

THE ART /8 OF JOY

**PRESS
RELEASES**

**MANIF
D'ART**
THE QUÉBEC
CITY BIENNIAL

February 17 -
may 14 2017

In collaboration
with

— B —
M — A —
N — Q —

Musée national
des beaux-arts
du Québec
Québec

Main site
**Musée national
des beaux-arts
du Québec**

International
curator
Alexia Fabre



THE ART OF JOY

/8

MANIF D'ART

THE QUÉBEC
CITY BIENNIAL

“The Art of Joy” A word from the Curator

“The Art of Joy,” which expresses a hope, a desire, is the banner under which art will be created and displayed throughout Quebec City during Manif d’art 8. The event will bring together artists, artworks and the general public in a variety of settings, including artist-run centres, the Pavillon Pierre-Lassonde of the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec, and numerous public spaces. Connected to their surroundings, the works invite us to look, smile, question and doubt.

Once again this year, we are inviting artists to share their views, thoughts and feelings about the state of the world. United by a belief and trust in the power and necessity of art, in its powers of resistance that underlie the human condition and bind our communities, these artists are propelling us into the future. A future which, despite the current upheavals, we hope will be radiant.

Over forty Quebec, Canadian and international artists answered our call, proposing new and surprising forms and associations in the visual arts: painting, sculpture, installation, film and much more. Each in their own way—whether light of touch, lucid, disquieting, vindictive, off-beat or poetic—they interpret the concept of joy.

These visual encounters are meant to reverberate inside each one of us, embodying a kind of “universal intimacy.” Each of the works reflects the research, formal resolutions and personal worlds of each artist, drawing us in through their unique language. They all seek to reach us, affect us, recognize us. Art is the only universal language, the only language able to unite us, despite our differences.

“The Art of Joy” is not necessarily joyful. Joy is a battle, a shield against violence, which each individual must strive to cultivate and cherish.

Alexia Fabre

Curator of Manif d’art 8 – The Quebec City Biennial

Artistic Committee

Alexia Fabre, international curator et Chief Curator of MAC VAL (musée d’art contemporain du Val de Marne)

Claude Bélanger, Executive and Artistic Director of Manif d’art

Bernard Lamarche, current Curator of Contemporary Art at Musée des beaux-arts du Québec (MNBAQ)

Anne-Sophie Blanchet, Assistant Curator

February 17 -
may 14 2017

In collaboration
with

M
B
A
N
Q

Musée national
des beaux-arts
du Québec
Québec

Main site
Musée national
des beaux-arts
du Québec

International
curator
Alexia Fabre

manifdart.org



THE ART OF JOY /8

**MANIF
D'ART**
THE QUÉBEC
CITY BIENNIAL

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

Manif d'art 8: a veritable Ode to Joy! February 17 to May 14, 2017

Quebec City, October 25, 2016—The program of **Manif d'art 8 – Quebec City Biennial**, created in collaboration with the **Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec (MNBAQ)**, was announced today in a press conference by international curator **Alexia Fabre**. From **February 17 to May 14, 2017**, the public will be able to discover the exhibitions and take part in numerous activities based on the theme of ***The Art of Joy***. With the accent on newness, the Quebec City Biennial will bring together over **100 artists** at several focal points and hot spots throughout the city.

To ensure that nothing is missed, five walking itineraries will be mapped out. A wide range of activities will also be offered: special events, workshops, meetings and guided tours. And children won't be left out either, thanks to a program called **La P'tite Manif**, featuring activities and exhibitions designed for children and young families.

Joy at the heart of the Biennial

"Today more than ever, joy is a battle, a shield to protect ourselves from overwhelming events," explains Alexia Fabre. "Here in Quebec City, for three months, the works will affirm this notion of joy. Jubilant, troubling, radiant, amusing, caustic and poetic—all will embody this force, since the essence of art is joy."

The curator of this 8th edition has brought together artists from Quebec, Canada and abroad who will reflect upon the meaning of this theme, ***The Art of Joy***. A vast circuit of interrelated exhibitions will take place throughout the city. Altogether, **45 artists from 7 countries will be exhibiting their works at 30 sites**, each artist selected by the curator in collaboration with the artistic committee composed of **Claude Bélanger**, Executive and Artistic Director of Manif d'art, **Bernard Lamarche**, Curator of Contemporary Art at MNBAQ, and Assistant Curator **Anne-Sophie Blanchet**.

