APRIL 29, 2022

ARNAUD MAGGS THE BIG PICTURE Arnaud Maggs was a successful graphic designer and magazine photographer before he became renowned for his images of faces and objects

Arnaud Maggs: Life & Work by Anne Cibola, which explores how the artist chronicled people and paraphernalia with layers of meaning that are of personal, historical, and universal significance. iazz at massev hall

presented in grids. Today the Art Canada Institute proudly publishes



Arnaud Maggs's (1926-2012) decision to become an artist at the age of forty-seven has often been described as a revelatory moment—including by Maggs himself. Consciously shaping his own narrative, Maggs would recount how "as suddenly as I had become a [commercial] photographer, I decided that I wanted to become an artist. Whatever that was, And, I sold my house, I sold my Hasselblad [camera], and I sold most of my possessions." Whereas his shift to fine art is often portrayed as a spontaneous reinvention, in Arnaud Maggs: Life & Work author Anne Cibola offers fascinating insight into the years of overlap between his commercial and fine art photography careers in the 1970s and 1980s. In the excerpts below, she reveals the rewards and challenges of reinventing himself time and again, first working as an illustrator and graphic designer in New York City, Milan, and Toronto, then as a magazine photographer, and finally as a renowned artist whose instantly recognizable large-scale pieces challenge conventional ideas of the grid by investing it with great expressive and narrative power.

Sara Angel Founder and Executive Director, Art Canada Institute **JAZZ AT MASSEY** HALL ALBUM COVER jazz at massey hall DIZZY GILLESPIE MAX ROACH

May 1953, Library and Archives Canada, Ottawa. In 1951, soon after Maggs began his professional career as an illustrator



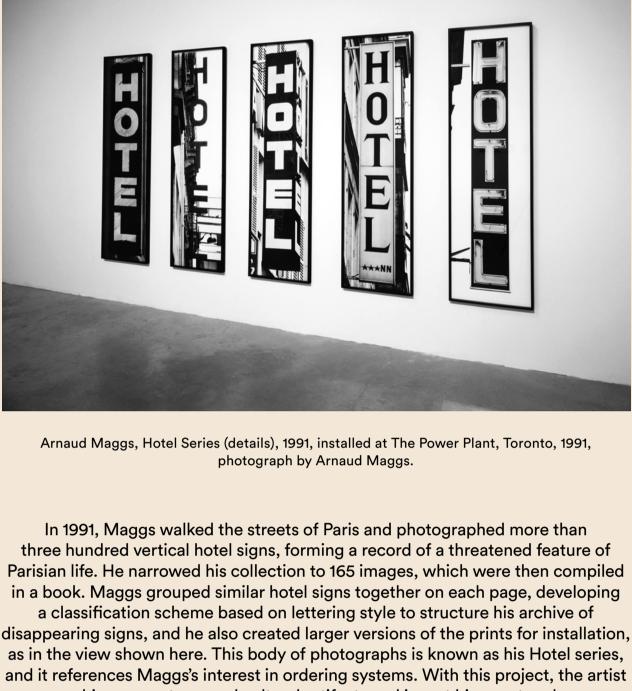
Arnaud Maggs, Cover and backside of Jazz at Massey Hall, Volume One, Quintet album,

LONG 33% PLAY

Arnaud Maggs, Three Small Rooms, 1968, Windsor Arms Hotel, Toronto, photographer unknown. For nearly two decades Maggs worked as a leading illustrator and graphic designer in New York City, Milan, and Toronto. In 1966 he changed careers and became a commercial photographer. Without any formal training, he explored his longstanding interest in the medium through experimentation and watching others. One of Maggs's most important early photography projects was for Three Small Rooms, a restaurant at the Windsor Arms Hotel in Toronto. The work features an installation of images of found objects Maggs created specifically for the project, which Jim Donoahue, the art director, arranged into a matrix making it an important precursor to the grid-based installations that would define Maggs's later art practice. Learn More

LEONARD COHEN





HOTEL SERIES

l'industrie: Les étiquettes, 1994. The installation is comprised of tags that document the work of child labourers in France's textile industry in the early twentieth century. In Maggs's piece, the papers serve as stand-ins for the workers. Created at a time of increased scrutiny around contemporary labour practices in the clothing industry, Travail des enfants offers political critique. It calls attention to loss and puts found historical content in front of contemporary eyes—a re-remembering.

