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The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery announces new President and members to the Board of Directors

The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery is pleased to announce the appointment of Jacques Bernier as President of The Power Plant Board of Directors, succeeding John Matheson after a tenure of 4 years.

Jacques Bernier is a partner of the Baker McKenzie law firm and chair of its Canadian Tax Practice. He assists clients in resolving their Canadian tax controversies and litigating them before the courts. He also provides strategic advice to a number of multinationals in their dealings with the Canadian tax authorities. He represents both domestic and foreign-based multinational enterprises, professional firms and select individuals. Mr. Bernier holds law degrees (Civil Law and Common Law) from the University of Ottawa and is an active participant of several professional organizations and frequent speaker before tax audiences.

Mr. Bernier is also a passionate collector of modern and contemporary art, from Canada and abroad. Over the last fifteen years, his involvement in the visual arts included building and curating a corporate collection for a major law firm as well as being an active member of the Curatorial Committee of Casey House’s Art with Heart auction and as Co-chair. He has been an active member of the Power Plant Board since 2015. Mr. Bernier has been living in Toronto for twenty-one years with wife Lynn Bilodeau, and their three children: Maxime, Laurent and Nadia.

“I am excited about the coming years: The Power Plant is a world-class institution and is based in North-America’s fastest growing city. The gallery promotes diversity and inclusion while bringing to Toronto the best visual art on the planet, season after season. If people do not know about it, it is now time to check it out.”

The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery is also pleased to announce the following new members to the gallery’s Board of Directors.
• **Jen Grant** is a Toronto based entrepreneur and a partner at DaiLo restaurant. Her background includes a diverse range of experience in fundraising, event planning, consulting and research. She is a mother of four and holds a PhD from Cambridge University. Ms. Grant was the Co-Chair for two consecutive years for Power Ball XX: Carousel and Power Ball 21 Club.

• **Marc-Antoine Saumier** works at TD as Regional Manager of the LGBTQ2+ Business Development in the greater Toronto area. Previously, Mr. Saumier was the first branch manager of the village branch in Montreal (corner of Amherst and Ste-Catherine) and involved in its opening in August 2015. He has more than fifteen years of experience in business development, including ten with Xerox and two with Domtar. He is an art lover and was involved in the creation of the Young Philanthropists Circle at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts in early 2012 and chaired the circle’s executive committee until 2015. Mr. Saumier was recognized for his philanthropic involvement by receiving the first ARDI prize, presented by the Brigade Arts Affaires Montréal. He grew up in Montreal and now resides in Toronto.

• **Michael Tamblyn** is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the global digital reading company, Rakuten Kobo. Driving growth, profitability and international expansion in a fiercely competitive market, he combines a passion for reading with a deep focus on the hardware and software experiences that can make a customer’s reading life better. Prior to joining Kobo, Mr. Tamblyn was the founding CEO of the supply chain agency, BookNet Canada and co-founded Canada’s first online bookstore, Bookshelf.ca, purchased by Indigo Books & Music in 1998 to create Indigo.ca, where he served as VP of Online Operations. Mr. Tamblyn holds a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Western Ontario. A long time musician, he holds a degree in classical composition from Wilfred Laurier University.

The role of the Board of Directors is to provide governance in support of the gallery, oversee the strategic vision and activities of the institution and to lead fundraising activities. The appointment of Jacques Bernier as President of the Board and three new members brings the total number of members of The Power Plant’s Board of Directors to 23, a team with diverse backgrounds in the arts, business, law, real estate and more.

With thanks to the work of the board and the team, The Power Plant has seen numerous successes over this past 2018-19 fiscal year. A historic record of 77,273 attendees visited 13 exhibitions over 3 seasons, presented by 28 participating artists from around the world, presented 2 traveling exhibitions and produced 4 publications in print. The Power Plant’s public programs reached diverse communities across the city, hosted 219 educational programs for more
than 5,611 participants, including 1,269 children who attended Power Kids workshops.

The Power Plant would also like to take this time to thank our past Members of the Board for their hard work and dedication to Canada’s leading contemporary art gallery: Maxine Bailey, Bernard Doucet, Karning Hum, Nancy Jain, An Te Liu, Pamela Meredith, Anthony Novac and Jeff Stober. Last but not least, the gallery would like to acknowledge the commitment, leadership and service of John Matheson who joined the The Power Plant Board of Directors in 2011 and became President in 2014. Over the last 8 years, Mr. Matheson has played a vital role as a Member of the Board through his contributions to multiple Committees, the support of numerous exhibitions, as well as implementing many strategic initiatives to name a few. John Matheson becomes the gallery’s 11th member of the President’s Council.

The Power Plant is committed to the highest quality of programming in its exhibitions and outreach activities. The Board of Directors, together with the entire team at The Power Plant, looks forward to solidifying its place as Canada’s leading forum for the advancement of the artistic culture of our time.

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 incorporate other areas of culture when they intersect with visual art.

Director: Gaëtane Verna

ADMISSION: ALL YEAR, ALL FREE
presented by BMO FINANCIAL GROUP

Providing as many people as possible with access to these programs and events remains the gallery’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 The Power Plant’s exhibition program.

For bios, images, interview requests or more information please contact:
Marketing & Communications
media@thepowerplant.org / 416.973.4949

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