The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery introduces their Fall 2016 Power Youth Artists-in-Residence, Anthony Gebrehiwot and Annie Wong

As part of its Power Youth Outreach Program, The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery is pleased to announce the program’s new Fall 2016 Power Youth Artists-in-Residence, Anthony Gebrehiwot and Annie Wong.

About Power Youth

The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery’s Power Youth outreach program helps 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. Power Youth, now in its third year, is an outreach program of The Power Plant consisting of a 14-week contemporary art studio workshop at Boys and Girls Clubs in the Weston-Mount Dennis and Regent Park neighbourhoods that connect youth to exhibitions at the gallery. In the 2015-16 cycle the program equipped over 80 youth with new tools for self-expression, providing them with opportunities 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.

About the Power Youth Artists-in-Residence

Artists-in-Residence are selected through a process which heavily involves the youth of the individual Boys and Girls Clubs, who develop selection criteria and interview the candidates.

Anthony Gebrehiwot is a passionate photographer, community leader and social entrepreneur whose creative lens re-envision photography as an ongoing dialogue of social change between subject and society. He founded XvXy-photo focusing on studio portraiture as he feels humbled by the magnificence, brilliance and sheer beauty of the human form. To date, Gebrehiwot has photographed some of Canada’s most prolific instigators including Che Kothari, d’bi.young anitafrika, Kardinal Offishall, Donovan Bailey and Emmanuel Jal. Gebrehiwot.

Gebrehiwot has been selected as the Artist-in-Residence serving the Toronto Kiwanis Boys and Girls Club in Regent Park. From 14 September to 14 December 2016, he will teach youth the fundamentals of photography with his workshop series, Me, Myself(ie) & I, which explores documentary and still life photography. Youth will learn how to use cameras as artistic tools to tell personal stories and communicate the issues that affect their lives. Investigating themes related to The Power Plant’s Fall Exhibition Seasons, including history, documentation, memory and communication. Over the course of the program, youth will capture personal objects to create a portrait of their lives referring to Fall 2016 exhibiting artist Yto Barada’s photographic series of children’s toys from North Africa.

Annie Wong is a multidisciplinary artist, arts educator and writer. Her work looks at the aesthetics of collaboration and participation. She often collaborates with teens, seniors and local community members to present work for various festivals and art institutions. Wong has presented at the Art Gallery of Ontario, Nuit Blanche, Intersite Visual Arts Festival, Art on the Danforth and the Modern Literature and Culture Research Centre. She was formerly the Young Mammals Director of Mammalian Diving Reflex and is currently the Education Coordinator for Broken Pencil Magazine.
She holds a BA in English Literature and a MA in Communication and Culture from York University.

Wong will serve as the Artist-in-Residence for the St. Alban’s Boys and Girls Club of Weston-Mount Dennis. From 12 September to 19 December 2016, she will introduce youth to the Astral City, the astral projection of a future city created by the brainpower and creativity of the collective of Power Youth at the St. Alban’s Boys & Girls Club’s Humber Clubhouse. Using a miscellany of everyday materials—cardboard, fabrics, LED lights, tinfoil, cereal boxes, and more—and out-of-this-world storytelling, the youth will build the Astral City and invent its myths, stories, and tales. Referring to The Power Plant’s Fall 2016 exhibitions, Power Youth will engage with exercises in architecture and place-making to transform their space into fictitious/futuristic environments. Through drawing, sculpture and installation, youth will work in a similar way to exhibiting artist Maria Loboda by exploring the historic, symbolic, and mystic meanings that objects carry in order to design and build the cultural artifacts of their future city.

**Power Youth Funders:**
The McLean Foundation
Ontario Trillium Foundation
Toronto Arts Council

**Power Youth Partners:**
Boys & Girls Clubs of Weston-Mount Dennis
Toronto Kiwanis Boys & Girls Clubs

**More on Power Youth:** [bit.ly/1TxkkFj](bit.ly/1TxkkFj)

**More on The Power Plant’s Upcoming Exhibitions:** [bit.ly/2bwhD6V](bit.ly/2bwhD6V)

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**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.

**Director:** Gaëtane Verna

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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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