

## RONALD LABELLE

Ronald Labelle lived in Montréal where he was born in 1942. His education was in studio arts, for which he obtained a Bachelor's degree from Sir George Williams University in 1962. He then studied for eight months at the Montréal School of Fine Arts before taking up photography. Having made the acquaintance of a French glass artist, Labelle joined him in a first apprenticeship in blown glass organized by Gilles Desaulniers at the Université du Québec à Trois Rivières in 1976. Having studied refractory materials as well as the techniques and specifications of furnaces, he dreamed only of opening his own workshop, which he did in 1979. His studio called Ateliers du Manoir was located at Hâvre-aux-Maisons in the Iles de la Madeleine (Québec), where he produced lamps and glass vases until 1983. Around the end of that year, he received a scholarship from the Quebec Department of Cultural Affairs and left for a six-month apprenticeship in Murano, Italy.

Eventually, Labelle returned to Montréal with the idea of creating an educational centre in glass working techniques. After meeting François Houdé, the creation of this centre was put into motion...it was to become Espace VERRE. Labelle then became the administrative director and was responsible for a course in blown glass.

Inspired and nourished by his participation in numerous international events and meetings, Labelle's work is characterized by a diversity of techniques and materials — and by the extraordinary finished quality of his works.

1. **Manhole de New York** (2000). Pâte de verre, néon et acier.
2. **Cageot #1** (1990). Verre thermoformé, paille de verre, laiton, ciment et halogène.
3. **Construction #59** (2002). Verre soufflé, verre taillé laminé et bronze oxydé.

