Press Release
New Exhibition
June 14 to September 3, 2018

Fait main / Hand Made
An outstanding overview of contemporary art in Canada

Québec City, Wednesday, June 13, 2018 — The Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec is proud to present Fait main / Hand Made from June 14 to September 3, 2018, a major exhibition in the temporary rooms of the Pierre Lassonde Pavilion focusing on know-how and traditional practices in contemporary art with a nod to popular art, raw art, pop surrealism and technological art. The multifaceted exhibition takes a unique look at part of Canadian contemporary art output.
It is the mastery of matter that comes to the fore in this original exhibition, which assembles 100 outstanding works produced by nearly 40 Canadian artists. From Vancouver to Halifax and including Montréal, these artists from diverse backgrounds propose a wide array of practices, ranging from wood carving to quilts, not to mention ceramics and embroidery. The exhibition includes a chair sculpted from newspaper, objects covered in knitting, textile videos and 3D printing.

**Five themes and five relevant perspectives**

Five themes are broached in order to afford visitors a broad, diversified experience.

The artists assembled in the *Making / Telling* space propose remarkable aesthetics. They express themselves, by way of an example, through direct carving, pottery and cabinetmaking, seeking not so much to obey propriety as to express political, spiritual and identity-related values.

In the area devoted to *Fibre Patterns*, textiles transcend the private sphere and are projected into the public sphere. Quilts or knitting make it possible to weave more than just fibres and visitors will sense a gradual shift from the poetic to the political.

As for the theme *Labours / Hobbies*, pastimes, in reaction to the accelerated pace of our time, make it possible not only to slow down but also to achieve self-expression and communication through the creation of a handicraft object. Whether by means of puzzles or model kits, in this area certain artists achieve impressive levels of meticulousness.

*Lowbrow* is a pictorial movement that originated in California in the 1970s in opposition to the fine arts and affords a more irreverent breakthrough. Not all of the artists in this section explicitly claim to adhere to the Lowbrow movement, but their practices are more direct and undisciplined, mock so-called major arts categories and display a perhaps more eccentric refinement.

State-of-the-art technology transforms matter. Jacquard loom, knitting, weaving, crochet and quilts also turn to technologies and are transported by them. *Technological Extensions*, the fifth and final theme, assembles works supported by technology, inventive items and sophisticated do-it-yourselfery.
Artists from across Canada


Fascinating works

Cal Lane’s Gutter Snipes I (2011), is one of the fascinating works in the exhibition, which questions classes, occupations and gender. The artist uses plasma to cut out metallic objects from heavy industry, namely, a divided pipe, and transforms them into complex lace. The decorative imagery commonly associated with femininity is combined with industrial know-how usually reserved for men.

With Yesterday’s Peoples, Tomorrow’s King (2017-2018), Mitch Mitchell has crafted an imitation of a Louis-XVI-style chair using only pasted newsprint, compressed by means of presses and transformed into boards that are even harder than the wood fibre used to make the paper. The artist is interested, in particular, in the iconic value of the object, which takes us back to the last moments of the monarchy before the French Revolution, whose impact was important because of the rapid development of the print media.

Récits lacrymogènes (2013) consists in a dome mounted on three feet ornamented with scrolls that holds a sphere that takes the place usually reserved for the finely carved floor globes that used to decorate bourgeois interiors. Instead of orienting our position on the Earth, Paryse Martin plunges us into a fantastic universe.
Clint Neufeld has dismantled old automobile engines then transposed each of their components by duplicating them in ceramics. The porcelain engines, coated in pastel glazes, are highlighted on chairs and sofas with evocative curves. *Trailer Queen* (2008) is part of the works typically linked to masculine identity and manual labour, which now metamorphose into precious objects of aesthetic contemplation.

With his series *Manga Ormolu*, works that amalgamate the aesthetic traits of fine Ming dynasty porcelain, 18th century French chinoiseries and mecha-style robotized prostheses borrowed from Japanese anime and manga, Brendan Lee Satish Tang melds varied cultural references. His works also underpin critical discourse on cultural appropriation and fluid identity in a globalized world.

**The MédiaGuide offers an original complementary adventure**

Visitors who wish to enhance their visit to the exhibition can do so with the MédiaGuide. A brief introduction by Anne-Josée Lacombe, coordinator of digital mediation at the MNBAQ, launches this complementary virtual adventure that will transport visitors elsewhere, beyond the walls of the MNBAQ. Digital wizardry will, in this particular instance, enable them to visit the workshops of a dozen artists and discover their universes and the sites that led to the creation of the works presented in *Fait main / Hand Made*.

**The exhibition catalogue**

Through an abundantly illustrated catalogue, including over 100 colour photographs, designed by graphic designer Pata Macedo, readers will discover a broad array of practices, from wood carving to quilts, not to mention ceramics and embroidery. A host of works stemming from research and creation in current art, from the chair sculpted from newsprint to objects covered in knitting, textile videos and 3D printing, will set the tone in a publication that also focuses on the transformation of work, politics, labour and leisure activities.

The 208-page book includes an in-depth essay by Bernard Lamarche, Curator of Contemporary Art at the MNBAQ and exhibition coordinator,
a varied portfolio highlighting the works in the exhibition, a list of the works and the biobibliographies of the artists. The publication, available at the MNBAQ bookstore-boutique and in Québec bookstores, is distributed by Dimedia, for $39.95. ISBN: 978-2-551-26283-0

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**Credits**

*Fait main / Hand Made* is organized by the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec. We would like to thank the Canada Council for its support. Last year, the Canada Council invested $153 million to bring art to the lives of Canadians from coast to coast.

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Curator of current Art, (2000 to this day), MNBAQ

**Digital mediation**
Anne-Josée Lacombe, MNBAQ

**Scenography and Design**
La Bande à Paul

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*Fait main / Hand Made*  
Pierre Lassonde Pavilion of the MNBAQ  
June 14 to September 3, 2018

**INFORMATION:** 418 643-2150 or 1 866 220-2150 / mnaq.org
Images:


General Information

OPENING HOURS OF THE MUSEUM COMPLEX

Until September 3, 2018
Monday to Sunday,
10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Wednesdays till 9:00 p.m.

September 4, 2018 to May 31 2019
Tuesday to Sunday,
10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Wednesdays till 9:00 p.m.
Closed Mondays

**Important:** Updating of the Gérard Morisset Pavilion for the third phase of the reorganization of the collections. Reopening in November 2018

ADMISSION

Adults: **20 $**
Seniors (65 and Over): **18 $**
Ages 18 to 30: **11 $**
Ages 13 to 17: **6 $**
Families (2 adults and 3 children 13 to 17): **44 $**
Families (1 adult and 3 children 13 to 17): **24 $**
Children 12 and under: **free**
Members: **free**
Wednesdays from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.: **half-price**
Reduced rates for groups

CONTACT US

418 643-2150 or 1 866 220-2150
mnbaq.org

Subscribe to our monthly newsletter at mnbaq.org.
An excellent way to stay up to date on news, events and activities at the Musée!

SERVICES AVAILABLE

Parking, Librairie-Boutique, café, restaurant, free Wi-Fi and Cloakroom