

ART & ACTIVISM KAT CORIC STYLE World Premiere: Unveiling of a limited-edition print by Mado to benefit community group RÉZO

Montreal, August 9, 2022 25 years ago Kat Coric was a young 28 year old unknown artist with one dream; To combine art with activism. It was 1997 and people were still dying from AIDS. She had met some of the most amazingly loving and talented members of the Montreal gay community. They embraced her as their sister. She felt like she had found her calling, and all those years later, she is still here. On August 5, for her annual birthday party fundraising event, Coric unveiled her latest fundraising initiative for the community group RÉZO. This time, she partnered up with drag icon Mado.

“...I am very honoured to present a project, which will encompass my dreams, by encouraging you to come together once again and be generous for the CAUSE. Supporting community groups is important because they operate with one thing in mind: Helping those in need. This year I have the honour of collaborating with the one and only Mado, who recently celebrated a successful world premiere art exhibition called EXPO MADO. It is thanks to Mado’s generosity that the entire proceeds of the sale of a special limited-edition print will be donated to RÉZO. The edition will be printed in only 30 copies- a tribute to RÉZO’s 30th anniversary. Each edition is hand signed and numbered by Mado. The price is set at 250\$ – a symbolic gesture, as 2022 is the year I celebrate 25 years as an artist and activist....” Stated Coric

About Kat Coric:

Coric was born in Dubrovnik, Croatia and immigrated with her family to Montreal, Quebec in 1974. She is a multidisciplinary artist, creator, producer and art collector. Coric is recognized as one of the few female, heterosexual artists to work within the contemporary gay circuit party subculture as an activist and an ardent supporter of LGBTQIA2S rights. She represents an established and ever-growing faction of society where people of different orientations mingle together professionally and socially- without barriers. A communicator and connector, possessing a take-charge attitude and a reactionary nature, the outspoken Coric refutes all labels except for one: Instigator.

“...Kat Coric came to us at RÉZO several years ago with this message: I have a lot of gay friends, I want to support them (HIV prevention, consumption, mental health, etc.), I want to dedicate my birthday party to the community, and help you raise funds. For years, with all sorts of creative ideas, this support has been ongoing. She is doing it again this year to mark 25 years of activism. We at RÉZO are very excited for this event and we send our most sincere thanks to Kat and especially to Mado for this incredibly generous gesture...” – Said Alexandre Dumont Blais, Director, RÉZO

Coric first gained notoriety in North America while working at the BBCM Foundation / Black & Blue Festival (1997-2002) as Director of Cultural Programming. She produced original artistic events for the foundation, fusing the arts with HIV AIDS awareness. She founded the Black & Blue Festival Annual Art Auction (1998) a first of its kind for a circuit party. Coric pioneered the BBCM Foundation Health Education Campaign – an innovative, comprehensive program aimed at educating partygoers about the dangers of recreational drugs. Coric also published and expanded on a bilingual informative pamphlet on the subject.

As early as 1999 she warned the Montreal community about the dangers of crystal meth, often using irony to get the urgent message across. A series of posters she created featured Tina Turner urging party goers that “She’s the only good Tina” and coined slogans like “Crystal is better at Tiffany’s”. The posters were reproduced between 1999 and 2003 by the Heritage of Pride organisation for Dance on the Pier during New York Gay Pride. In 2005 Coric produced and starred in a short film; *Leatherealla Against the Evil Crystal Queen* with artist and co-creator Jean-Pierre Pérusse (Radical5). The film was created

to be seen in nightclubs and was distributed to clubs and DJ's around the world. In 2006 Coric produced Montreal's first Crystal Meth Community Forum.

Apart from working with the LGBTQIA2S+ community, Coric has also paid particular attention to educating youth, specifically in the field of HIV Prevention. Together with her collaborators she has raised impressive sums of money to support Quebec's children and families touched by HIV and she has led a movement to encourage prevention. Her physical artwork is intrinsically linked with her life work; thereby her creations are educational tools that advertise health promotion. Considered one of North America's leading activist artists, she is often called upon as a respected health advocate and has been the subject of numerous TV and print interviews. The special events produced by Coric use a fresh approach and promote social enrichment through art, while raising needed funds and awareness for humanitarian and socio-cultural causes.

Coric also feeds her own creative side by continuing to paint. An artist since day one, she is self-taught and currently working on special commissions for collectors. She is also the agent for Montréal painter Yunus Chkirate, whom she is credited with discovering in 2010. Recently, Coric is also acting agent for visual artist Dave Lavoie. Both artists will have major solo exhibitions in 2022 that will be produced by Coric.

The special collaboration with Mado and RÉZO for Coric's birthday is just the first of a series of events planned in 2022 to celebrate Kat Coric's 25 years of art and activism.

Kat Coric's social media channels:

[LinkedIn](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

Information about the print:

Artist: Mado Lamotte
Title: *Self Portrait for RÉZO*
Year: 2022
Medium: Pigment ink print on Hahnemuhle Matt Fine Art paper, Photo Rag white, 308g
Printed on Archive Art Paper.
Size: Image: 10 x 10 inches (25.4 x 25.4cm)
Final artwork: 13 x 13 inches (33.02 x 33.02cm)
Edition: 30 signed and numbered prints by Mado
Printer: Atelier Michel Séguin
Price: 250 \$
Purchase: <https://www.rezosante.org/nouvelles/nouvelles/mado-autoportrait-pour-rezo/>
Photos: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/10-SwF35S2rny1AtbW925PAKj3ikx8XF-?usp=sharing>

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