

TRANS-EARTH (1981), Yves Trudeau

This is the fourth stop on the [Public Art, Science and Technology tour](#).

Originally commissioned in 1981 as boardroom doors for Teleglobe Canada's headquarters, Yves Trudeau's *Trans-Earth* was reinstalled and carefully mounted onto the walls of the EV building in the mid-2000s. If you are able to look closely, can you see a seam where the two panels were connected? This shrine-like bas-relief weighs over a tonne and measures a mammoth 265 cm by 320 cm. Its installation was no simple feat.

Best experienced from afar, if you can, we invite you to take a step back and place yourself at the corridor's opposite wall. What do you see or imagine? A mid-century telecommunication satellite? A bronze globe scattered with computer punch cards, straddling the hemispheres?

Founded in 1950 in Montreal, Teleglobe Canada was a Crown corporation. A telecommunications company, it remained active until the mid-1980s when it was sold off by the Mulroney government. At that point, the doors were auctioned off to private collectors before landing at Concordia in the early 2000s. In other words, as the artwork changed hands, it travelled from a public institution to the private realm, where it is accessible to the public once again.

As described by art historian Jacques de Roussan, Trudeau's art practice combines worldly and biblical imagery into large architectural sculptures intended for public space. This is true of Trudeau's other sculptural commissions for projects like Expo 67, the Côte-Vertu metro station and more.

Today, *Trans-Earth* is nestled at the crossroads between the two faculties of Engineering and Fine Arts in the EV building. Although *Trans-Earth* was intended to highlight global technological achievements of the twentieth century, we can ask whether it also celebrates twenty-first century technological leaps and bounds.

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