

Martha Townsend

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BERCEUSE, 2009

Recovered wood, maple cradle mounted on plywood, Two discs, each 146 cm diameter x 3 cm depth (60" x 1 »). Collection: Musée des Beaux-arts de Montréal, gift of Pierre Bourgie

*Berceuse* (Lullaby) is composed of the head and foot of a family cradle inlaid into rough wood. It is a piece about time, memory and love.

The work was first shown in 2010 at La Vitrine (Atelier Daigneault/Schofield). It was part of the exhibition *Nocturnes*, curated by Christian Lambert at the Galeries Roger Bellemare et Christian Lambert in 2011. It was purchased in August 2011 by Pierre Bourgie, who gifted it to the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts in 2022.

*Berceuse* 2009 is part of a thematic installation of the Montréal Museum of Fine Arts's permanent collection under the title *Vues de l'intérieur* from June 1 2022 to July 2 2023. The cradle ends and the wood composing *Berceuse* probably date back to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. A contrast exists between the rugged, weathered, exposed wood suggesting a barn building and the refined birds' eye maple cradle with its evocation of a protective interior. I have often been drawn to circular motifs in my art because, like lullabies, they are familiar, comforting and receptive to projected meanings. When viewers stand between the two embracing ends of *Berceuse*, they take the position of the infant, and are invited into the fertile liminal state between sleeping and waking.





Photos: Richard-Max Tremblay

