

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Gallery Exhibition Schedule

JACQUES VILLEGLÉ; DÉCOLLAGES: 1960-2004

May 5 - June 23, 2011

For over sixty years, Jacques VILLEGLÉ's work has played an important role in redefining what constitutes a work of art. He is an artist who was instrumental in bringing the streetscape into the space of the exhibition.

Villeglé began collecting objects lost or washed up on the beach at Saint-Malo for use in his earliest sculptures shortly after the Second World War. Since then, his art has always revealed an intense relationship with his perception of the world at its most brutally realistic. From 1949 onward, Jacques Villeglé began systematically collecting scraps of posters torn from walls around town, inventing a brand new artistic practice, which in turn gave rise to a new type of work of art. This radical re-appropriation of an otherwise ordinary material enabled him to capture the spirit of the times and the image of a society driven by communication, which expressed itself above all through its obsession with current affairs and the omnipresence of the media.



Gentilly/Claudel, March 1991
décollage mounted on canvas, 45 ½ x 31 ¾ inches

Jacques Villeglé's works—from his invention of a socio-political alphabet that draws on symbols, codes, and acronyms borrowed from subversive and counter-cultural graffiti, to his transfer of torn posters from the street to the exhibition space—highlight the political dimension of our urban communities. His torn posters, with their fragmented images and dislocated typography, are spontaneous, anonymous, and collective; they invite the visitor to lose himself in a space that is as fictional as it is poetic.



Metro République, December 1964
décollage mounted on canvas, 11 x 14 inches

Jacques VILLEGLÉ's work has been exhibited extensively in the United States and Europe, and is the collections of many important museums worldwide (Museum of Modern Art, New York; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Tate Gallery, London; Moderna Museet, Stockholm; Musée d'Israël, Jerusalem). In the fall of 2008 a major retrospective of his works was exhibited at the Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris. This summer Modernism will publish the English translation of Villeglé's theoretical writings *Urbi et Orbi*.

Modernism is pleased to present a survey of décollage works by Jacques VILLEGLÉ, one of France's most influential contemporary artists.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND A RECEPTION FOR THE ARTIST ON THURSDAY, MAY 5TH, FROM 5:30-8PM.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL: 415/541-0461 / FAX: 415/541-0425 OR EMAIL: INFO@MODERNISMINC.COM.