

## NEWS

For immediate release

# COLLECTORS' BOXED SET OF PHOTOGRAPHIC WORKS

LES GRANDS BALLETS CANADIENS DE MONTRÉAL  
AS SEEN BY FIVE CONTEMPORARY VISUAL ARTISTS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS

| RAYMONDE APRIL | EVERGON | PASCAL GRANDMAISON |  
| JOHN HALL | JESÚS VALLINAS |

**Montréal, March 25, 2009** – Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal asked five renowned contemporary artists to create a limited-edition boxed set of 10 original photographic works using the company as a theme. Canadian visual artists and photographers **Raymonde April**, **Evergon** and **Pascal Grandmaison**, American-born photographer and Grands Ballets dancer **John Hall** and Spanish dance photographer **Jesús Vallinas** responded enthusiastically to Les Grand Ballets' call in 2008. Over the last few months, each of them has worked to create two pieces for the collection.

This prestige portfolio, created exclusively as a benefit for the company, was launched on March 25 at the Jean-Gascon Lobby of Théâtre Maisonneuve at Place des Arts, in the presence of Martha Tapiero Lawee, the project's Honorary Chair, and the artists. Titled **REGARDS DE POINTE**, the boxed set features a text by art historian François-Marc Gagnon. The set, produced in only 60 numbered copies, measures 40 x 50 cm (16 x 20 in.) and includes 10 digitally printed photographic works, each with a distinct sensibility and each signed by its artist. You can view the works on the Grands Ballets website at [www.grandsballets.com](http://www.grandsballets.com).

## THE ARTISTS

Born in Moncton, New Brunswick, **Raymonde April** grew up in Rivière-du-Loup in the Lower Saint-Lawrence region of Québec. She lives and works in Montréal, where she teaches at Concordia University. Both an artist and a photographer, she has been well known since the late 1970s for her minimalist practice inspired by everyday life, bringing together documentary, autobiography and fiction. In November 2003, she won the *Prix Paul-Émile Borduas*, the highest visual arts distinction awarded by the Government of Québec.

Born in Niagara Falls, Ontario, **Evergon** belongs to the generation of photographers that has transgressed traditional photography by incorporating handmade touches and staged scenarios into their work. His highly sensitive work is informed by questions of sexuality and the socially constructed idea of feminine and masculine gender. He began to build an international reputation in the 1980s, and his 1988 exhibition at the National Gallery of Canada brought him great acclaim.

A presence on the contemporary art scene dating back to the later half of the 1990s, **Pascal Grandmaison**, a Montréal native, situates images in space through both video projection and photography. His work, based most frequently in the portraiture genre, is characterized by its formal strategies, such as close-ups, white backgrounds, and fragments and details. The Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal held his first solo show in 2006.



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Originally from New Hartford, Connecticut, **John Hall** is a dancer with Les Grands Ballets, having spent five years with the Miami City Ballet. He splits his time between dance and photography. "My camera helps me understand movement, and movement is a source of inspiration for my photos," he explains.

**Jesús Vallinas**, of Spanish origin, studied fine arts and also worked as a dancer. A dance photographer, designer and illustrator, he has photographed major personalities in the world of dance, including Ana Laguna, Nacho Duato, Alicia Alonso and Maya Plitsetskaya. His photos have appeared in many dance magazines, including *Por La Danza*, *Ballet 2000* and *Dance Magazine*, as well as in numerous Spanish dailies.

Take advantage of our special introductory offer of **\$3,200** (taxes included) until May 1, 2009, and become an owner of this original boxed set, whose profits will serve to finance Les Grands Ballets' new creations.

For more information or to purchase the set, contact Elise Charbonneau, Associate Director, Fundraising and Events, at 514 849-8681, ext. 236 or at [echarbonneau@grandsballets.com](mailto:echarbonneau@grandsballets.com).

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