



Marie Pierre Daigle

Background: Age twenty-six. Completed a diploma in art, then studied glass at Espace Verre in Montreal for two and a half years. Is now in her final year of the three-year MCCT program. Plans to finish her final semester at Espace Verre.

Q: Why did you decide to attend MCCT?

MPD: Near the end of the glass program, I started to add fibers in my work. I tried different ways of combining the materials. I wasn't satisfied with the results, so I decided to go to MCCT to learn the right way to treat fibers.

Q: What inspired this coat?

MPD: Spine was a school project that took almost a year to realize. The first part of the project was to create a fabric that would be used to eventually make a piece of clothing. I like to combine materials and play with contrasts, so I decided to work with copper, wool, and polyester. The result is a very fragile fabric because of the very small threads and the copper. I integrated the fleece of wool and recycled silk as I was weaving. The second part of the project was to actually make a piece of clothing. When I removed my fabric from the loom, I "saw" the back of the coat, and I played with the stiffness of the copper to make the collar. I considered the detail in the fabric as a part of the body. It's like a second skin.

Q: What are your future plans?

MPD: For the last three years, I have been involved in the Collective Métiers d'Art Motivés (MAM; www.mam-montreal.com). We are a collective of fifteen young fine-crafts artists, and our mission is the promotion of fine crafts, the organization of exhibits, and the creation of multimedia collective works. I'll continue to put energy on that. Next summer, I'll have my own studio at home for weaving and knitting and for glass too.

LEFT: Spine Coat, 2005–2006; wool, polyester, copper, silk; weaving, felting. Photo: Louise Lemaux Bérubé.

the work of students, faculty, and other artists.

Mainberger, now deceased, was devoted to her students and to the textile community through sharing her knowledge and encouraging innovation. Bérubé, the director of the center and an internationally well-known artist and speaker, teaches and oversees all of MCCT's operations.

The center was propelled onto the international scene after it acquired its first Jacquard loom in 1996. With Bérubé's expertise, the center continues to specialize in this technology. The most recent gallery exhibition, *About Jacquard* (October 2–November 2, 2006), showed the weavings of twenty-four international artists. This production was complemented with an October symposium on education in fibers and the various programs available in colleges and universities around the world. The exhibition stemmed from a previous project, *e-textiles*, that was presented five years ago, and one of its goals was to

assess the present state of jacquard weaving. Both jacquard exhibitions were accompanied by catalogs, the earlier one on CD and the recent one on DVD.

Educating Artists and Designers

The three-year study program of the MCCT, offered as part of the Craft Studies program of the Institut des métiers d'art-CEGEP du Vieux Montréal, leads to a "Major in Constructing Textiles" diploma. Presently, there are twenty-two students enrolled, and the MCCT accepts a maximum of twelve students per year. Focused on hand and machine weaving, knitting, and embroidery, the curriculum culminates in a third-year final project in which each student explores his or her own artistic interest. The program also includes courses that help students to start their own craft enterprises, with explorations of marketing and business-management concepts. Many MCCT



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