

News release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Yayo receives 2011 Charles Biddle Award

Montréal, September 13, 2011 –Kathleen Weil, Québec Minister of Immigration and Cultural Communities, and the organization Culture pour tous are proud to announce the 2011 winner of the Charles Biddle Award: Colombian artist Diego Herrera, alias Yayo, children's book illustrator and cartoonist. The Charles Biddle Award winner was announced at the Journées de la culture launch, with Christine St-Pierre, Québec Minister of Culture, Communications and the Status of Women, also in attendance.

"Named for the famous Québec jazzman, the Charles Biddle Award recognizes the exceptional contribution of someone from an immigrant community whose personal or professional commitment has advanced Québec's cultural development nationally or internationally," Ms. Weil said. "Throughout his career, Charles Biddle represented the cultural diversity that enriches Québec and that is showcased beyond the borders of our province."

For her part, Louise Sicuro, President and CEO of Culture pour tous, said: "It is meaningful for us to award this distinction during the launch of Les Journées de la culture. We are honoured to be associated on this occasion with the promotion of Québec's artistic and cultural diversity, which has been a priority in our work for many years. This is evidenced by our Intercultural Encounters initiative, which we have made part of Les Journées de la culture."

The Charles Biddle Award is one of the *Prix québécois de la citoyenneté*, awarded every year since 1997 by the Government of Québec to individuals, businesses and organizations to highlight their commitment and contribution to making Québec an inclusive, pluralistic society where people of all origins live in harmony. As recipient of the 2011 Charles Biddle Award, Diego Herrera received a \$2,000 bursary as well as a bronze and granite sculpture by Québécois artist Danielle Thibeault of Trois-Rivières. The sculpture of a group of people in movement on a pillar-shaped base symbolizes the importance of the ties linking the people of Québec.

"I am immensely pleased to have won this prize," Yayo said as he accepted the award. "I am proud to contribute to the cultural exchanges that exemplify the diversity of Québec society."

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For 20 years now, Yayo has shone in the artistic community. His work has achieved renown nationally and internationally and been published, exhibited and honoured with distinctions in many countries. His skill as a cartoonist is amply demonstrated in his lengthy stint with *L'actualité* magazine, and he is also an author and illustrator of children's books. The artist has a special relationship with young audiences, travelling across Québec to lead workshops designed to initiate the next generation into the creative world.

The Charles Biddle Award winner was selected by a jury made up of personalities from the arts and culture community, along with a representative of the Ministère de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles du Québec. "Diego Herrera, alias Yayo, is a very talented artist who, thanks to the expression of his art, his work and his involvement with young people, is a very deserving recipient of the Charles Biddle Award. I wish him the best of success in his continuing career," Ms. Weil concluded.

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Source:

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