

Line Ouellet steps down as Director and Chief Curator of the MNBAQ

After seven successful years



Québec City, Tuesday, February 20, 2018 - The Board of Directors of the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec (MNBAQ) has agreed with Line Ouellet that she will be stepping down as Director and Chief Curator of the Museum. She will remain in her position until next May to facilitate the transition. The Board will be initiating a recruitment process.

“I would like to recognize all of the work that Line and her team have done over the past years. Their exemplary accomplishments and Line’s excellent leadership during her tenure have helped the Museum grow significantly, thanks to projects such as the flagship museum expansion and the redeployment and major enhancement of our reference collection of Quebec art. Her vision has helped to make the MNBAQ a world-class museum,” stated Christiane Germain, president of the Board of Directors of the MNBAQ.

Line Ouellet adds: “After seven years at the head of the MNBAQ, I am extremely proud to have been at the forefront of the Pierre Lasonde Pavilion project, a true work of art. I am incredibly thankful for the work of its outstanding, committed team, and for everyone who contributed to its success. It is a great pleasure to see people enjoying it. I have also had the satisfaction of being able to advance art in Québec City in ways that never would have been possible before. It is therefore with a sense of accomplishment that I finish my time at the Museum and move on to new opportunities.”

Remarkable accomplishments at the MNBAQ

As the director and chief curator since 2011, Line Ouellet led the MNBAQ’s expansion project. She put her leadership, international network and museology expertise to use for this world-class museum complex. The inauguration of the new Pierre Lasonde Pavilion in June 2016 received unanimous critical acclaim from both the public and national and international media. Furthermore, this remarkable accomplishment was marked by numerous prizes, cementing it not only in the Museum’s history, but in the history of art and architecture in Quebec as well. During Line Ouellet’s tenure, the Museum’s area nearly doubled. All three existing pavilions were restored, allowing the MNBAQ’s entire collection—which bears testament to 400 years of art in Quebec, from New France to today—to be relaunched. Additionally, approximately 4,000 works have been acquired by the Museum since 2011, bringing the total collection to nearly 40,000 pieces: a remarkable enhancement of the reference collection of Quebec art. The collection was at the heart of Ouellet’s vision of the new museum complex. Each pavilion is now dedicated to a specific period: four celebrated modern artists—Leduc, Riopelle, Pellán and Lemieux—in the Charles-Baillargé Pavilion (opened in 2014); contemporary art from 1960 onward, including design, art deco and Inuit art in the Pierre Lasonde Pavilion (opened in 2016); and historical art in the Gérard-Morisset Pavilion (reopening in 2018).

During her seven years of management, Line Ouellet programmed 16 exhibits of historical Canadian art—including *Mitchell | Riopelle. Nothing in moderation*, which saw more than 100,000 visitors in fall 2017 and received acclaim from the media and the public—26 contemporary art

exhibits and 12 international exhibits. The latter category includes the *Alberto Giacometti* exhibit, which arrived in 2018, the 85th anniversary of the Museum, after being displayed in the Tate Modern in London. Once it leaves the MNBAQ, it will be sent to the Guggenheim in New York and Bilbao.

Line Ouellet is dedicated to increasing recognition of Quebec art, and with the help of the MNBAQ's Foundation, she helped establish two prizes: the *Prix en art actuel du MNBAQ* (2014) and the *Prix Lynne-Cohen* (2017).

Her accomplishments were fuelled by a desire to appeal to guests from all walks of life: children (for whom a family gallery was built in 2016), students, youth, adults and tourists alike. Her design of the MNBAQ's new complex hinged on the idea that the space should not only be a beautiful home for art, but an open living space as well.

After nearly 18 years at the MNBAQ, including 11 years as the Director of Exhibits and seven years as Director and Chief Curator, Line Ouellet has certainly made her mark on Quebec's cultural landscape.

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The Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec is a public corporation funded by the Government of Quebec.

Québec 

INFORMATION

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Important facts and accomplishments

2018

February 8: inauguration of the international *Alberto Giacometti* exhibit, marking the start of programming for the MNBAQ's 85th anniversary; the exhibit comes from the Tate Modern in London and will next be displayed in the Guggenheim in New York and Bilbao.

2017

With the support of the Fondation du MNBAQ, launch of the *Prix Lynne-Cohen*, which supports up-and-coming professional visual artists whose work includes photography as a key element.

Chosen as one of the art personalities of the year by Le Soleil newspaper.

2016

Inauguration of the new Pierre Lassonde Pavilion, which received unanimous critical acclaim from both the public and national and international media. This remarkable accomplishment was marked by numerous prizes, cementing it not only in the Museum's history, but the history of art and architecture in Quebec as well.

- Grands Prix du Design in the *Cultural Establishments and Residential, Commercial and Integrated Furnishing* categories
- Les Mérites d'architecture from the City of Québec and Prix spécial du jury in the *Public and Institutional Buildings* category for the Pierre Lassonde Pavilion
- Excellence Award for steel construction, as a jury favourite, in the *Institutional and Commercial Projects* category
- Inova Award from the Urban Development Institute of Quebec in the *Public Service* category
- Excellence Award 2017 from the Société des musées du Québec in the *Exhibit* category
- Les Mérites d'architecture from the City of Québec in the *Artwork/Public Sector* category
- Winner of the 2016 Déjeuner des Médias: *Communication Performance Award* and *Event Performance Award*

2014

Opening of four new modern art exhibits in the Charles-Baillargé Pavilion as part of the first phase of the redeployment of the Museum's collections.

Creation of the *Prix MNBAQ en art actuel*, in partnership with the RBC Foundation and the Fondation du MNBAQ.

2011

Named Director and Chief Curator of the Musée National des Beaux-arts du Québec.

2010

Since 1999, launch of more than 70 exhibits under her leadership, as well as some 40 publications emphasizing celebrities of the art world, as Director of Exhibits.

Named a Knight of the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, a French title awarded to people who have contributed to the success of arts and literature in France and around the world.

2009

Recipient of the Excellence Award of the Société des musées québécois, in the *Institution* category, for the *The Louvre in Québec, The Arts and Life* exhibit.

2006

Since 2000, responsible for educational activities and scientific publications at the Museum, in addition to her role as Director of Exhibits.

2005

Recipient of the Award of Outstanding Achievement in Publications from the Canadian Museums Association for *Camille Claudel et Rodin: la rencontre de deux destins*, published by Éditions Hazan in 2005.

Recipient of the Publication Award by the Société des musées québécois for *Exhibit Design. Dix mises en espace d'expositions au Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec*, a publication by the Musée National des Beaux-arts du Québec published in 2003.

1999

Named Director of Exhibits at the Museum.