, 1968, Oil on canvas, 45.75 x 45.75 cm

TrépanierBaer is honoured to present the esteemed work of the artist Eric Cameron. Of the many works which comprise the corpus of his oeuvre, TBG will devote this exhibition to selections from three specific series of paintings: the early Sello-tape Paintings, the Process Paintings, and the Thick Paintings. Exclusive to this show and anchoring the exhibition are *Green and Green on Pink (type Illn, _" tape)*, 1969, from the Process Paintings series, and *Lettuce*, 1979 to present, from the Thick Paintings suite of works. The latter is one of the first works in that series which has been worked on continually since 1979 and consists of over 10,000 coats of paint.

The Sello-tape paintings, begun in 1963, are considered to be a seminal preamble to the important Process Paintings, which he began in the mid 60's and first exhibited in Leeds in 1967. At that time, the Process Paintings were at the forefront of advanced art. They were without precedent and with very little context when first shown in England. The Process Paintings inevitably connected Mr. Cameron to the burgeoning conceptual art movement in North America as defined by Sol Le Witt: a notion of art that was based "...on repetition and permutation and the exclusion of the artist's individual touch." (Cited from Roald Nasgaard, *Abstract Painting in Canada*, 2007, p. 347). Consequently, Mr. Cameron has become one of the most important exponents in Canada of conceptual and process art.

Mr. Cameron is best known for his conceptual objects he refers to as Thick Paintings, a suite of works that he began while living in Halifax in 1979 and has subsequently made his life's work. The Thick Paintings consist of ordinary household objects, such as a beer bottle, a head of lettuce, two lobsters, a book of matches, or a small alarm clock that he carefully covers with thousands of layers of gesso. He would paint one side of the object, let it dry, then turn it over and paint the other side. Each application of paint was then diligently noted and recorded in his files. Mr. Cameron has continued this process for 29 years. According to pre-eminent curator Roald Nasgaard, "...increasingly, as the Thick Paintings are clothed in their next hand-brushed white coat of gesso, they grow to transcend whatever residue of quotidian life may lie at their core. In this way, they are joined to the idealist history of the modernist monochrome, whether we relate them to the spiritualizing tradition of Malevich's *White on White* or read them in a more secular terms alongside the material whiteness of Robert Ryman's minimalism." (Citation from Roald Nasgaard, *Abstract Painting in Canada*, 2007, p. 353). For Cameron, who calls his practice "material mysticism," the Thick Paintings are a constant source of surprise and renewal, and he remarks, "...everything I find exciting happens within the material stuff of the work..."

Eric Cameron was born in Leicester in 1935. He completed his studies in England where he studied painting under Lawrence Gowing at Durham University and art history at the Courtauld Institute. He immigrated to Canada in 1969 when he accepted the role of Chair to the Department of Art at the University of Guelph. He has taught at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design and at the University of Calgary, where he is currently Professor of Art. Mr. Cameron's work has been exhibited extensively in Canada and is held in important collections throughout the country. He is the winner of many prizes and honours, such as the prestigious Gershon Iskowitz Prize in 1994 and the Governor General's Award for Visual and Media Arts in 2004. Upcoming exhibitions of Mr. Cameron's works are planned for Asia later this year and in Europe for 2009.

■■ TrépanierBaer

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Tuesday - Saturday
10:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.