

Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal
MAX AND IRIS STERN INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM 12
LEONARD COHEN: A CRACK IN EVERYTHING
SIR GEORGE WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY ALUMNI AUDITORIUM (H-110)
CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY
April 6-7, 2018

PARTICIPANTS

Victoria Broackes is Senior Curator in the Department of Theatre and Performance at the Victoria and Albert Museum, the national museum of art, design and performance in London. She is also Head of Festival for the London Design Festival at the V&A and was V&A Curator of *The Pink Floyd Exhibition: Their Mortal Remains* (2017) and co-curator of *You Say You Want a Revolution? Records and Rebels, 1966-70* (2016) and *David Bowie Is* (2013), the fastest selling exhibition in the V&A's history. The mother of four daughters, Broackes is a trustee of Handel and Hendrix, London, and of Kids in Museums, alumni member of the Court of the Royal College of Art and was recently elected to the Court of the Goldsmiths' Company, where she sits on the Modern Collection Committee.

26th Governor General of Canada (1999-2005) and Co-chair of the Institute for Canadian Citizenship, the Right Honourable **Adrienne Clarkson** arrived in Canada from Hong Kong as a refugee in 1942 and made the astonishing journey from a penniless child refugee to accomplished broadcaster, journalist and distinguished public servant in a multi-faceted lifetime. During Madame Clarkson's mandate as Governor General, her energy, enthusiasm and passion left an indelible mark on Canada's history. In 2005 Madame Clarkson co-founded the Institute for Canadian Citizenship to help new citizens in Canada integrate into Canadian life. The ICC hosts the annual 6 Degrees Citizen Space, the global forum on citizenship, immigration, inclusion and diversity in the 21st century. A Privy Councillor and Companion of the Order of Canada, Madame Clarkson lives in Toronto. She first read Leonard Cohen's *Let Us Compare Mythologies* when she was 19 and met the author for the first time while she was still at university.

Robert B. Kory is the president of RK Management, LLC, which provides personal management services in the entertainment industry with an emphasis on the music business. He is also a lawyer, a managing partner of Kory & Rice, LLP, and has over 30 years of experience in corporate transactions involving the financing of ventures in technology and entertainment. He began representing Leonard Cohen as his lawyer in late 2004 and became his manager in early 2008, organizing Cohen's legendary World Tour from 2008 to 2013. Kory became the sole Trustee of the Leonard Cohen Family Trust after Cohen's death.

A Senior Lecturer at the Université de Strasbourg, where he teaches North American literature and rock cultures, **Christophe Lebold** wrote his doctoral thesis on the masks and voices of Leonard Cohen and Bob Dylan. He has published extensively on various rock and counterculture figures, including Leonard Cohen viewed as a spiritual poet, artist of gravity and media star. Lebold has travelled widely in the footsteps of the Canadian poet, whom he had the good fortune of meeting on several occasions. His conceptual, poetic biography *Leonard Cohen, L'Homme qui voyait tomber les anges* (2018) was hailed by both academic critics and the French press (*Nouvel Observateur*,

Canard Enchaîné, *Marianne*, *France Culture*, *Poly*, *DNA*). Also an actor and stage director, Lebold has followed the path of Zen Buddhism for many years. He loves poetry, cats and all sentient beings, even tiny ones.

Dominic Molon is the Richard Brown Baker Curator of Contemporary Art at the RISD Museum (Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design). He previously served as Chief Curator at the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (2010-2013) and Curator at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago (1994-2010). Molon has organized exhibitions of such prominent living artists as Martin Boyce (2015), Sharon Lockhart (2001), Susan Philipsz (2011), Wolfgang Tillmans (2006) and Gillian Wearing (2002). He has also curated numerous thematic exhibitions, including *Sympathy for the Devil: Art and Rock and Roll since 1967*, which travelled to the Musée d'art contemporain in 2008. Forthcoming projects include a major exhibition of the RISD Museum's contemporary collection titled *The Phantom of Liberty*, opening in May, and *Raid the Icebox Now*, opening in 2019, comprising projects with Nicole Eisenman, Simone Leigh and Adam Pendleton, and honouring the 50th anniversary of the first artist-curated exhibition of a museum's collection by Andy Warhol, at the RISD Museum in 1969.

