

For Immediate Release



is proud to present

**CHARLES LABELLE**  
**A Solo Exhibition of New Drawings**  
**at The Hong Kong Museum of Medical Sciences**  
**(The Old Pathological Institute)**

**Exhibition Dates:** May 28– July 11, 2010 | **Opening:** Friday May 28<sup>th</sup> 6-9pm  
**Opening Hours:** Tue to Sat 10:00a.m - 5:00p.m | Sun and Public Holidays 1:00p.m. - 5:00p.m

**Exhibition Venue:**  
**The Hong Kong Museum of Medical Sciences (The Old Pathological Institute)**  
No.2 Caine Lane, Mid-Levels, Hong Kong

**Contact:**  
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**About the Exhibition:**

Presenting a significant new group of over two-hundred drawings from LaBelle's project, *Buildings Entered* 1997-ongoing, the exhibition will be held in the dispensary building of The Hong Kong Museum of Medical Sciences, formerly the Old Pathological Institute. Selected by the artist and MobArt Gallery specifically for this exhibition, the building and its history form an important context for the drawings and for the artist's ongoing project which examines the interrelationship of the body and architecture.

At the heart of this relationship, as LaBelle's work reveals, is a mechanism of power- economic, political, judicial and scientific power – which collectively (and often coercively) organizes both the built-space of the world and the perceptions, ideas and subjectivities of the human beings that inhabit the world.

Focusing specifically on buildings where the body is both cared for and administered, the drawings are careful renderings of places which the artist has himself visited over the past thirteen years, places such as hospitals and clinics, dentist's offices and barber shops, massage and acupuncture centers, funeral homes, police stations, prisons, tattoo parlors, sex shops and anonymous buildings whose relationship to the artist's body remains unspoken.

Executed in pencil on individual pages from French philosopher Jean-Luc Nancy's book, "Corpus," the drawings literally form a "body of work" that is a meditation on the body, the space of the body, the spaces which contain the body and ultimately, the idea of the body as uncontainable: something beyond administration, control or understanding.

**About *Buildings Entered***

Begun thirteen years ago, *Buildings Entered* is an ongoing, life-time project in which Charles LaBelle documents every building he physically enters. Currently, there are over eleven thousand buildings in the archive, with additional buildings being added almost daily. Conceptual in nature, the project is both a diary and a historical document in which the artist's own life and the space of the world intersect.

By foregrounding the act of "entering" these buildings, LaBelle's project reveals a broader, phenomenological framework: one that investigates the relationship between architecture and the body, between urban space and the construction of the subject.

"Perusing [LaBelle's] diary-like sketches of buildings, the passages of daily life are brought to an abrupt halt. Casual experience, normally undertaken by rote, is turned into an act of keen awareness."

-Christopher Knight, Los Angeles Times



### About Charles LaBelle

Internationally recognized, LaBelle's work has been exhibited at the Neuberger Museum, New York; Chisenhale Gallery, London; Artpace, San Antonio; Tony Wight Gallery, Chicago; The San Francisco Art Institute; and Anna Kustera Gallery, New York. His work is in the collections of the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; The Albright-Knox Gallery, Buffalo; The Berkeley Museum of Art; The Santa Barbara Museum of Art; and numerous private collections.



Charles LaBelle [Corpus 085] 2009/11/18 16:53 - Hong Kong Museum of Medical Sciences - Caine Rd (S) E Kui In Fong Sheung Wan Hong Kong 2010 (from Buildings Entered 1997- ongoing) Gesso and pencil on book page 6 x 9"

### About the Hong Kong Museum of Medical Sciences:

Situated on the slope of Sheung Wan, in the historic district of Tai Ping Shan where plague broke out over a century ago, the Hong Kong Museum of Medical Sciences (HKMMS) was opened in 1996. It is a unique institution that charts the development of medicine in Hong Kong. The Museum is housed in a declared monument, the Old Pathological Institute. It was originally named the Bacteriological Institute at the time of its opening in 1906, and is probably one of the most intact and original of Hong Kong's Declared Monuments and heritage buildings.

The Museum occupies over 3000 square metres, comprising 11 exhibition galleries which present in a variety of ways to arouse interest and to help members of the community know more about health and disease, including the unique development of western and traditional Chinese medicine, past conquests of epidemics, medical advances of local importance as well as promotion of the vital message of how to stay healthy.

### About MobArt Gallery

**MobArt** is an art gallery with a twist. Unlike the traditional art galleries, we don't have a physical space, we are *mobile*. We "pop up" everywhere in the city and may one day appear just round the corner of where you live or work.

Our *Concept* is simple – we utilise alternative urban spaces like restaurants, coffee shops, lounges etc. to curate Art shows.

Our *Goal* is clear – to make Hong Kong a better place for Art. Elevating people's interest and appreciation for Art by making Art an integral part of our everyday life would in turn foster an environment that supports and nurtures young, talented artists.

Join us and become part of the MobArt movement!

[www.mobartgallery.com](http://www.mobartgallery.com)

