

Dear DAZIBAO,

I am writing to propose a photo based project for your Café Cherrier façade on Saint-Denis street. When I moved to Montréal in 2002, I recall seeing your satellite spaces. They were confusing and fascinating. As a young art student, I was uncertain about the billboards' intent, unsure if I was looking at advertising or art. Those ambiguities in such a public space kept my attention for a long time — evidently sixteen plus years. In 2004, after completing my degree at Concordia University, my studies took me from Montréal to Vancouver, but I returned to Montréal as frequently as I could afford. In 2006, walking down Duluth street, just past Saint-Denis, I found a photograph on the ground. The black and white image shows three men sitting around a table. The back of the photo reads: “Omay, Djamal, Albert, hiver 1982”. This photograph has been hanging on my wall for many years but I have always wanted to return it to its original context.

Thank you for considering my proposal.

Abbas Akhavan