

Press release
For immediate distribution

**The Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal will suspend its activities on June 28.
New fall programming at Place Ville Marie**

Montréal, June 2nd, 2021 – While the pace of the renovation project is accelerating, the Musée d'art contemporain (MAC) is announcing a break in its activities as of June 28, 2021, as the preparation of the expansion of its building on Place des Arts is no longer compatible with visitors being on the premises. The MAC team will relocate to Place Ville Marie (PVM) and will be open to the public as of the end of November 2021.

Less than a month left to visit the current exhibitions and installations one last time!

Visitors have less than a month to get a feel for the MAC as they have known it since 1992, before the museum begins its transformation, which will last until 2025.

Until June 27th, the public will be able to enjoy the exhibition ***Des horizons d'attente***, which brings together twenty-one artists whose works, recently acquired by the Museum and exhibited for the first time, reflect the political, social and environmental concerns of our time.

The Stars Down to Earth, by Quebec artist **Margaret Haines**, will also be shown in the BWR room. Constructed like a thriller, this film is a journey of exploration with an unknown destination, guided by the stars, the gods and the prophets.

Three magnificent video works selected from the MAC's collection by John Zeppetelli, Director and Chief Curator, are also available to visitors.

Director and artist ***Isaac Julien's True North*** is a cinematic retelling of the story of the first black man to reach the North Pole, Matthew Henson (1866-1955) and his perilous journey. ***Simon Starling's*** video installation, ***Autoxylopyrocycloboros***, recounts a four-hour journey made in October 2006 aboard a wooden steamboat fueled by pieces of wood cut one by one from its hull. This work is based on the history of Loch Long, the longest inlet of the Clyde estuary, where the steamboat was born. Finally, ***Der Lauf der Dinge*** - loosely translated to mean ***The Course of Things*** - by the Swiss collective ***Fischli & Weiss***, is an exploration of the kinetic and playful power of everyday objects.

Return of the "Summer digital programming"

Much like last year, the MAC will be offering digital programming around its Collection during the summer months, allowing the public to access contemporary art from home. More information to come.

Art and Language

Organized by the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal in collaboration, the *Art et Language* educational program is part of the artistic and cultural practices of *Une école montréalaise pour tous* (a program of the Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur). *Art and Language* offers visitors the opportunity to discover the digital works of some one hundred elementary school students from the island of Montreal who have explored the theme of language in contemporary art. Reservations through the museum's educational service.

At Place Ville Marie in November

Visitors will be able to enjoy exhibitions at Place Ville Marie starting in November, and until the end of the Museum's transformation, in 2025. Fun fact: Place Ville Marie was the very first place where the MAC presented its first exhibition in March 1965, a retrospective devoted to the French artist Georges Rouault.

The MAC space at Place Ville Marie will be located on the corner of Mansfield and Cathcart. It will have a footprint of 11,000 square feet and will include an exhibit space, a projection room and a creative workshop for Educational programs with a separate entrance. The MAC's administrative offices will be housed at a different location during the renovations.

Featuring two exhibitions a year in the main space along with video programming in the screening room, this groundbreaking venue will present its inaugural exhibition ***Forensic Architecture, Terror Contagion***. This ambitious and daring project with filmmaker Laura Poitras focuses on the use of cyberweapons against civil society activists around the world. Through interviews and extensive open-source research, this exhibition charts a new battlefield -- the digital one -- in which some states are waging war against their people. In the spring of 2022, the MAC will be dedicated to an exhibition by artist Mika Rottenberg, an Argentine-Israeli video artist who lives and works in New York.

Educational and cultural mediation activities will also be offered in this new space, as well as outside in the community. Dynamic and enriched digital programming will also be offered. More details will follow in the fall.

A downtown presence orchestrated with the collaboration of Ivanhoe Cambridge

Ever-conscious of its mission to promote Contemporary Art and looking to play an active role in the revitalization of the downtown area, The MAC wholeheartedly supports Ivanhoe-Cambridge's efforts make the MAC's collection and programming available to communities in and around Place Ville Marie.

Conversely, eight sculptures from the MAC collection are to be displayed on the renovated PVM Esplanade. Six of these eight works, emblematic of the MAC's arrival on the site in the fall, are already fully installed and accessible to the public. The remaining two will be over the summer.

Quotes

"To our great regret, the magnitude of the transformation project for the MAC, at the heart of Place des Arts, is entering a phase that is, incompatible with welcoming visitors. The closure of the museum for a few months will allow the teams to dismantle the exhibitions, carry out the complete move of the museum in preparation for the renovations and prepare our redeployment to Place Ville-Marie: this is a gigantic and extremely complex project, which requires rigorous planning, but which also marks the beginning of a particularly exciting new chapter in the history of the museum, namely the beginning of the expansion project."

- *John Zeppetelli, Director and Chief Curator of the MAC*

"We are pleased to be able to welcome the MAC on our campus during the Museum's renovations. This partnership is part of our desire to participate in the revitalization of the downtown area and to offer the PVM communities, a professional setting and a physical environment rich with diverse experiences including cultural ones and access to the works of contemporary artists from Quebec, Canada and elsewhere. "

- *Annik Desmarteau, Vice President, Offices, Quebec at Ivanhoé Cambridge*

About the MAC transformation project

The renovation and expansion of the MAC's building, a large-scale project under the direction of the firm Saucier + Perrotte, is part of the Museum's desire to play an ever more active role in the appreciation, knowledge and dissemination of contemporary Quebec, Canadian and international art. It will allow the museum to better welcome its various audiences by offering, among other things, a wider range of educational activities in dedicated spaces, and to highlight its contemporary art collection and exhibitions. With this transformation, both institutional and architectural, the MAC intends to reaffirm its leadership role, emphasize the importance of contemporary art in the affirmation and development of our culture, and promote its value within our society.

Acknowledgements

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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 also a place of discovery, offering visitors experiences that are continually changing and new, and often unexpected and stirring. The MAC 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 collection. These may feature any and every form of expression: digital and sound works, installations, paintings, sculptures, ephemeral pieces, and more. In addition to its wide range of educational activities familiarizing the general public with contemporary art, the MAC organizes unique artistic performances and festive events. It is a window onto a myriad of avant-garde expressions that extend the reach of art throughout the city and beyond.

www.macm.org

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