



Clara Gutsche, *Les Soeurs Adoratrices du Précieux-Sang, Nicolet*, from “*The Convent Series*,” 1995, chromogenic colour print, 40.5 x 50.6 cm, Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.

In *The Convent Series*, Clara Gutsche (b. 1949) offers a rare perspective into the everyday lives of nuns in religious communities in Quebec. This photograph from 1995 depicts the residents of Les Soeurs Adoratrices du Précieux-Sang (Adoring Sisters of the Precious Blood) convent in Nicolet, Quebec. In religious communities such as this one, the nuns’ cells are quiet places of contemplation and prayer, where one can find solitude and be alone with God. The polished floors and cleanliness of the hallway perfectly demonstrate the order and precision that characterize the domesticity of monastic life. In *The Convent Series*, Gutsche reveals how these religious orders function like a family. Indeed, the nuns eat together, pray together, live together

and interact with one another in their daily lives. With *The Convent Series*, she provides a group portrait of a strong community of women who share a religious collective female identity.

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