**February 17 -
may 14 2017**

**In collaboration
with**



**Main site
Musée national
des beaux-arts
du Québec**

**International
curator
Alexia Fabre**

manifdart.org

The central exhibition inside an architectural jewel

For the first time in the history of the Biennial, the central exhibition will unfold in an institutional setting. In keeping with its innovative spirit, Manif d'art 8 will occupy the four temporary exhibition galleries of the **Pavillon Pierre Lassonde of the MNBAQ**, an architectural jewel of international calibre, making for a spectacular Biennial! This exhibition will feature **over 15 artists**, including **BGL, Annette Messenger, Carlos Amoraes** and **Christian Boltanski**.

Co-presenters as loyal as ever

In addition to the central exhibition at MNBAQ, **13 co-presenters** will exhibit works chosen by the artistic committee: Avatar, La Bande Vidéo, La Chambre Blanche, Engramme, the Galerie des arts visuels, the Grand Théâtre de Québec, Le Lieu, Matéria, the Maison Hamel-Bruneau, L'Œil de Poisson, Théâtre Périscope, Regart and VU. The public will thus be able to discover the work of such artists as **Dan Brault, Parastou Forouhar** and **Sarah Anne Johnson**.

An expanded public art program

The **only winter biennial in North America**, Manif d'art 8 is proud to present **more than 10 works of public art**—double the number of the previous edition. These projects will be undertaken by artists who are familiar with Quebec winters, as well as those experiencing it for the first time. **Jocelyn Robert, Jean-Charles Massera, Élodie Pong, Yeondoo Jung**, among many others, will be storming the streets of Quebec City! The majority of these works will be created specially for the occasion.

A vast program involving special collaborators and satellite organizations

Once again, Manif d'art has been able to count on the special collaboration of Quebec cultural organizations, as well as three non-profit business and economic development organizations from Quebec City, in organizing these exhibitions and activities based on the theme of joy.

Although many announcements were made in this press conference, not everything was revealed. Keep an eye on our press releases and sign up for our newsletter for all the news as it happens—and to discover the Manif d'art 8 website. **The detailed program of the event will be released in December.**

– 30 –



THE ART OF JOY /8

**MANIF
D'ART**
THE QUÉBEC
CITY BIENNIAL

For Immediate Release

Manif d'art 8: Public Art Section

February 16 to May 14, 2017
throughout Quebec City

Quebec City, October 25, 2016 — Manif d'art 8 – The Quebec City Biennial, presented in collaboration with the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec (MNBAQ), is pleased to include a large section devoted to public art from February 16 to May 14.

These works will be on display throughout the Quebec City region for the duration of the Biennial. Artists from both here and abroad will invite the public to keep their eyes peeled as these artworks invade various public spaces. Posters, buses, screens, windows—everything is fair game for Manif d'art 8, which will showcase art just about everywhere in the city. These installations are all in keeping with the theme of *The Art of Joy*, a series of inter-related exhibitions curated by Alexia Fabre.

Artists

Ælab (Montreal, Canada)

Intersidéral, 2016-2017 – Composed of images of the cosmos, this light installation transforms starry skies into light-infused choreographies, generating new constellations in the process.

Ælab and Guillaume Arseneault (Montreal, Canada)

Irradier. Irradiate, 2016-2017 – This projection with a sound component is a critical and poetic depiction of the wireless communication signals in the urban environment.

Lisa Birke (Germany / Kitchener, Canada)

Calendar Girls, December 2014 – A video of the artist posing alone in diverse natural settings. A humorous exploration of the societal expectations of women as aesthetic symbols and performing spectacles, the work plays on our obsession with self-documentation.

Site: Vitrine / Galerie de Manif d'art, 600 Côte d'Abraham – Viewable at all times, February 17 to May 14.

**February 17 -
may 14 2017**

**In collaboration
with**

M **B**
N **A**
Q
Musée national
des beaux-arts
du Québec
Québec

Main site
**Musée national
des beaux-arts
du Québec**

International
curator
Alexia Fabre

manifdart.org

Dan Brault (Quebec City, Canada)

Traits d'observation, 2016-2017 – Brault's unique work questions the place of art within the urban fabric, as well as the boundaries between private and public. This monumental work offers a moment of escape, a time for reflection and contemplation.