Francis Mus is a Lecturer at the Université de Liège, Belgium, and a Research Assistant at the University of Leuven, Belgium. His areas of research are comparative literature, translation and writing in multilingual spaces. His doctoral thesis focused on the internationalization of the Belgian avant-gardes. A further area of interest is the work of Milan Kundera and Leonard Cohen. Mus has contributed a number of articles on those subjects to journals such as *TTR*, *Orbis Litterarum*, *Les Lettres Romanes*, *JoSTrans* and *Textyles*. In 2015, he published the monograph *De demonen van Leonard Cohen (The Demons of Leonard Cohen)*, for which he won the Literary Prize of the Province of East-Flanders. Recently, he has been studying the literary work of some musicians who have a literary output alongside their musical practice.

Ira Nadel, Professor of English at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, is the author of *Various Positions*, *A Life of Leonard Cohen* and has lectured on Cohen in Israel, Australia, Germany, the U.S. and Canada. He spent time with Cohen not only at the car wash but also in the recording studio. Besides his biographies of Tom Stoppard, David Mamet, Leon Uris and Virginia Woolf, Nadel is currently completing a critical life of Philip Roth. He has also published *Joyce and the Jews* (1989) and *Modernism's Second Act: A Cultural Narrative* (2012).

Associate Professor and Lecturer at the Université de Sherbrooke, **Alexandra Pleshoyano** is a leading specialist in the work and thought of Leonard Cohen. She disseminates her research on Cohen regularly through her publications, lectures and teaching. Her book *The "Other Presence" in Leonard Cohen's Life* is due to be released in 2018. Since January 2017 Pleshoyano has been working in the archives of the Leonard Cohen Family Trust and has been closely involved in editing all of the late poet's writings selected for the posthumous publication *Leonard Cohen: The Flame. Poems and Notebooks*, to be released in fall 2018.

Chantal Ringuet is an award-winning Canadian writer, scholar and translator. She is the author of collections of poems (one of which won the 2009 Jacques-Poirier literary award) and works on Yiddish Montreal. With Gérard Rabinovitch, she published *Les révolutions de Leonard Cohen* (2016), which received a 2017 Canadian Jewish Literary Award. With Pierre Anctil, she published a translation of the early biography of Marc

Chagall (*Mon univers. Autobiographie*, 2017). She has been a Fellow of the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in New York, Scholar-in-Residence at the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute (Brandeis University) and Writer-in-Residence and literary translator in residence at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity. She taught the course “Leonard Cohen: In Words and Music” at McGill University (Fall 2017).

Victor Shiffman is a Guest Curator at the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal. Since 1988 he has worked in the arts as a producer, presenter and programmer across a variety of sectors, including music, multimedia, film/video and performance. He has had the privilege of working with such artists as Radiohead, Bjork, The Beastie Boys, Boy George, Tears for Fears, Michel Gondry, Fela Kuti, Denis Villeneuve, George Clinton, Massive Attack, Tito Puente and George Benson. Born in Cape Town, South Africa, Shiffman attended Rhodes University before moving to New York in 1988, where he served as a music publicist at The Ritz. He moved to Montréal in 1992, working as a programmer for the concert promoters DKD, Fogel/Sabourin and the Festival international de jazz de Montréal. He also has worked as a Creative Producer for Cirque du Soleil Creations. Shiffman was a founding Vice-President at the Phi Centre in Montréal and was responsible for its music program.

John Zeppetelli is Director and Chief Curator of the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, where he oversees a wide-ranging program of exhibitions, public programs and acquisitions, as well as spearheading a building transformation project. Among the exciting artists whose work has been exhibited at the MACM since his arrival are Sophie Calle, Simon Starling, David Altmejd, Jon Rafman, Dana Schutz, Ragnar Kjartansson, Teresa Margolles, Olafur Eliasson and Lizzie Fitch/Ryan Trecartin. Before joining the Musée, he was curator at DHC/ART Foundation in Montréal, where he organized many important solo exhibitions as well as the award-winning group show *Chronicles of a Disappearance*, exploring loss and mortality. Zeppetelli worked at the ICA in London and at a commercial gallery in New York while attending the Whitney Museum's Independent Study Program. He has lectured at Concordia University and the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design.