



PRESS RELEASE
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IN SEARCH OF EXPO 67: A NEW AND ORIGINAL LOOK AT THE GREAT EXPO 67

Montreal, June 20, 2017 – From June 21 – October 1, 2017, the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal (MAC) is proudly presenting the exhibition *In Search of Expo 67*, a contemporary artistic exploration of a great moment in our history. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Montreal World's Fair and *In Search of Expo 67* brings a brand-new and original perspective to the big issues it addressed. The exhibition consists of 19 works by contemporary Quebec and Canadian artists, including 16 new works. Architecture, sound art, visual art, film and music are the poles around which this creative endeavour turns. Driven by committed artistic and archival research, the artworks highlight the exceptional creative liberty given to the artists, architects, filmmakers and designers who took part in the original exhibition, their experimentation with state-of-the-art technology and the diverse nature of their creations. The exhibition is part of the official program celebrating the 375th anniversary of Montreal and Expo 67 – 50 Years Later.

A selection of original and inventive works

The works by these artists were commissioned specifically for the exhibition, creating a rare opportunity for them to explore the archives and history of Expo 67, reinventing the past from a 21st century perspective.

One of the media used to present the results of their research is film: images taken by **Marie-Claire Blais** and **Pascal Grandmaison** in the Expo 67 islands reveal traces of remains and erasures; **Emmanuelle Léonard**, drawing inspiration from the film *The Eighth Day* produced by Charles Gagnon for the Christian pavilion, has assembled a montage of online images of the many conflicts since 1967; **David K. Ross** uses a drone to retrace the path of the celebrated mini-rail, flying some 12 metres above it through the landscape of Jean-Drapeau Park.

Other artists, focusing on specific pavilions, have created multimedia installations: **Jean-Pierre Aubé** echoes the Kaleidoscope pavilion in a time-lapse video full of psychedelic effects and showing the process of chemical crystallization; **Geronimo Inutiq** references Katimavik, the inverted pyramid of the Canada pavilion, creating a multimedia installation with photographs, archival video sequences and sound compositions; **Charles Stankieveh** interacts with the impressive architecture of the United States pavilion—Buckminster Fuller's geodesic dome—and explores the contradictory ideologies that lie behind it.

Digging into the Expo 67 archives provides an opportunity to showcase lesser known aspects of the Fair. The installation by artists' collective **Leisure (Meredith Carruthers and Susannah Wesley)** draws attention to landscape architect Cornelia Hahn-Oberlander, who challenged conventional concepts of children's play by designing a unique playground. **Althea Thauberger** revisits the *People Tree* of the Canada pavilion, which used documentary photos to put forward a certain view of the Canadian identity. Two artists focused on the Indians of Canada pavilion: **Duane Linklater** questions the institutionalization

and historicization of aboriginal bodies and art with a huge site specific mural inspired by that of Norval Morrisseau on the pavilion façade; **Krista Belle Stewart** creates a site specific installation made of archival images.

Simon Boudvin offers a photographic inventory of the traces of Expo 67 found in the streets of Montreal, which he combines with quotes from official 1967 documents. **Stéphane Gilot** explores the architectural vocabulary of Expo 67 using Minecraft, a world-building video game that visitors are invited to play with as well.

We are also taken back into the sound environment of Expo 67. **Chris Salter's** light and sound composition draws on the revolutionary *Polytopes* by composer Iannis Xenakis, first presented at the France pavilion; in their sound installation, **Kathleen Ritter and David Ritter** examine the auditory spaces of Expo 67, especially sampling and repetition, which they consider precursors to the DJ culture and remixes; from the interactive and multimedia archival films screened during Expo 67, **Caroline Martel** creates a montage that is as dynamic and varied as the event itself, which will be projected on a mosaic of screens in the open area of the Espace culturel Georges-Émile-Lapalme at Place des Arts; **Cheryl Sim**, in a three-channel video projection, offers a personal version of the Expo 67 theme song, *Un jour un jour* by Stéphane Venne, and pays tribute to the hostesses who welcomed the world.

The exhibition includes existing works related to Expo 67: a film by **Jacqueline Hoàng Nguyễn**, silver prints on paper by **Mark Ruwedel**, and the short documentary film by **Philip Hoffman and Eva Kolcze**. Lastly, there is spectacular recreation of *Polar Life*, the film produced by Graeme Ferguson and projected onto 11 screens in the Man the Explorer pavilion; other original films will also be screened throughout the exhibition “in order to show the ingenious ways cinema was presented and experienced during Expo 67,” say Lesley Johnstone and Monika Kin Gagnon, co-curators of the exhibition.

