

Fragmented 2004 Hand bead woven Glass beads, nylon thread
21 x 11 x 2 in. Photo: Paul Litherland

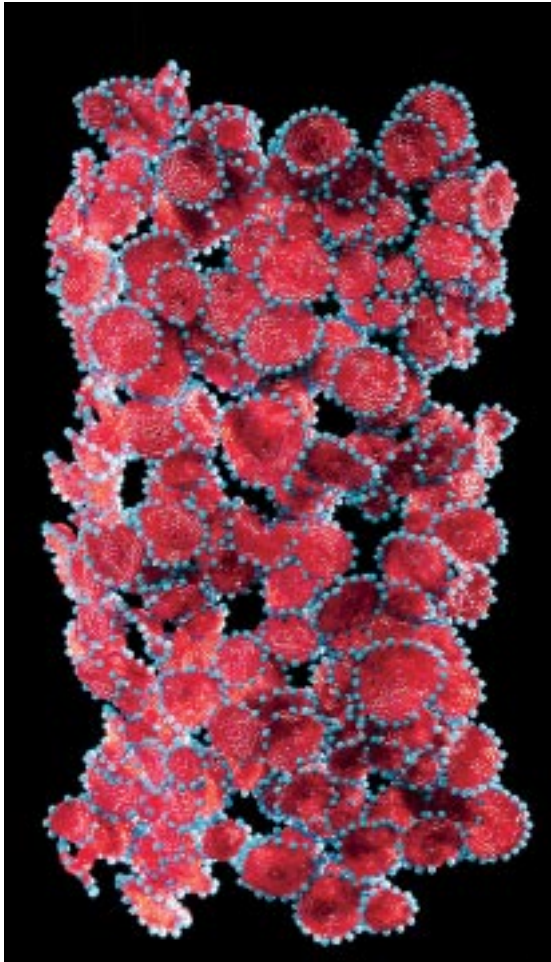
NEWS RELEASE - NATASHA ST. MICHAEL —
MONTRÉAL, JUNE 29, 2004

In 2003, Natasha St. Michael, textile artist, received the prestigious Prix François-Houdé, which is designed to promote the emerging generation of Québec craft artists. Jointly created by the Ville de Montréal and the Conseil des métiers d'art du Québec, this award includes a general cash prize of \$3,000 as well as financial support to mount a major solo exhibit. The Galerie des métiers d'art du Québec is thus very pleased to invite you to the Natasha St. Michael exhibit, which will be held at the Galerie des métiers d'art du Québec in the Marché Bonsecours, from October 15 to November 14, 2004.

Raw material *Cell head, molecule link, chromosome rod . . . the glass bead, an elevated and scintillating elementary particle, is the perfect medium for examining the realm of the infinitely small. That's why, over the past year or so, Natasha St. Michael's sources of inspiration have gone from being captured for observation on the slides of an electron microscope to serving as the basis for artistic exploration. In her weaver's laboratory, the artist samples, cultivates then interprets the work done by bacteria, microbes and viruses, mirroring their pathological excesses. Each of her works breathes and teems with life, like an organic formation in mid-mutation, proliferating in the form of interconnected beads whose colours have the lure of candy. — Florence Michel*

UNIQUE IN QUÉBEC NATASHA ST.MICHAEL

WEAVES BEADS, ONE BY ONE, FOLLOWING A MATHEMATICAL LOGIC. THE ONLY PROFESSIONAL WEAVER IN QUÉBEC TO HAVE DEVELOPED THIS TECHNIQUE, SHE CREATES PATIENT MASTER-PIECES THAT RECALL THE SLOWNESS OF A BYGONE ERA.



Piles 2003

Hand bead woven
Glass beads, nylon thread
12 x 8.5 x 1 in.
Photo: Paul Litherland

Tubular Formation

(Collection Ville de Montréal) 1999
Hand bead woven
Glass beads, nylon thread
7 x 3.5 x 1 in.
Photo: Talia Dorsey



Benchmarks for collectors Works by Natasha St. Michael are now included in the Collection de Prêt d'œuvres d'art du Musée des Beaux Arts de Québec and in the collection of Ville de Montréal. Since 2002, Flatfile Galleries in Chicago and Galerie Luniverre in Paris have spotlighted the artist's work. Her high-profile contributions to SOFA New York and Chicago and to the textile art biennials in Italy and Pittsburgh have placed Natasha St. Michael among the select group of textile artists who are pointing the way forward, in a discipline where technological revolutions are opening up infinite horizons. Lastly, the book *Fiberarts Design Book 7*, an international textile arts directory, contains several pages devoted to St. Michael's beaded creations.

Who was François Houdé? A pioneer who developed new ways of integrating glass into three-dimensional works, François Houdé was an internationally renowned glass artist. In 1983, he co-founded ESPACE VERRE/Centre des métiers du verre du Québec, a springboard for emerging artists. François Houdé died in 1993 at the age of 43.

THE GALERIE DES MÉTIERS D'ART DU QUÉBEC IS OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK: FROM 10 A.M. TO 6 P.M., SATURDAY THROUGH WEDNESDAY, AND FROM 10 A.M. TO 9 P.M., THURSDAY AND FRIDAY. IT IS LOCATED IN THE MARCHÉ BONSECOURS, 350 SAINT-PAUL STREET EAST, OLD MONTRÉAL.

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