



**ACTION WEEK
AGAINST RACISM
MARCH 12-22, 2009**



The 10th Action Week Against Racism
welcomes a major international exhibit of editorial cartooning
Cartooning for Peace / Dessins pour la Paix
featuring workshops and discussions with cartoon artists **Plantu** and **Kichka**

March 12 to 22, 2009
Intergenerational Community Centre

999 McEachran Ave., Outremont

Monday, Tuesday, Friday – 8 am to 6 pm

Wednesday, Thursday – 8 am to 8 pm

Saturday - 10 am to 6 pm

www.inforacisme.com

www.cartooningforpeace.org / www.dessinspurlapaix.org

Montreal, Thursday, March 12, 2009 – The Action Week Against Racism (AWAR) celebrates its 10th annual event by welcoming to Montreal, March 12 to 22, 2009, for the **first time in Canada**, the international exhibit ***Cartooning for Peace / Dessins pour la Paix***. Guests of honour are *Le Monde* political cartoonist **Plantu**, and Michel Kichka, president of the Israel Cartoonists Association (ICA).

The exhibit features 50 editorial cartoons by international artists: Kichka (Israel) - Plantu (France) - Lefred-Thouron (France) - Khalil Abu-Arafeh (Palestine) - Baha Boukhari (Palestine) - Gianelli (Italy) - Bahgory (Egypt) - Avi Katz (Israel) - Gado (Kenya) - Joel Pett (USA) - Jiho (France) - Caro (Switzerland) - Cristina Sampaio (Portugal) - Bénédicte (Switzerland) - Catherine Beaunez (France) - Luckovitch (USA) - Heng (Singapore) - Kambiz (Iran) - Zlatkovsky (Russia).

Saturday, March 14, 2009

11 am-1 pm: Meet Plantu and Kichka - Intergenerational Community Centre, Outremont - Free

4 pm: Editorial Cartooning Workshop with Plantu and Kichka - Coeur des Sciences, UQÀM, 175 President Kennedy Ave. - Presented in partnership with Reporters without Borders Canada – Free.

Cartooning for Peace / Dessins pour la Paix celebrates freedom of expression and recognizes the work of editorial cartoonists at the world's major newspapers. The exhibit was first mounted at UN headquarters in New York on October 16, 2006, following meetings between **Plantu** and UN Secretary General **Kofi Annan**. That first show featured 12 of the best-known cartoonists in the world.

Since then, editorial cartoonists from around the world have joined the event, using the show and panel discussions to promote peace and tolerance. Noteworthy events have been held at the Palais des Nations (Geneva), the Ministry of Culture and Communication (Paris), the Belgian Center for Comic-Strip Art (Brussels), the Salon du dessin de presse Saint-Just-Le-Martel (France), Antibes (France), Emory University (Atlanta) and Rome (Italy).

The event's success led to the creation of the Swiss-based **Fondation Dessins pour la Paix**. The Association supporting the Foundation works to protect and provide legal support to political cartoonists working in difficult situations.

PLANTU, editorial cartoonist at the French news daily *Le Monde*

<http://www.plantu.net/>

In Montreal from the evening of March 11 to March 16, 2009

Plantu (b. 1951, Paris) satirizes scenes from international political life for the French daily *Le Monde*. In 1971, he quit medical school to study drawing at the École Saint-Luc in Brussels (of Hergé fame). A year later, *Le Monde* published his first cartoon, on the Vietnam war. That drawing marked the beginning of his career at *Le Monde* where he has made the front page since 1985, bringing political cartooning back to the central place in French society it once enjoyed.

In 1991 in Tunis, he met Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who drew the Star of David on one of his cartoons. The drawing won the Prix du document at the Scoop Festival in Angers. A year later, Arafat and Israeli president Shimon Peres jointly signed one of Plantu's sketches, just before signing the Oslo Accord.

In 1998, the French Post Office issued a 3-franc stamp by Plantu to raise funds for the humanitarian organization Médecins sans Frontières. The same year, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, UNESCO published a series of booklets with illustrations by Plantu.

Plantu's cartoons have been translated into Chinese, Japanese, Ukrainian, and many other languages.

MICHEL KICHKA, freelance editorial cartoonist, Jerusalem

In Montreal from the evening of March 11 to March 15, 2009

Michel Kichka (b. 1955, Liège) has been living in Jerusalem since 1974, teaching cartooning at the prestigious Betsalel Academy of Art and Design. He is one of the most talented editorial cartoonists in Israel, published in several newspapers.

A founding member of Cartooning for Peace, until 2005, Kichka broadcast weekly cartoon commentaries on Israel's flagship television station Channel Two, on issues in the Middle East and internationally. He has illustrated some fifty children's books along with doing graphic design for advertising and comic strips.

Kichka is president of the Israel Cartoonists Association (ICA) and sits on the board of the Holon Cartoon and Comics Museum (Tel Aviv). He is the winner of the 2008 Dosh Prize for his "long-standing contribution to the reflection of the Israeli experience with a critical eye, a sure hand and a loving heart."

In November 2005, Michel Kichka organized an international meeting of illustrators at the Mishkenot Shaananim Cultural Centre in Jerusalem. He is a regular exhibitor at international shows organized in conjunction with the World Economic Forums (Davos, New York, Amman). He has had solo exhibitions in Israel and overseas and participated in numerous group exhibitions and international festivals.

Cartooning for Peace / Dessins pour la paix is presented as part of Montreal's 10th Action Week Against Racism in partnership with **Images Interculturelles**, **the Canadian Jewish Congress** and **AWAR's major partners**.

Organized in support of the many daily efforts to educate people and correct the injustices of racism and discrimination, the **Action Week Against Racism** (AWAR) is a time for reflection, the sharing of ideas, awareness and intercultural understanding. Created in March 2000, AWAR is part of the activities and events surrounding the United Nations' International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on March 21.