An event to be experienced and relived

As the heart and soul of Canada's Centennial celebrations, “Expo 67 was the most glorious World' Fair ever,” says John Zeppetelli, Director and Chief Curator of the MAC. Even though the Quebec and Canadian artists selected to bring Expo 67 into the present were not even born when the original event occurred, visitors who did experience it will be delighted to find the same excitement they recall, a fever that young people of today will surely relate to. The current exhibition has a similar inventiveness and drive to innovate in every area of life; it also reflects on the social, political and cultural legacy of Expo 67 and, occasionally, offers a critique of some of its assumptions. The exhibition thus has three components: new works, recreations of original works with today's technology, and activation of archival materials.

List of the artists

Jean-Pierre Aubé
Marie-Claire Blais and Pascal Grandmaison
Simon Boudvin
Stéphane Gilot
Philip Hoffman and Eva Kolcze
Geronimo Inutiq
Leisure (Meredith Carruthers and Susannah Wesley)
Emmanuelle Léonard
Duane Linklater

Caroline Martel
Jacqueline Hoàng Nguyễn
David Ritter and Kathleen Ritter
David K. Ross
Mark Ruwedel
Chris Salter
Cheryl Sim
Charles Stankievec
Krista Belle Stewart
Althea Thauberger

Look for: the website, podcast and tours with the artists

- A website has been prepared to provide more information about the artists and exhibition:
<http://cinemaexpo67.ca/fr/expo/>

- Monika Kin Gagnon, professor in the Department of Communication Studies at Concordia University in Montreal, co-director of CINEMAexpo67 and co-curator of the exhibition, hosts a series of podcast interviews with the artists of *In Search of Expo 67*.
www.concordia.ca/tol/
- The MAC has organized a number of events with artists to give them an opportunity to explain their approaches to the exhibition:
 - Conversation with Janine Marchessault and Graeme Ferguson, **Wednesday, June 21, 4 p.m., in the BWR Hall at the Musée** (in English).
 - Guided tour with the artists Althea Thauberger, Krista Belle Stewart and Kathleen Ritter, **Wednesday, June 21, 6 p.m., at the Musée** (in English).
 - The complete list of tours with the artists is on our website:
<http://www.macm.org/en/activites/meet-the-artists-in-search-of-expo-67/>

Curators

The exhibition *In Search of Expo 67* is the result of the collaboration between co-curators Lesley Johnstone, Head of Exhibitions and Education at the MAC, and Monika Kin Gagnon, professor in the Department of Communication Studies at Concordia University in Montreal, and co-director of CINEMAexpo67.

Lesley Johnstone was also co-curator of La Biennale de Montréal 2014, *L'avenir (looking forward)*, and La Triennale québécoise 2011. As well, she has curated solo exhibitions of artists, including Valérie Blass, Luanne Martineau, Patrick Bernatchez, Lynne Marsh, Francine Savard, Eve Sussman, Tino Sehgal and Liz Magor.

Monika Kin Gagnon has had her research into cultural policies and the visual and media arts published since 1980. Her areas of expertise (cultural memory, creative archiving and the experimental media arts) greatly contributed to the genesis of *In Search of Expo 67*.

Support

The exhibition has been organized with the support of CINEMAexpo67, Concordia University, the Milieux Institute for Arts, Culture and Technology, Hexagram, Cinémathèque québécoise, Place des Arts, Archives de la Ville de Montréal, National Film Board of Canada, National Gallery of Canada, Library and Archives Canada and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

Catalogue

A bilingual catalogue will be published in Spring 2018, co-produced by the MAC and McGill-Queen's University Press. It will contain all the texts by the researchers, an essay by the co-curators, the related visual documentation, statements by the artists about their creative process and archival materials.

Also at the MAC: Olafur Eliasson

Also from June 21 – October 1, the MAC is presenting *Multiple shadow house*, an exhibition of work by Icelandic-Danish artist Olafur Eliasson. The show is curated by Mark Lanctôt and it is the artist's first solo exhibition in Canada. Applying scientific principles to the exploration of our relationship to time and space, Eliasson builds devices that engage our mechanisms of perception. His cross-disciplinary creations provide an immersive experience for exploring the body, movement, self-perception and the environment. Both ambitious and spare, the works envelop us in a fundamental and rarefied universe composed primarily of space, light and movement.

Acknowledgments

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The MAC also thanks its partners, Loto-Québec and Ubisoft Montréal, and its media partners, La Presse and Publicité Sauvage.

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 Permanent 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.

About the Society for the Celebration of Montréal's 375th Anniversary

The Society for the Celebration of Montreal's 375th Anniversary is a non-profit organization whose mission is to organize the celebrations and socioeconomic contributions that will highlight Montreal's 375th anniversary in 2017. With a focus on promoting Montreal expertise, it acts as a catalyst for local forces to carry out its mandate: mobilize the community, implement a funding strategy, rigorously manage funding, develop quality programming and ensure the visibility of the celebrations.

The Society benefits from the support of the Ville de Montréal, the Government of Canada, the Government of Québec and private funding from 12 Great Montrealers. For more information: 375mtl.com

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To learn more about the Government of Quebec's contribution to Montréal's 375th anniversary, [click here](#).

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