In the early 1990s, Maggs and his partner, the artist Spring Hurlbut (b.1952), began to spend their summers in France, which took his practice in new directions. He started creating large-scale works using found paper ephemera largely sourced at French flea markets, including Travail des enfants dans

> Learn More **CERCLES CHROMATIQUES**

Arnaud Maggs, Cercles chromatiques de M.E. Chevreul (details), 2006,

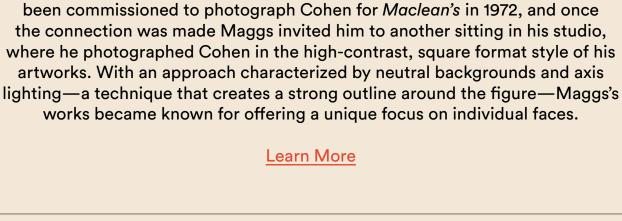
Arnaud Maggs, Répertoire (detail), 1997, National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa.

With Répertoire, 1997, Maggs documents an address book that belonged to the legendary Parisian photographer Eugène Atget (1857–1927). The work consists of forty-eight prints, with each one capturing a single page spread in the volume, offering a rich portrait of Atget's business. Atget was a hero



Business. The mid 1970s saw a strong overlap between Maggs's artistic and editorial approaches. By the end of the decade Maggs was developing his creative project 64 Portrait Studies, 1976-78, in which—like his magazine covers—he photographed a group of thirty-two sitters in profile, as well as frontally. His subjects in that work appear with bare shoulders, revealing his fascination with the shape of the human head and, as he explained, creating an "equalization among the people."

Learn More



3269/3077



Learn More

TRAVAIL DES ENFANTS DANS

L'INDUSTRIE: LES ÉTIQUETTES

Arnaud Maggs, Travail des enfants dans l'industrie:

Les étiquettes, 1994, installed at Susan Hobbs Gallery,

Toronto, photograph by Isaac Applebaum.

Paul Jouve punte, Sculptein, 15 les (Rue Votre Dame des Seamps (art de Trance) Part Hayor et Cadel) Escalier A, 2 em gantre.

RACKS 43

Canc 958 (450

Arnaud Maggs, Travail des enfants

dans l'industrie: Les étiquettes

(detail), 1994, National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa.

Learn More **RÉPERTOIRE**

to Maggs: he too was a working photographer who created images for artists, illustrators, designers, architects, and librarians, among others—many of whom are listed in his notebook. The French photographer also took pictures of the streets, buildings, and gardens of Paris, creating an enduring visual archive. The notebook offers a record of Atget's business, with marks of wear and tear that reflect the intensity of everyday activities and crossed out names indicating clients with whom he no longer worked. DE M.E. CHEVREUL

he had achieved with his camera. Learn More About the Author of Arnaud Maggs: Life & Work Anne Cibola is a professor in the Photography and program at York University, and her research centres on and design in his career." The Art Canada Institute gratefully acknowledges the support of this book's generous sponsors. **TITLE SPONSOR FOUNDING SPONSOR** BMO A **ANONYMOUS** The ACI also thanks the other Title Sponsors of the 2021–2022 Canadian Online Art Book Project: Marilyn and Charles Baillie; Alexandra Bennett in memory of Jalynn Bennett; Kiki and Ian Delaney; Blake C. Goldring, CM, MSM, CD.; Lawson Hunter; the Honourable Margaret Norrie McCain; the Connor, Clark & Lunn Foundation; The Scott Griffin Foundation; The McLean Foundation; and The Jack Weinbaum Family Foundation. The ACI is a not-for-profit educational charity that receives no government financing or public support. Our work is made possible by an important circle of friends, patrons, and benefactors. If you would like to support our important work, please see this page. Our entire collection of newsletters can be found on the ACI website, for you to read, share, and enjoy. PAST NEWSLETTERS

