

IN THE CONTEXT OF THE  
MAJOR PIERRE AYOT'S RETROSPECTIVE

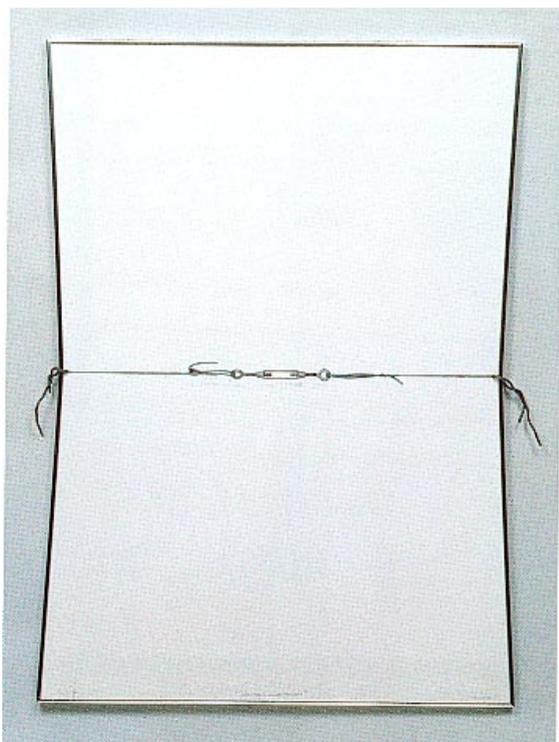
October 15<sup>th</sup> – November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016

## Push and Pull

**Curator : Nicolas Mavrikakis**

**Artists : Pierre Ayot, Paterson Ewen, Denis Juneau,  
Stéphane La Rue, Guido Molinari, Alana Riley, Andrea  
Szilasi, Claude Tousignant, Julie Tremble**

**Opening**  
Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>  
4 pm to 6 pm



Pierre Ayot, Attention! Haute tension, 1978

some of Ayot's artworks alongside other works by artists from different generations, who are more openly associated with formalistic issues, I want to highlight how Ayot also explored and provided an original reflection about an artwork's materiality.»

### Curator's text :

« At Joyce Yahouda Gallery, the exhibition Push and Pull is one part of the major Pierre Ayot retrospective (1943-1995) that I organized in a number of venues: Grande bibliothèque of BAnQ, Guido Molinari Foundation, Graff Gallery and B-312 Gallery. Some of Ayot's artworks are also exhibited at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts and at the Joliette Museum. Art critics and art historians often described Pierre Ayot as a maker of playful artworks and of intricate trompe-l'oeil.

Strangely, Ayot has been less frequently analyzed from another perspective- that of 'deconstructing' representations. I want to turn the usual reading of Ayot's practice inside out, like one would do with a pullover or with a sock, in order to show the "seams" of his work. During his career, Ayot placed a certain emphasis on the elements making up the image and on their materiality. This is a quality that is usually attributed to abstract painters, like the Plasticiens. In this exhibition titled Push and Pull, by exhibiting

Nicolas Mavrikakis

### Curator's biography :

Nicolas Mavrikakis is an art critic. He has been writing for Le Devoir since 2011 and Voir Montréal from 1998 to 2011. He has also written exhibition reviews and texts for numerous Canadian magazines, and has been a member of the editorial committees of ETC and Spirale. He was also Director Assistant at Espace magazine. As well, he curates exhibitions. Among others, we find the Major Pierre Ayot's retrospective in six museums, galleries, foundation (2016). He also curated Faire de sa vie une oeuvre d'art at the Françoise Besson Gallery in Lyon (France) in 2015, the Sculpture bieniale in Saint-Jean-Port-Joli in 2014, Déclis 70 that was rewarded with the public choice at the Montreal Art Council (2014), Entreprise collective (Espace Création Loto-Québec, 2011), the 25th Contemporary art Symposium in Baie-Saint-Paul in 2007, and, in 2005, the exhibition How to Become an Artist. In addition, he teaches art history and French literature, but has also taught the history of film, dance, the arts and communications.