

Henri Robideau

Sometimes I get really tired of freshening up my CV with the latest show I've had or work I've sold to this collection or that collection or where I've been published lately or shown my face or travelled or this or that, it seems life keeps zipping along past faster and faster and that as my CV gets longer I find it's more than I want to have to deal with. So I'll just tell you where I'm at nowadays in my plans, schemes and accomplishments.

Right now I'm a gianthropologist, simple as that. I've been photographing what I call GIANT THINGS for the past ten years or so. Since 1980 (when I swore off colour photography) I've been working on creating a Pan Canadienne Gianthropological Survey of the Giant Things in Canada. I've covered the West pretty well from Inuvik to Winnipeg but still have a few sites left to cover. Eastern Canada has been more of a problem because of its distance but now this problem may be solved by the fact that my dream grant came true just the other day in the form of a "B" grant from Canada Council. So in the Spring of 1984 I will be conducting a Gianthropological Dig of historic proportions along Canada's eastern cordillera in the hope of rounding out my Survey.

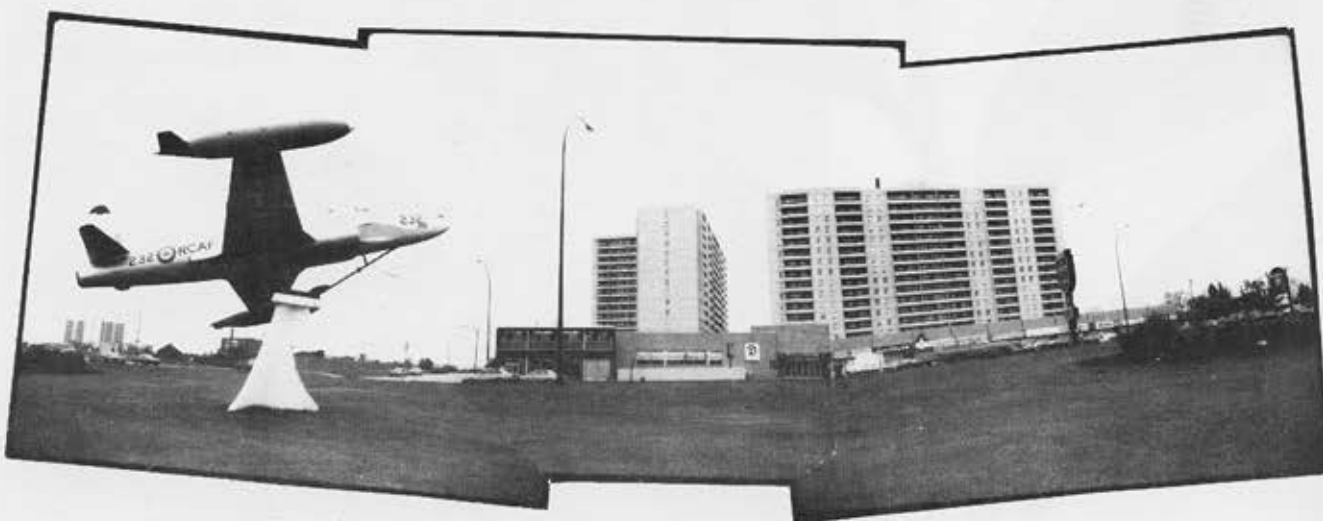
I've gone crazy over panoramas nowadays, so you'll have to stick with me as I go through this phase. I got tired of perfect little

photographs and on the advice of my pal Robert Frank, went big (seems fitting with Giant Things). So my pictures go all over the place nowadays, following the form of whatever I'm taking a picture of, making some of the finished work ten feet long (though most are around five feet long).

Lately my definition of Giant Things has broadened out a bit to include such things as the Giant Ocean (the Pacific) and Giant Crowds (peace marches) and just about anything I can wrap into the context of Gianthropological Science. I throw in anything unconventional, unique, ridiculous, crazy, rock the boat and add to it my own two cents worth in the form of written historical or political comment or maybe just a cheap one-liner, but usually just simple factual info for identity purposes. The main thing is I don't worry about high art or low art or this art or that art, what I try to do is take the cotton out of my ears (or eyes in the case of photography) and dig the buzz and hummmm of creativity that goes along with life, digging life, without of course ignoring the presence of the banal, ugly or maybe sometimes down and out side of things either (its nice to be egalitarian).

Anyway, that's where I'm at — October 1983.

Your Pal Henri



Giant Waste of the Taxpayers money, obsolete military hardware coming in low over the courts of St. James Shopping mall and apartment complex, Portage Ave., Winnipeg, Manitoba, October 1982. Henri Robideau

silver prints, 6x1/8 x 152 cm

Henri Robideau was born in Bristol, Conn., 1946 and studied at San Diego State College and Laney College, Oakland, Cal. Recent solo exhibitions include 1980: Viewspace Gallery; 1983: Photographers Gallery, Saskatoon, Coburg Gallery. Recent group exhibitions include 1980: NFB Gallery, Ottawa, Surrey Art Gallery; 1981: Viewspace, Optica, Montreal, Sunshine Coast Arts Centre; 1982: Shell Gallery, Calgary.