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The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery introduces Fall 2015 Power Youth Artists-in-Residence, Ekow Nimako and Mary Tremonte

The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery’s Power Youth outreach program connects local contemporary artists with youth in priority neighbourhoods by providing offsite contemporary art studio programs at Boys and Girls Clubs, as well as access to the gallery’s Exhibitions and Programming. The youth have been heavily involved in the process for selecting the Artists, and after interviews with the finalists – using selection criteria developed by the individual Boys and Girls Clubs – a final vote on the residents for this season was held. With that, The Power Plant is pleased to introduce the gallery’s Power Youth outreach program Artists-in-Residence for Fall 2015, Ekow Nimako and Mary Tremonte.

Power Youth aims to help youth gain a better understanding of contemporary art practices and awareness of cultural resources, while giving them an opportunity to discuss the issues impacting their lives.

The Power Plant recognizes the importance in equipping youth with new tools for self-expression and providing them the opportunity to gain skills in creativity, communication and collaboration. Overall, the program strives to enrich the lives of community members and to extend cultural understanding beyond the gallery walls.

For the program’s second year, Ekow Nimako and the youth of the Toronto Kiwanis Boys & Girls Club in Regent Park will explore the colourful and uplifting world of textual street art with LEGO® in Building the Block, using the playful building material to sculpturally re-imagine their community in the wake of a rapidly changing cityscape. Mary Tremonte’s program at the St. Alban’s Boys and Girls Club of Weston-Mount Dennis, Humber Clubhouse, Silkscreen Power Up!, will use silkscreen printing and soft sculpture in tandem with community collaboration to engage youth on themes of individual and community identity and advocacy.

Ekow Nimako was born in Montreal, Canada in 1979 and studied Fine Arts at York University. An avid builder since childhood, Ekow's first LEGO® installation, Aviarageddon, depicted the fragile relationship between war, destruction, and the endangerment of nature by displaying over thirty species of birds in a weaponized environment. His ongoing exhibition Building Black investigates the complexities of African/black identity with artworks and narratives that draw from various racial, historical, and folkloric elements. In Fall 2015, Ekow again explored the theme of species endangerment with Silent Knight,
a monumental sculpture of the Ontario Barn Owl that debuted at the 10th annual Scotiabank Nuit Blanche Toronto. He currently lives and works in Toronto, Canada.

Mary Tremonte is an artist, educator, and DJ based in Toronto via Pittsburgh, PA. A founding member of Justseeds Artists’ Cooperative, she works with “printmaking in the expanded field,” including printinstallation, interactive silkscreen printing in public space, and wearable artist multiples. Mary has exhibited with Justseeds as well as independently, presented lectures and workshops, and performed in Toronto, throughout the United States and internationally at venues such as The Gladstone Hotel, Xpace, and Videofag (Toronto), The Miller Gallery and Mattress Factory (Pittsburgh, PA), Pacific Northwest College of Art (Portland, OR), International Centre of Graphic Arts (Ljubljana, Slovenia), and Neurtian Gallery (Berlin). Formerly the youth programs coordinator at The Andy Warhol Museum and a guest artist with the Art Gallery of Ontario’s Youth Council in Fall 2013, Mary values art education as a means of youth empowerment and social change. Through her work, she aims to create temporary utopias and sustainable commons through pedagogy, collaboration, visual pleasure and serious fun.

More information on Power Youth: http://bit.ly/1hm5XUo

About The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery
The Power Plant is Canada’s leading public gallery devoted exclusively to contemporary visual art. It is a vital forum for the advanced artistic culture of our time that offers an exceptional facility and professional support to diverse living artists while engaging equally diverse audiences in their work. The Power Plant pursues its activities through exhibitions, publications and public programming that incorporates other areas of culture when they intersect with visual art.

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Providing as many people as possible with access to these programs and events remains The Power Plant’s top priority. The initiative leading these efforts is a renewed partnership with BMO Financial Group, whose support of the ALL YEAR, ALL FREE initiative is vital to expanding and diversifying audiences by eliminating the cost of admission to its exhibition program.

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