The Stonecroft Foundation for the Arts; and Trinity Development Foundation. We thank the 2021–2022 Season Sponsors of the Art Canada Institute: Follow us on social media Facebook artcaninstitute/ Instagram @artcaninstitute **Twitter** @artcaninstitute Visit us at aci-iac.ca for more content on Canadian art and artists Canadian Online Art Book Project Purchase Available Print Books Canadian Schools Art Education Program

Arnaud Maggs, After Nadar: Pierrot the Photographer, 2012, Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto. After Nadar is one of Maggs's most celebrated bodies of work, and it was also his last—he created this series of nine self-portraits shortly before his death, and the project represents a visual autobiography. Inspired by a similar series created by nineteenth-century photographer and caricaturist Nadar (Gaspard-Félix Tournachon) (1820-1910), Maggs posed dressed as Pierrot, the Italian commedia dell'arte character celebrated in French pantomime of the 1800s, and he used a variety of props to signal details of his own life and career. Images in the series make reference to Maggs's works with archives, passion for collecting, experiments with painting, and interests in storytelling and music, but here he appears as a photographer, looking up inquiringly and inviting us to reflect on all Illustration departments at Sheridan College. She is currently a doctoral candidate in the Art History and Visual Culture Arnaud Maggs's practice and career narrative. Commenting on this book, Cibola notes "I am interested in what we might further understand about Maggs if his transition to art is viewed not as an abrupt and transformative reinvention, but as further evidence of the interplay between art THANK YOU TO OUR BENEFACTORS

Arnaud Maggs, 3269/3077, 1986, Art Gallery of Hamilton. In the mid 1980s, Maggs sought new subjects and turned his attention to typography, which had been an important aspect of his work as an illustrator and graphic designer. Numbers are the central subject of many pieces by Maggs from this period, including 3269/3077, 1986. He produced this work after taking an interest in and recording the four-digit numbers that appeared on railroad boxcars that passed by the window of his studio. It is part of a series of paintings in which Maggs explored relationships between combinations of digits. Despite the significant shift in subject matter, Maggs's number works display his ongoing preoccupations with shape, scale, and various methods of identification and classification. Learn More Share this newsletter with friends who love Canada's art, or invite them to sign up here for our weekly dispatch.

The Estate of Arnaud Maggs. Cercles chromatiques de M.E. Chevreul, 2006, is Maggs's tribute to a great masterpiece of nineteenth-century colour printing, an atlas of colour titled Exposé d'un moyen de définir et de nommer les couleurs (1861) by the French chemist Michel-Eugène Chevreul (1786-1889). Each page—and each photograph represents a circle with seventy-two pure hues of colour, in their maximum saturation (on the left) and with tints of black (on the right). Chevreul's book defined names and a system for organizing different shades of colour, something that appealed to Maggs's career-long interest in systems of classification and identification. In his view, as the volume catalogued the desaturation of colour through the incremental addition of black, it visualized a process akin to "passage from day to night, from positive to negative, from life to death." Learn More **AFTER NADAR: PIERROT** THE PHOTOGRAPHER

<u> Art Lecture Videos</u> Debut Records, May 1953, album cover, 26 x 26 cm. Collection of Library and Archives Canada, Ottawa

