The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery announces the appointment of the new TD Curator of Education and Outreach Fellow

Following Toronto Dominion Bank Group’s (TD) generous renewal of their TD Curator of Education and Outreach Fellowship Program at The Power Plant, the gallery is pleased to welcome Laura Demers.

Before joining The Power Plant, Laura Demers earned a BFA in Painting and Drawing (University of Ottawa) and an MA in History of Art (University of Toronto), focusing on modern and contemporary art. Since 2014, she has worked with several art galleries and museums across Ontario, and has written for Prefix Photo, Public Parking and Blank Cheque Press, among other publications. She recently became board member of La Galerie du Nouvel-Ontario and continues to produce work at Open Studio, alongside other independent projects. Demers is fluent in both French and English; she will complete an artist residency with Le Labo, Toronto’s Francophone Media Arts Centre, in 2020.

The TD Curator of Education and Outreach Fellowship is an innovative program that allows a recent graduate or emerging curator to gain tangible working experience in a professional environment, with full access to the inner workings of the programming and education department of a major Canadian public art gallery. Coaching, research, documentation, professional development and mentoring are at the heart of the program, with the position working closely with the Curator of Education and Public Programs. The most recent TD Curator of Education and Outreach Fellow, Kendra Campbell, provided critical support for the gallery’s public programming including program development, community
outreach and visitor engagement. Campbell was project lead on numerous educational endeavours throughout her two-year tenure including bi-monthly Sunday Scene gallery talks, the annual Student Night, and the five-part retrospective film series, *Resistance and Revolution: The Cinema of Haile Gerima*. She is now working as Interpretive Planner at The Royal Ontario Museum.

Campbell describes the value of the program: “I appreciated any education or public programming opportunity that allowed me to be thoughtful in the creation of visitor-centered experiences that welcomed, connected and intellectually stimulated audiences. Overall, this experience has deepened my understanding of the operation of a cultural institution, but moreover it has underlined the importance of cultivating and sustaining reciprocal relationships within an expansive cultural network.”

The Fellowship differs from existing internships in that it is a fully remunerated program spanning a two-year period, thus providing a stable and robust timeframe for significant curatorial development in a real-world professional work environment. Ultimately, the TD Curator of Education and Outreach Fellowship supports The Power Plant’s goal to provide greater career opportunities within the museum field, and invest in the next generation of visual arts leaders and educators within contemporary art galleries or museums in Canada and the world.

The Power Plant thanks TD Bank Group for continued support of the arts and the next generation of emerging curators, and looks forward to the continued success of the Fellowship program for the next two years.

**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.

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