

BNL MTL

PRESS KIT

Source: La Biennale de Montréal
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THE BIENNALE DE MONTRÉAL AND MUSÉE D'ART CONTEMPORAIN DE MONTRÉAL ARE JOINING FORCES

Montreal, April 16 – The Chairman of the Board of the Biennale de Montréal, Cédric Bisson, and the Chairman of the Board of the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, Alexandre Taillefer, are announcing a unique partnership between the two institutions. Henceforth, all future editions of the BNL MTL will take place at the MACM, with the next edition scheduled for the fall of 2014.

Following exchanges initiated in the spring of 2012, the collaboration will take the form of a co-production agreement that will help to energize our contemporary art scene, providing artists with an innovative public showcase.

"The Biennale de Montréal is determined to increase its Quebec content, to offer greater visibility to our own artists," explains Cédric Bisson, Chairman of the Biennale de Montréal. "We will be presenting an event of international scope based on the creative forces from here at home."

"This first co-production will be part of the museum's 50th anniversary celebrations," adds Alexandre Taillefer, Chairman of the MACM. "We are delighted with this partnership."

This new event will take the place of the Triennale québécoise, which was successfully staged by the MACM in 2008 and 2011. The two organizations will share their expertise, ensuring that Quebec artists receive greater exposure, both nationally and internationally. The 8th Biennale de Montréal will take place in the fall of 2014 under the banner of *L'avenir - (looking forward)*, with a larger team and more exchanges: the two guest curators from the Biennale de Montréal, Peggy Gale and Gregory Burke, will be joined by two curators from the MACM, Lesley Johnstone and Mark Lanctôt.

Based at the MACM, the event's special activities for all audiences will take place throughout Montreal. Also on the program are a springboard for Quebec artists, a major publication, a conference and educational activities.

With this new arrangement, the BNL MTL's future is solidified. The alliance with the MACM gives this major event a new face, while its revised structure ensures a stronger artistic vision and broader scope for research and creation in contemporary art.

The two institutions are now working together to rally and unify the artistic community. This change in direction by the BNL MTL was taken to both stimulate artists and develop new audiences.

La Biennale de Montréal is an international event focusing on the visual arts and media arts. To attain its objectives, it breaks down the barriers between artistic disciplines, bringing together artists from the visual and media arts, architecture, design and film. Founded in 1998 by the CIAC – Centre international d'art contemporain de Montréal, and after 7 editions, the BNL MTL is now an independent organization.

Canada's premier institution dedicated exclusively to contemporary art, the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal plays a major role in promoting Québec, Canadian and international artists. It sees this new association as an opportunity to continue and reaffirm this vision. Founded in 1964, the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal is a provincially owned corporation funded by the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications du Québec.

SOURCE / INFORMATION

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LA BIENNALE DE MONTRÉAL

An essential part of the landscape of contemporary art not only in Montreal but also in Canada, and enjoying an aura on the international scene, La Biennale de Montréal, since its creation by in 1998, contributes with its activities (exhibitions, public artworks, meetings and workshops, performances, films and videos, printed and electronic publications) to promote and support the work of artists from here and abroad. La Biennale de Montreal is also involved in reflection and discourse on contemporary art and on curatorial practices, and in ensuring public awareness of the major issues of contemporary art. Our artistic vision relies on innovation, research and mastery of skills of artists, curators and writers. The niche of contemporary art that defends La Biennale de Montréal includes visual arts and related disciplines (design, architecture, landscape architecture, media art, video art and auteur cinema, performances).

Previous editions of La Biennale de Montréal have shown a curiosity for different subjects addressing multiple audiences: public art, urban art, collaborative art, lectures, films on topics in art (copyright, street art, network art), and have presented exhibitions in various locations including university galleries and museums, abandoned places that were put back into service for the occasion, and public spaces.

BNL MTL is thus part of the cultural vibrancy of Montreal, reinforcing its power of attraction and bringing together today's artists through a unique showcase. The event attracts tens of thousands of visitors with new and never-before-seen works.

HISTORY OF LA BIENNALE DE MONTRÉAL

LA BIENNALE DE MONTRÉAL 1998

August 27 – October 18
Theme : «Dreamcatchers»
Curator : Claude Gosselin

LA BIENNALE DE MONTRÉAL 2000

September 28 – October 29
Theme : «Every Time»
Curator: Peggy Gale

LA BIENNALE DE MONTRÉAL 2002

September 27 – November 3
Theme : «Life is life. Pleasure, Passions, Emotions»
Curator : Claude Gosselin

LA BIENNALE DE MONTRÉAL 2004

September 24 – October 31
Theme : «Agora : the public domain»
Curator : Claude Gosselin

LA BIENNALE DE MONTRÉAL 2007

May 10 – July 5
Theme : «Crack the sky»
Curator : Wayne Baerwaldt

LA BIENNALE DE MONTRÉAL 2009

May 1 – May 31
Theme : «Open Culture»
Curator : Claude Gosselin

LA BIENNALE DE MONTRÉAL 2011

May 1 – May 31
Theme : «Chance»
Curators : Claude Gosselin and David Liss

These first editions of La Biennale de Montreal gathered nearly 400 artists.