Image Credits: [1] Arnaud Maggs, Cover of Jazz at Massey Hall, Volume One, Quintet album, New York City: (R7959-5474). [2] Arnaud Maggs, Backside of Jazz at Massey Hall, Volume One, Quintet album, New York City: Debut Records, May 1953, album cover, 26 x 26 cm. Collection of Library and Archives Canada, Ottawa (R7959-5474). [3] Arnaud Maggs, Three Small Rooms, 1968, Windsor Arms Hotel, Toronto, photographer unknown. Courtesy of The Estate of Arnaud Maggs. © The Estate of Arnaud Maggs / Courtesy Stephen Bulger Gallery. [4] Portrait of Ronnie Hawkins by Arnaud Maggs, The Canadian, The Toronto Star (cover), March 27, 1976. Collection of Library and Archives Canada, Ottawa (R7959-2-2-E). Courtesy of The Canadian, The Toronto Star. © The Estate of Arnaud Maggs. [5] Portrait of Buffy Sainte-Marie by Arnaud Maggs, *Th*e Canadian, The Toronto Star (cover), January 14, 1978. Collection of Library and Archives Canada, Ottawa (R7959-2-2-E). Courtesy of The Canadian, The Toronto Star. © The Estate of Arnaud Maggs. [6] Arnaud Maggs, Leonard Cohen, 1977, printed c.2001, gelatin silver print, 45.1 x 90.5 cm. Courtesy of Stephen Bulger Gallery, Toronto. © The Estate of Arnaud Maggs / Courtesy Stephen Bulger Gallery. [7] Arnaud Maggs, 3269/3077, 1986, 8 panels, oil on canvas, 183 x 244 cm (overall). Collection of the Art Gallery of Hamilton, gift of the artist, 1994 (1994.41). Courtesy of The Estate of Arnaud Maggs. © The Estate of Arnaud Maggs / Courtesy Stephen Bulger Gallery. [8] Arnaud Maggs, Hotel Series (details), 1991, gelatin silver prints, 185.1 x 53 cm (each), installed at The Power Plant, Toronto, 1991. Courtesy of The Estate of Arnaud Maggs. © The Estate of Arnaud Maggs / Courtesy Stephen Bulger Gallery. Photo credit: Arnaud Maggs. [9] Arnaud Maggs, Travail des enfants dans l'industrie: Les étiquettes, 1994, chromogenic prints, 50.8 x 40 cm (each), 304.8 x 1320.8 cm (installation), installed at Susan Hobbs Gallery, Toronto. Courtesy of The Estate of Arnaud Maggs. © The Estate of Arnaud Maggs / Courtesy Stephen Bulger Gallery. Photo credit: Isaac Applebaum. [10] Arnaud Maggs, Travail des enfants dans l'industrie: Les étiquettes, 1994, chromogenic prints, 50.8 x 40 cm (each), 304.8 x 1320.8 cm (installation). Collection of the National Gallery of Canada, purchased 1995 (37822.1-198). © The Estate of Arnaud Maggs. [11] Arnaud Maggs, Répertoire (detail), 1997, 48 chromogenic prints (Fujicolor), laminated to Plexiglas and framed, 250 x 720 cm overall. Collection of the National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, gift of the artist, Toronto, 2003 (2003.81.1-48). © The Estate of Arnaud Maggs. [12] Arnaud Maggs, Cercles chromatiques de M.E. Chevreul (detail), 2006, 11 archival pigment prints, 99.1 x 81.3 cm (each). Courtesy of The Estate of Arnaud Maggs. © The Estate of Arnaud Maggs. [13] Arnaud Maggs, Cercles chromatiques de M.E. Chevreul (detail), 2006, 11 archival pigment prints, 99.1 x 81.3 cm (each). Courtesy of The Estate of Arnaud Maggs. © The Estate of Arnaud Maggs. [14] Arnaud Maggs, After Nadar: Pierrot the Photographer, 2012, Chromira print mounted on Dibond, 96 x 75 cm (framed). Collection of the Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, purchased with the assistance of the Ivey Foundation Contemporary Art Fund and the support of the Canada Council for the Arts Acquisition Assistance Program, 2012 (2012/11.6). © The Estate of Arnaud Maggs.