

**INCARNATIONS BY LOUIS FORTIER**  
**At Gallery Donald Browne Art Contemporain**

Montreal, November 15th 2007 — Gallery Donald Browne presents INCARNATIONS. An occasion to discover the most recent sculptures by Louis Fortier, from November 17th to December 22nd 2007.

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Louis Fortier examines the conditions of man through the wrinkles of his own face. He focuses on creating individuality. « I translate the accidents of the everyday life, the fugacity of the existence, and, more inexpressibly perhaps, the furtive thoughts which mark out the time spent in my studio». From an exact replica of his subject (himself), he explores a process of creation using the malleability of cooling wax. The heads are taken from the moulds an hour before they are solidified and their metamorphoses become a gallery of expressions and personages.

This group of pieces, 'Incarnations', revisits antiquity, referring to a time in certain moment in the history of art, a phenomenon whose élan consists in giving the idea of permanence to the style of the day. The artist transports us in the universe of myths circulating around historical personalities, recognizable to have exerted a tyrannical power on common mortals. We will find there a frieze of emperors with twisted faces but also some reinvented divinities. These characters coloured and grotesque, larger than life, incarnate the reformed image of the artist, do not equal the cruelty that the history often lends them but it translates the haughty arrogance that emerges in their suspicious faces.

Curiously, equivalence is formed between the unforeseeable character of wax and the moods, which emerge from these unflattering portraits of the human nature. This cross of temporality between the artist-model and its multiple incarnations illustrate a desire of immortality, subjacent with a contemporary narcissism and the chaotic dimension of the conscience of our carnal passage on the earth.

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Louis Fortier lives in Montréal. He received his BFA from Université Laval in Québec and he completed his MFA in 1994 at Université du Québec à Montréal. He has participated in a number of solo and group exhibitions throughout Québec, namely at Galerie B-312, Plein Sud, Clark, Axénéo7, la chambre blanche and l'Œil de Poisson. He was in the exhibition *La tête au ventre* curated by Mathieu Beauséjour and presented at the Leonard & Bina Ellen Gallery in winter 2007. His works are actually included in an exhibition presented until January 6, 2008 at The Rooms Provincial Art Gallery (St. John's, NL). Curated by Andria Hickey, this exhibition called *Hot Wax* is «an attempt to take stock of developments in the medium and its relationship to contemporary art practice».