

LEAP (2011), Adad Hannah

This is the first stop on the Public Art, Science and Technology Tour of Loyola Campus.

On the south side of Sherbrooke Street West is the university's PERFORM Centre, situated near soccer and football fields and an inflatable sports dome. Inside, you'll find an academic training centre, health sciences complex, and research centre, as well as a running track, a clinic with a hydrotherapy pool and more. The centre is also home to Concordia's multi-disciplinary School of Health — a hub that includes researchers, everyday health professionals, and policymakers, all of whom are working to change the future of health research.

Adad Hannah's *Leap*, a site-specific, two-storey photographic glass mural on the centre's façade, is a photographic record of these activities.

Commissioned through the 1% Program for Public Art, Hannah's 14 large-scale figures are seen walking, stretching, squatting, lunging, or diving. The mural is meant to present the human body in motion — a fitting choice, given that the research hub it decorates is dedicated to studying the human body, as well as its wider cultural, social, scientific, and political implications.

Site specificity is a recurring theme in Hannah's public art practice. Often, his research and inspiration lead him to work with communities or groups of people who are linked to specific spaces. For this project, Hannah invited students, researchers, staff, and other community members through an open call to model for the project. Instead of choosing elite athletes, he deliberately made the subject's relationship to the PERFORM Centre the only casting requirement. During casting and photography, Hannah held conversations with the subjects to learn more about their work and the facility's significance within the university context. Thus, the mural became a group portrait of the very community that inhabits the space.

After photographing the subjects, Hannah designed and ordered the photographs and began printing the mural. He used a Dip-Tech process.

That process used a large inkjet printer with heads the size of a microwave to print tiny particles of coloured ceramics onto glass. Remnants of this process are still visible on the mural.

If you look closely at the images, whether inside, outside or on any floor, you will see hundreds of pointillist-like dots shaping each figure. What do you notice about their movements?

It could be said that Hannah used scientific process and technology to understand and represent the human body — not unlike the activities that take place in this building.

Thus, *Leap* is Hannah's way of using his artistic practice and the photographic image to not only draw attention to the movement of the human body, but also to honour the university's commitment to its study.

To continue this tour, click on *Figures en lisière* by Marie-France Brière.