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Gaëtane Verna, Director of The Power Plant, to be presented with the insignia as a Chevalier de l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres

The Cultural Service of the Embassy of France in Canada and The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery are thrilled to announce that The Power Plant’s Director, Gaëtane Verna, will be presented with the insignia as a Chevalier de l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (Order of Arts and Letters) at a special bestowing ceremony taking place the evening of Thursday, 25 January 2018, just ahead of The Power Plant’s Winter 2018 Exhibition Season Opening.

Mrs. Kareen Rispal, Ambassador of France to Canada: “Through her responsibilities in leading cultural organisations, Gaëtane Verna has shared the work and insight of artists from all over the world. A Francophone and Francophile, she has developed partnerships with major French institutions, and programmed and produced large-scale exhibitions with renowned French artists. Mrs. Verna is a true advocate for arts awareness, a promoter of cultural openness and dialogue, and I am delighted to present her with the title of Knight in the Order of Arts and Letters.”

The Order of Arts and Letters was established in 1957 to recognize eminent artists and writers, as well as people who have contributed significantly to furthering the arts in France and throughout the world. It is aimed at building relationships and fostering cultural and linguistic exchange. To be considered for award, recipients must have “significantly contributed to the enrichment of the French cultural inheritance.”

Gaëtane Verna holds an International Diploma in Heritage Administration and Conservation from the Institut National du Patrimoine in Paris, France; received a DEA and a Master’s degree in Art History from the Université Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne; and prior to that a Bachelor in Commerce from Concordia University. Verna became Director of The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery, Canada’s leading non-collecting, public art gallery dedicated exclusively to contemporary visual art from Canada and the world, in 2012. Since then, Verna has guided the development of both the gallery’s administrative initiatives as well as curatorial and educational programs, continuing the gallery’s legacy and presence as a vital forum for the advanced artistic culture of our time. Previous to this she held positions as the Executive Director and Chief Curator of the Musée d’art de Joliette in Lanaudière, Quebec (2006-12); curator of the Foreman Art Gallery at Bishop’s University, Sherbrooke (1998-2006) while also teaching in the Art History department of both Bishop’s University and the Université du Québec à Montréal.

Verna has been building steadily on The Power Plant’s ambitious exhibitions
program with artists representing voices, practices and histories from around the globe. The program has grown to include numerous artists and cultural producers from the French art world including Yto Barrada, Ulla von Brandenburg, Latifa Echakhch, Zineb Sedira, this season’s artist Kader Attia, and more; resulting in a rich and sustained cultural exchange. The Power Plant has been honoured to work alongside the French Embassy and Consulate in Canada for many years, building strong bridges between the two countries and acting as key partners for the French Embassy’s Cultural Service. The Power Plant looks forward to continuing this dialogue.

Winter 2018 Season Exhibitions & Programs

The Power Plant launches its first exhibition season of 2018 on Friday, 26 January 2018 with a Circle of Supporters Preview, followed by a Public Opening Party for all. On view this season at the gallery, until 13 May 2018, are three exhibitions:

Kader Attia creates works that explore the notion of repair as both a physical and symbolic act. His first Canadian solo exhibition The Field of Emotion brings together recent and newly commissioned works that confront us with traumas of the past and their spectres in the present. As the artist states, “Our contemporary world is haunted by the wounds of the past.”

Emeka Ogboh frequently explores conditions of listening and sound as a medium of intervention and knowledge exchange. Titled The Song of the Germans, his installation at The Power Plant raises questions of national identity, citizenship and belonging and is a timely examination of issues felt increasingly all across the globe, including in Canada – from matters such as the creation of a national narrative, to migration and movement, and the marginalisation of voices.

Michael Landy continues his process-based approach in DEMONSTRATION, The Power Plant’s third Fleck Clerestory Commission Project, by inviting the public to participate in creating a wall of protest. Landy continues to transform the public’s submissions of images, words, texts or slogans that map their feelings, reactions and experiences of living in Canada into protest drawings pinned directly onto the walls of The Power Plant.

The Power Plant also presents numerous opportunities for all to extend their exhibition experience. Whether through an artmaking workshop, a film screening, meditation, a tour or a writing workshop, visitors are welcome to pair their viewing with a favourite activity.

About The Cultural Service of the Embassy of France in Canada

The Cultural Service of the Embassy of France in Canada works through its five consulates to implement a cultural policy that focuses on three key areas: inter-university cooperation, cultural cooperation, and French-language initiative. France and Canada are developing major partnerships in the fields of culture
and digital technology. francecanadaculture.org

Le service culturel de l’Ambassade de France au Canada développe à travers ses cinq consulats une politique culturelle dans trois domaines: la coopération universitaire, la langue française et la coopération culturelle. Le Canada et la France développent des partenariats importants dans les domaines culturels et numériques.

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. The gallery gratefully acknowledges funding support from the Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council and Toronto Arts Council. thepowerplant.org

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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