The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery announces the appointment of the new RBC Emerging Curator Program Fellow

Through the RBC Emerging Curator Program at The Power Plant, the gallery is pleased to announce Justine Kohleal as its third RBC Curatorial Fellow.

Canada’s leading public, non-collecting gallery devoted to contemporary visual art is pleased to welcome Justine Kohleal to the staff team starting Monday, 8 January 2018. The Power Plant’s ability to generate meaningful dialogue requires a dedicated team effort, and the gallery looks forward to continuing to present the best in contemporary art and culture with this new staff addition.

Justine Kohleal is a Toronto-based curator and art critic. Prior to her appointment at The Power Plant she worked as an independent curator and arts writer in Edmonton, Alberta. Select past curatorial projects include [INTERFACE] (Fringe Gallery); No Job More Dangerous (dc3 Art Projects); Intellectual Play (dc3 Art Projects); and Sounding the Alarm: The Poetics of Connection (Art Galley of Ontario). She acted as a curatorial assistant to Gerald McMaster and Denise Birkhofer at the Ryerson Image Centre for The Faraway Nearby: Photographs of Canada from The New York Times Photo Archive and to writer and curator Kari Cwynar for Duane Linklater’s installation Monsters for Beauty, Permanence and Individuality (Evergreen Brickworks). She has interned with The Smithsonian American Art Museum’s Luce Foundation Centre and with Public Programs at the Art Gallery of Ontario. Kohleal holds a curatorial M.F.A from OCAD University and a B.A. from the University of Alberta with a focus in Art, Design, and Visual Culture. Currently, her research has centred on the intersection of space, the body/senses and boredom within performance-based art and curatorial practice.

On her appointment: “I am thrilled to have been offered the RBC Curatorial Fellow position at The Power Plant. This program enables emerging curators the opportunity to work closely with leading curators, educators, technicians and administrators to gain a deeper understanding of how forward-thinking institutions engage multiple publics in the presentation of contemporary art and ideas. I am excited to soak in what The Power Plant staff and invited artists have to teach me about activating institutional space, the curation of difficult knowledge and, just as importantly, the behind-the-scenes work vital to running an effective contemporary art gallery.”

Established in 2014, the RBC Emerging Curator Program is designed to revolutionize the standard for curatorial fellowships in Canada. The two-year program provides the Fellow with direct, hands-on curatorial and exhibitions experience at The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery. The program
represents an important investment in the Canadian arts community by fostering the development of curators and the next generation of visual arts leaders for Canada, and supports The Power Plant's goal to encourage greater career opportunities within the museum field. The aim at the end of the program is for the RBC Emerging Curatorial Fellow to play a prominent role within the world of contemporary art galleries and museums both in Canada and the world.

The first selected RBC Curatorial Fellow, Clara Halpern, played a key role in a number of curatorial projects at the gallery and, following the completion of the program, was appointed the role of Assistant Curator at Oakville Galleries. The second RBC Curatorial Fellow, Nabila Abdel Nabi, also gained invaluable experience in the world of curatorial work at The Power Plant, and expanded her skills and responsibilities as she transitioned into the role of Assistant Curator at the institution.

The Power Plant is grateful to RBC for their generosity and commitment to the arts and the next generation of emerging curators, and is thrilled to partner on projects such as this. The gallery thanks RBC for their unrelenting support and looks forward to the continued success of the program for the next two years.

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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 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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