

LE MOIS DE LA PHOTO À MONTRÉAL

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IMAGE

LE MOIS DE LA PHOTO À MONTRÉAL 2017

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS FROM CANADIAN ARTISTS

Deadline: May 13, 2016

Theme

What Does the Image Refer to?

Guest Curator: Ami Barak

Theme

What Does the Image Refer to?

With the rapid development of new technologies, images – both still and moving – have become omnipresent in daily life. Lens-based images have invaded the web and social networks, those new media that have made photography ubiquitous and granted it a prominent position in innumerable practices.

The photographic image – initially intended to reproduce every last detail of reality, and then used to provide records of the personalities and events of its times – is manipulated at will. It has become so powerful that it has obliterated the world of nature and art, giving everything a sense of déjà vu. But does this documentation of daily life convey reality? Is a photograph an objective framing of the world at a particular moment? Is it a symbol or a symptom of contemporary culture? The technical and chemical characteristics of photography provide both artists and scientists with an immense range of possibilities; they even make it possible to manufacture images that do not exist in three-dimensional reality.

For Le Mois de la Photo à Montréal 2017, I intend to explore the concept of photographic evidence in all its guises. Although the camera sees better than the eye, it is the artist who, in the final analysis, imposes on the image of the world his or her own point of view, intuition, and even disenchantment. I would therefore like for the works presented in this event, be they still or moving, to:

- Explore realities that contest the reliability of the photographic image
- Question the status of the photograph as witness to the real and examine the fantastical and sublimated character of reality
- Expand the question of the veracity of the image to horizons wider than documentary traces and recordings of the real
- Invite viewers to take a critical stance toward the testimonial value of camera images

Ami Barak

Guest curator

Le Mois de la Photo à Montréal 2017

About the guest curator

An independent curator and art critic, **Ami Barak** lives and works in Paris. He has launched numerous exhibitions and projects in France and elsewhere throughout the world. The most recent of these include *Art for the World [the Expo] – the City of Forking Paths*, at the World Expo Shanghai (2010); *Performing History*, at the Romanian pavilion of the 54th Venice Biennale (2011); the retrospective *I am also... Douglas Gordon*, at the Tel Aviv Museum of Art (2013); *Taryn Simon: Rear Views, A Star-Forming Nebula, and the Office of Foreign Propaganda*, at the Jeu de Paume, Paris (2015); *Julião Sarmiento: la chose, même – the real thing*, at the Fondation Calouste Gulbenkian, Paris (2016); and *Peter Kogler: Next*, at the ING Art Center, Brussels (2016). He also curated the *Nuit blanche* in Paris (2003 and 2004) and Toronto (2013), and served as president of the International Association of Contemporary Art Curators – IKT (2002 to 2005). Artistic director of the 2016 Salon de Montrouge, he also teaches a master's degree program in curatorial practice at the Université de Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

We are soliciting only artists' works that respond to the theme ***What Does the Image Refer to?*** (see previous page for details). We are not seeking curatorial proposals. This call for submissions is addressed only to **Canadian citizens or permanent residents**. The selection of foreign artists will be by invitation only.

Type of work being sought

We are looking for works by Canadian artists that reflect the patent ambiguity of the photographic medium when, through its (still or moving) images, it aspires to be a privileged witness to the real.

We are therefore interested in projects that, far from favouring a single image or aesthetic, use the camera as a means, an instrument, that makes it possible to highlight ideas such that each project follows its own course of development.

We are looking not for captured images but for photographs that have been worked in ways that transcend the unique moment. We are interested in images that are the outcome of a process, of an imaginative reworking. We would like them to contain calculated elements that, even if they do not result in anything definitive, nonetheless lend credibility to a thesis.

Submission instructions

Submissions must be sent by **email only** (in English or French) to:

soumission2017@moisdelaphoto.com, by no later than **May 13, 2016**.

Submissions should include the following:

1. A short **cover letter** explaining how the submission relates to the theme (250 words maximum) in Word or PDF format.
2. **Visual supporting** material, which may include:
 - a maximum of 10 images (maximum 500 kb per image) in JPG (72 dpi, RGB colour mode) or PDF format. Images must be clearly identified and accompanied by a descriptive image spec sheet (title, date, medium, and dimensions).
 - a link to your web page or other website featuring your work (if available). Do not send videos by email; instead, please provide a link so the curator can view your video(s) online.

3. A **short CV** for each participant (3 pages maximum) in Word or PDF format.
4. Your **contact information** (first and last name, mailing address, telephone, email address, website, country of birth, and country of residence). Artists submitting as a collective are asked to identify one participant as the project coordinator, and provide that person's contact information.

Please note:

All submissions in compliance with the instructions described herein and received by the deadline will be carefully reviewed by the guest curator, who will make his selection based on his personal vision of the theme. Since we anticipate receiving many submissions, MPM will not be able to respond personally to each proposal. If necessary, MPM will contact you directly for any additional information or documents, or to arrange a studio visit.

All submissions must be sent by **email only**: any other unsolicited material sent to our offices will be neither viewed nor returned. MPM and Ami Barak are not responsible for unreadable, undelivered, or lost materials. Late submissions, incomplete proposals, and work unrelated to the theme will not be considered.

If you have any questions, please contact:

soumission2017@moisdelaphoto.com | T: 1 514 390-0383