

Pierre Boogearts - Clip 3

America

I had wanted to leave my native Belgium for a long time.

The arts, the visual arts at the time were, I wouldn't say in effervescence – no, it was an explosion.

There was improvisation, which we had forgotten at the beginning of the century that was coming back in force. There were several artistic currents that seemed to offer me a break in the oppressiveness of the plastic teaching I had received and continued to receive. At any rate, I was at the age when one rebels, when one needs to invent something else, to go beyond the rules and regulations – you must go beyond the rules and regulations once you have learned them; that ultimately is what made me begin looking around. At the time, it was America, American art.

So, I looked at New York. At the time it was the centre of art, and I set off. It had what seemed to correspond to my expectations of art and what I expected from the tools I wanted to work with.

I arrived in Canada in late 1971.

I just stayed. I found the atmosphere, the climate, the country's openness – at first its physical openness – extraordinary. I was used

to small countries with small landscapes, and to arrive here enabled me to breathe and find what I was looking for.