BIOGRAPHY | CÉDRIC BISSON CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, BIENNALE DE MONTRÉAL

Cédric Bisson
Venture Partner, Teralys Capital

CÉDRIC BISSON is Chairman of the board of the Biennale de Montréal (www.biennaledemontreal.org). He is passionate about contemporary art with a special focus on visual arts.

In his professional life, Mr. Bisson is Venture Partner at Teralys Capital where he leads the activities in the healthcare and life sciences sectors. Teralys Capital (www.teralyscapital.com) is Québec's and Canada's largest technology-focused fund of funds financing private venture capital funds that invest in information technology, life sciences and cleantech companies. Until he joined Teralys, Mr. Bisson was managing partner for healthcare at iNovia Capital in Montréal, a private venture capital firm. Prior to joining iNovia, Mr. Bisson was an associate principal at McKinsey & Company, a global management consulting firm, where he was a leader in the healthcare and innovation practices in Montréal, New York City and Paris.

Mr. Bisson is also involved in his community as chairman of the board of Procure (a non-profit charity against prostate cancer). He obtained a M.D. degree from McGill University and a J.D. (law) degree from Université de Montréal.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**BIOGRAPHY | PEGGY GALE
CO-CURATOR OF LA BIENNALE DE MONTRÉAL**

Peggy Gale is an independent curator and critic whose texts on contemporary art, especially artists' video, have become artistic benchmarks. She studied art history at the University of Toronto and the Università degli Studi in Florence, and has published extensively, with essays in *Video By Artists* (1976, 1986), *Mirror Machine: Video and Identity* (1995), *Lectures obliques* (1999), and many museum catalogues. Her *Videotexts*, essays on narrative issues in artists' video, was published in 1995 by Wilfrid Laurier University Press and The Power Plant. Among other titles, she was editor of *Museums by Artists* (with AA Bronson, 1983), *Video re/View: The (best) Source for Critical Writings on Canadian Artists' Video* (with Lisa Steele, 1996), and *Artists Talk 1969-1977*, from The Press of the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, Halifax (2004). She was lead researcher and principal writer for *Video Art in Canada*, a bilingual website launched in February 2006 and expanded the following year as part of the Virtual Museum of Canada, now housed at Vtape.

An independent curator since the mid-1970s, Gale has organized many exhibitions including the inaugural Biennale of the Moving Image (Madrid, 1990), *Tout le temps/Every Time* (La Biennale de Montréal, 2000) and *Analogue: Pioneering Video from the UK, Canada and Poland 1968-88* (co-curator, touring 2006-08). With co-curator Doina Popescu, *Archival Dialogues: Reading the Black Star Collection* inaugurated the Ryerson Image Centre (Toronto) in September 2012.

A long-time member of the International Association of Art Critics and The Writers' Union of Canada, she was honoured in 2000 with the Toronto Arts Award for Visual Art, followed by the Governor General's Award in Visual and Media Arts, 2006.

**BIOGRAPHY | GREGORY BURKE
CO-CURATOR OF LA BIENNALE DE MONTRÉAL**

Gregory Burke a seasoned and internationally respected curator, writer and museum consultant based in Toronto and New York and is the CEO/Director Designate of the Mendel/Remai Art Gallery of Saskatchewan. He was Director of The Power Plant in Toronto from 2005 - 2011 and Director of the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery in New Zealand 1998 - 2005. In the last 27 years he has curated over 90 exhibitions and published over 100 texts.

Gregory Burke has curated major projects with artists such as Rosemarie Trockel, Christopher Williams, Sam Durant, Pae White, Marcel Odenbach, Lee Bul, Fiona Banner, Rafael Lozano-Hemmer, Simon Starling, Francesco Vezzoli, Scott Lyall, Candice Breitz, Ian Wallace, Michael Snow, Lawrence Weiner, Andrea Bowers, Goldin + Senneby, Inigo Mangano-Ovalle, Thomas Hirschhorn, Derek Sullivan, Peter Campus and Sharon Lockhart among others, as well as the group exhibitions *Feature: Art, Life and Cinema 2001*, *Extended Play: Art Remixing Music 2003*, *Bloom: Mutation, Toxicity and the Sublime 2004*, *Auto Emotion 2007* and *Universal Code: Art and Cosmology in the Information Age 2009*, which won Ontario Art Galleries "exhibition of the year" for 2009. He is curating the exhibition *Len Lye - Motion Sketch* for The Drawing Centre, New York in 2014.

Mr Burke has worked with artists across the world, including organizing major exhibitions of Asian art, such as *Mediarena: Contemporary Art from Japan 2004* and *Transindonesia, 2005*. He was the Curator for New Zealand's inaugural pavilion at the Venice Biennale in 2001 and was Commissioner for New Zealand's pavilion at the Venice Biennale in 2005. He has written for *Art + Text*, *Art Asia Pacific*, *Artforum* and recently published an essay in *Art & Australia* titled "Pre-Dictions Art and the Future".

THE PARTNERS OF LA BIENNALE DE MONTRÉAL



LA BIENNALE DE MONTRÉAL IS PRESENTED IN COLLABORATION WITH THE MUSÉE D'ART CONTEMPORAIN DE MONTRÉAL



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