

NEW

THE FIRST MNBAQ CONTEMPORARY ART AWARD GOES TO DIANE MORIN

THE ONLY AWARD OF ITS KIND IN CANADA WITH A TOTAL VALUE OF \$100,000



Québec City, Wednesday 5 February 2014 □ The Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec, in collaboration with the RBC Foundation, its financial partner, is proud to announce the first recipient of the biennial MNBAQ Contemporary Art Award, Diane Morin. This prestigious award, the only one of its kind in Canada, includes a cash grant of \$10,000, a solo exhibition at the Musée, a retrospective publication and the acquisition of works by the artist for the MNBAQ collection to a value of \$50,000, giving the award a total value of \$100,000. This generous contribution by the RBC Foundation, which like the MNBAQ is committed to supporting and contributing to the winner's career, gives new impetus to Diane Morin's career. "At RBC, we believe that supporting the arts enriches

our lives and communities and we are especially pleased to be able to contribute to this initiative of the MNBAQ," commented André Labbé, Regional Vice President, Personal Financial Services and Small and Medium Financial Services in the Québec City/Mauricie region.

In the eyes of the jury, the work of Diane Morin stood out for the singular nature of her artistic explorations, in which she employs sometimes rudimentary technology to study kinetic movement and the logic of the computerized and robotic structures in our lives. Her investment in the production of large-scale and spectacular works and her way of creating works that are exploratory and cutting-edge in other respects also attracted the jury's attention. In each case, Morin restores technology's ability to fascinate while revealing its mechanics.

"This nomination underscores the excellence of Diane Morin's work, whose artistic inquiries stand out for the way they take little-followed and yet quite up-to-date paths. With this award the Musée showcases the work of an artist who is completely invested in her work, which explores in a fascinating way certain issues around technology, in particular the logic behind the machines found in every area of our lives. Her work will certainly touch audiences of different descriptions," declared Line Ouellet, Executive Director of the MNBAQ.

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The first jury for this award, which selected five finalists in the fall of 2013, was made up of Marie-Ève Charron, art critic at the newspaper *Le Devoir* and professor of art history, Claude Bélanger, director of the Manifestation internationale d'art de Québec, Eduardo Ralickas, art historian and professor at UQAM, Marcel Blouin, director of Expression, centre d'exposition de Saint-Hyacinthe, François Morelli, artist and instructor at Concordia University, and Bernard Lamarche, curator of present-day art at the MNBAQ. Along with Diane Morin, the finalists at this stage of the competition were Jean-Robert Drouillard, Valérie Kolakis, Emmanuelle Léonard and Thérèse Mastroiacovo. The second jury, which met in December 2013, was composed of François Morelli, Anne Eschapasse, director of exhibitions and publications at the MNBAQ, Paul Bourassa, director of collections and research at the MNBAQ, and Bernard Lamarche. Mr. Lamarche will act as curator for the solo exhibition of Diane Morin's work, planned for the spring of 2015 at the Musée, when the monograph that goes with the award will be launched.



The MNBAQ Contemporary Art Award will be conferred every two years on a Québec artist. This remarkable partnership between the MNBAQ and the RBC Foundation is the result of a commitment until 2021.

BIOGRAPHY OF DIANE MORIN

Diane Morin was born in 1974 in Saint-Joseph-de-Kamouraska and lives and works in Montréal. She studied in Rivière-du-Loup and then at Université Laval. In 2003 she completed a master's degree in fine arts with a focus on open media at Concordia University in Montréal. Since 1998, she has created installations linking her artistic practice with kinetic art and new media. She works with light, sound, drawing and robotics to create in situ installations in which kinetic, sound and light events occur. Diane Morin uses different procedures and apparatuses to make these events apparent and to preserve traces of them: photograms, video recordings, sound amplification, projected shadows. Her work has been seen in solo and group shows in Finland, Norway, Montréal and elsewhere in Canada. In addition, she has carried out artistic residencies under the *SUMU* artists in residency program at the Arte artists' association in Turku, Finland (2011), the independent study program at the Konsthögskolan Valand in Göteborg, Sweden (2009-10), and in the Finnish Artists Studio Foundation in Espoo, Finland (2008). In 2012 her work was exhibited in the 6th edition of the Manif d'Art, organized around the topic *Machine*. At CIRCA in 2013 she developed the automatic projection apparatus *Imbrication (machine à réduire le temps)*, a "shadow theatre" in which she explored space, the object and time. In June 2013, at the CLARK gallery, she presented *Le grand calculateur I (apprendre à compter)*, a kinetic installation based on a system of mechanical pulleys and electric current and illustrating the logic of the binary calculation used in computer technology. She presented the second version of this work at L'Oeil de Poisson in Québec City in November 2013.

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