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The Power Plant recognizes Black History Month with free public exhibitions and programming throughout February

Announcing engaging public programs as part of its Winter 2022 Exhibitions Season

Sasha Huber dresses the unclothed figures of enslaved man Renty and his daughter, Delia, by stapling garments of African-American abolitionists onto the reproduced daguerreotypes. (Sasha Huber, Tailoring Freedom for Renty and Delia Taylor, 2021. Courtesy the artist and Tamara Lanier.)

In February and the rest of the year, The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery engages with all communities by presenting exhibitions of local and international artists, alongside a robust calendar of free public programs. As part of its Winter 2022 Exhibition Season, The Power Plant presents the work of Toronto-based visual artist, Sandra Brewster and Swiss-Haitian-Finnish artist Sasha Huber in her first North American solo exhibition. Both artists present the lived experiences of the global Black diaspora, from acts of remembrance in the naming and erection of monuments, to themes of identity and belonging experienced by first-generation immigrants.

“Black History Month is an opportunity to share experiences of the Black diaspora, both past and present. From our exhibitions and public programming, to the membership of our Board and staff, The Power Plant is committed to representing diverse voices through thought-provoking art and ideas. Our current exhibitions by Sasha Huber and Sandra Brewster spark contemplation on the many different facets of Black identity, how it relates to the colonial past, as well as how it will be passed onto future generations,” said Gaëtane Verna, Director & Artistic Director of The Power Plant.
Highlights of The Power Plant's February Programming include:

10 February, 2022, 7PM
Plugging-In: Post-Graduate Event

The Power Plant presents a virtual forum for post-secondary students and emerging art professionals to network and learn from industry insiders. Students will hear from Curator and Poet Mojeanne Behzadi and multidisciplinary artist Mariam Magi. The Power Plant's Associate Curator Noor Alé and Nancy McCain & Bill Morneau Curatorial Fellow Jacqueline Kok will also be part of the discussion.

16 February, 2022, 2PM
Writing Workshop: Writers’ Collective of Canada on Sasha Huber

An interactive writing workshop led by the Writers’ Collective of Canada (WCC), this session will focus on the works of Swiss-Haitian-Finnish artist Sasha Huber. Participants will be prompted with works by the artist that will serve as visual cues to spur timed freestyle writing; then be encouraged to share their writing and receive feedback from their peers.

20 February 2022, 2PM
Sunday Scene with Nehal El-Hadi on the work of Sandra Brewster

In this Sunday Scene, writer, educator and editor Nehal El-Hadi shares her perspective on Sandra Brewster's exhibition By Way of Communion, discussing dynamics of place and belonging in the site-specific installation, DENSE. Artist Sandra Brewster will also be present for this free public event.

26 February 2022, 1PM
Film: Illusions, Vol. III, Antigone and Q&A with Grada Kilomba

In the poetic Illusions film trilogy, Portuguese artist and writer Grada Kilomba reworks the ancient Greek myths and stages them together with actors, combining performance, theatre, choreography, and music. Drawing inspiration from African oral traditions, she takes on the role of a contemporary Griot, a storyteller who lets the classic tales speak directly to current political issues. Kilomba's video installations deploy ancient dramas to highlight postcolonial issues of racism, gender oppression and violence. The artist's first solo exhibition in North America, Secrets to Tell, was held at The Power Plant in Summer 2018; this exhibition was organized and circulated by Museum of Art, Architecture and Technology (maat).

About Sasha Huber: YOU NAME IT
Swiss-Haitian-Finnish artist Sasha Huber uses performance, photography, and film, among other media, to investigate colonial residues left in the environment. The exhibition at The Power Plant, Huber's first solo show in North America, features over a decade's worth of work prompted by the cultural and political activist campaign “Demounting Louis Agassiz,” which seeks to redress the racist legacy of the Swiss- born naturalist and glaciologist Louis Agassiz (1807–1873). Huber’s artworks thus challenge the terms by which we remember, asking not only who and what we memorialize, but also, and more importantly, how we do so.

About Sandra Brewster: By Way of Communion
The exhibition Sandra Brewster: By Way of Communion presents two new commissions including the first public sculpture by Toronto-based Canadian artist Sandra Brewster. The two works, DENSE and A Place to Put Your Things, offer different facets of the artist’s practice while addressing themes of place and belonging. As first-generation Canadians, stories passed down from parents and loved ones give us a sense of belonging to a place in which we have never lived. These stories help us intuitively connect to a land, a history, and people that ingrain us with a sense of self far better than any label could convey.
About The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery
The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery 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. For more information, please visit thepowerplant.org.

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