



Photo: Jean Malek

Media Release – For Immediate Release

La Biennale de Montréal 2016: title, curatorial approach and advisory team

Montréal, 5 January 2016—La Biennale de Montréal is pleased to announce the title of BNLMTL 2016, *Le Grand Balcon* [*The Grand Balcony*], and to introduce the three members of curator Philippe Pirotte's advisory team, Corey McCorkle, Aseman Sabet and Kitty Scott.

Corey McCorkle is an artist living and working in New York.

Aseman Sabet is an independent curator, arts writer and doctoral candidate in Art History at the Université de Montréal.

Kitty Scott is the Carol and Morton Rapp Curator, Modern and Contemporary Art at the Art Gallery of Ontario in Toronto, Canada, and co-curator of the 2018 Liverpool Biennial.

Le Grand Balcon [*The Grand Balcony*] will be on view from 19 October 2016 to 15 January 2017.

BNLMTL 2016 is presented by La Biennale de Montréal and co-produced with the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal.

Curatorial approach

Le Grand Balcon is drawn from Jean Genet's play *Le Balcon [The Balcony]*, where the political conflict between revolution and counter-revolution echoes the philosophical opposition of reality and illusion.

BNLMTL 2016 reflects the French dramatist's concern with meta-theatricality and role-playing. *Le Grand Balcon* also relies on the liberating potential of artistic experiences—their insistent resistance to the status quo. As such, *Le Grand Balcon* opens up a mental space where we can revisit some of our assumptions about the contemporary world. The exhibition invites us to re-consider how fiction, art and aesthetics, with their unique ability to resist the violence of quantification and categorisation, might be called on, anew, to play a decisive role in everyday life and political decisions.

Le Grand Balcon configures an unruly and recalcitrant space that calls for a materialist and sensualist approach. Amongst other things, it invites us to rethink both the (im)possibility and the urgency of hedonism. What is the status of the pursuit of sensual pleasures today? Can we reframe hedonistic thought as a tragic philosophy, far from the easy pleasures of consumption? Can we develop a hedonistic politics, that is, an ethical hedonism, a joyous utilitarianism and an aesthetics of sensual materialism that mobilise the brain's and the body's capacities to their fullest?

Le Grand Balcon will feature new and/or recent works by about 50 local, national and international artists at the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, La Biennale de Montréal's main venue, and across a number of downtown spaces. This multisite exhibition operates in parallel to a dynamic programme of talks, performances, screenings and publications.

About La Biennale de Montréal

The mission of La Biennale de Montréal is to foster, support, interpret and disseminate the most current visual arts practices by producing the international biennial event BNLMTL. All of the initiatives of La Biennale de Montréal are premised on risk and experimentation. Its goal is to support daring, thought-provoking art practices and curatorial projects while offering the public a diversity of experiences.

About the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal

Located in the heart of the Quartier des Spectacles, the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal makes today's art a vital part of Montréal and Québec life. For more than fifty years, this vibrant museum has brought together local and international artists, their works and an ever growing public. It is a place of discovery, offering visitors experiences that are continually changing and new, and often unexpected and stirring. The Musée presents temporary exhibitions devoted to outstanding and relevant current artists who provide their own, particular insight into our society, as well as exhibitions of works drawn from the museum's extensive Permanent Collection.

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Warm thanks to our international partners for their support of the research and development for BNLMTL 2016.



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Extended bios of the curatorial advisors are available at:

<http://www.bnlmtl.org/en/organisation/team/>

A portrait of Philippe Pirotte and the curatorial advisors is available for download at:

<http://www.bnlmtl.org/en/press/images/>

Photo credit: Jean Malek

For further information or to arrange interviews, members of the media may contact our

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