Site: Grand Théâtre de Québec, 269 Boulevard René-Lévesque E.

Jean Dubois (Montreal, Canada)

Tourmente, 2015 – The interactive installation *Tourmente* allows passers-by to transform a series of portraits projected on a giant screen by blowing into a microphone on their cell phones. Playful and socially engaged, the work questions the various postures one adopts when faced with the distress of others.

Miki Gingras et Patrick Dionne (Montreal, Canada)

Ravisement, 2016-2017 – The duo here present animated photomontages in which members of the public were invited to express “a state of joy and rapture” through simple gestures. The project attempts to underscore the rich diversity of possible expressions of joy.

The work will be presented on rue Saint-Jean at times to be announced.

Yeondoo Jung (Seoul, Korea)

La Chasse Galerie, 2016 – Based on accounts from randomly interviewed participants, artist-photographer Yeondoo Jung created contemporary versions of the legend of the Chasse-Galerie, or “flying canoe,” during his summer 2016 residency. He is thus suggesting that the imagination has the power to upset our preconceived notions, allowing us to take a fresh look at our history and world.

These photographic interventions will take place in the buses (line 800) of the Réseau de transport de la Capitale (RTC) and two bus shelters along the way. Keep your eyes open—the work is in movement.

Presented from February 18 to March 19, in collaboration with VU.

Ange Leccia (Corsica, France)

La Mer, 2016 – Ange Leccia revisits one of his most celebrated video works: *La Mer*. Playing on the sinuous and graphic aspects of waves, the artist transforms the landscape into an abstract and volatile composition evoking the elusive nature of existence, inviting us to see the world in a new way.

Jean-Charles Massera (Paris, France)

Posters, 2016-2017 – Jean-Charles Massera was invited to launch a poster campaign throughout the Old Capital. Critical and socially committed, this project calls into question the flux of images and slogans that weave their way through the urban fabric, conditioning our daily lives.

Watch for the city-wide poster campaign beginning on February 17.

Elodie Pong (United States / Zurich, Switzerland)

Endless Ends, 2009 – Although the video *Endless Ends* may at first appear tinged with nostalgia and melancholy, it may also be seen as a mantra calling for renewal. The end—that of a film or an era, a voyage or love affair—is not necessarily absolute, but perhaps an opening to a new beginning.

Jocelyn Robert (Quebec City, Canada)

L'il y a, 2016-2017 – The video *L'il y a* is a self-portrait by artist Jocelyn Robert, in which other faces from various digital image banks slowly accumulate. In the context of the countless representations inundating our real and virtual worlds, the work questions the ways in which identity is constructed and transformed.

Site: Blind façade of the Séminaire de Québec at 1 rue des Remparts – Visible in the evening from February 16 to March 3, in collaboration with Avatar.

Société Réaliste (Paris, France)

U.N. Camouflage, 2012 – With the installation *U.N. Camouflage*, the French duo Société Réaliste is imagining a world without political or cultural borders. Amalgamating the flags of the 193 U.N. Member States, the work creates new emblems for a multi-coloured world community, united by diversity.

Mathieu Valade (Chicoutimi, Canada)

Mythe et évidence, 2016 – This sculpture takes the form of an immense screen of frosted glass. A light emanates from the interior, delineating the silhouette of a mythical creature, discernable but unrecognizable. The work's content is thus revealed only through the imagination of the viewer.

Site: Parc de la Maison Henry-Stuart, 82 Grande Allée Ouest.

Manif d'art 8, in brief

*Among Canada's foremost contemporary art biennials, **Manif d'art 8 – Quebec City Biennial** will present, from February 17 to May 14, 2017, the work of over 100 artists from all disciplines. In addition to its exhibitions, the event will offer a constellation of activities based on the theme of The Art of Joy, as defined by curator Alexia Fabre. A total of 35 cultural organizations have helped to make this international festival an unmissable event for novices and specialists alike.*

www.manifdart.org

Manif d'art 8 and the artists taking part in the public art section would like to thank all the partners and funding bodies that have made it possible to present this public art project during the winter in Quebec City.

– 30 –

Media Relations, Quebec region – Brouillard,
418-682-6111, equipe@brouillardcomm.com

Media Relations, outside Quebec:
Émilie Poracchia, Director of Communications and
Marketing, Manif d'art, 418-524-1917,
communications@manifdart.org