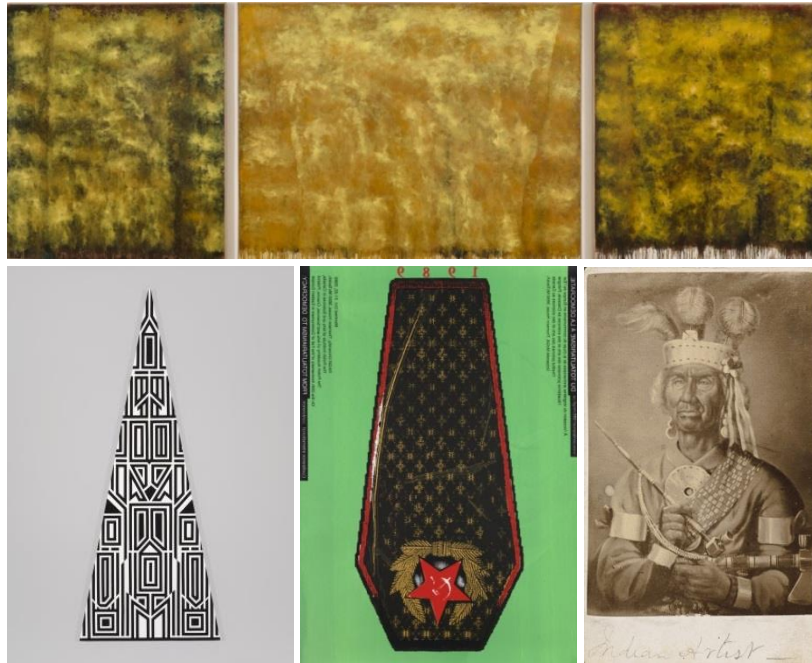


**Press release**

New Exhibition

November 15, 2018 to November 12, 2019

# Where Do We Come From? What Are We? Where Are We Going?



Parc des Champs-de-Bataille  
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Québec City, Wednesday, November 14, 2018 ☒ In the wake of the celebrations marking the reopening of the Gérard Morisset Pavilion, in conjunction with the reorganization of the collections of ancient and modern art and its new acquisitions, the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec (MNBAQ) is proud to present the *Where Do We Come From? What Are We? Where Are We Going?* exhibition, which bears the title of a powerful work by Jean McEwen that engages in timeless questioning on identity. **From November 15, 2018 to November 12, 2019**, visitors can discover more than 40 works, all recent acquisitions of the MNBAQ, produced by nearly 30 artists from varied backgrounds, who express our stratified identity and in respect of which there persists a fundamental question: Where do we come from? What are we? Where are we going?

## *The exhibition bears the title of McEwen’s work*

*Where Do We Come From? What Are We? Where Are We Going?* evocatively poses universal questioning on identity. The exhibition’s title, quoting a celebrated painting by Paul Gauguin (1848-1903), is a major work by artist Jean McEwen, whose questioning from the perspective of “we” encourages us to revisit our origins and collective histories. It is important that history, formerly drafted by a dominating hand, hears, acknowledges and records at a time of post-colonial reflection the memory of these who experienced this ascendancy.

## *Art is a vital witness of the times*



*Where Do We Come From? What Are We? Where Are We Going?* comprises recent acquisitions of the MNBAQ and appears as an upheaval. Through their evocative power, the works transport, disturb or impassion viewers. Assembled here, they underpin contemporary demands. The exhibition proposes a return to certain moments in our history, its scars and grey areas linked to the past and to the present. Such reflections are essential to define ourselves, assemble and unite such that the “we” in question becomes imbued with diversity and thereby corresponds to an open societal project based on a desire for change.

The reorganization of the MNBAQ’s collections of ancient and modern art reveals that the collections have developed in symbiosis with Québec’s traditional history, leaving little place for works by women, the Aboriginal peoples and culturally diverse artists. The MNBAQ is playing a key role in recording Québec’s visual memory. Québec must constantly question its relationship with history, review it and examine its margins to highlight what has, since its foundation, escaped its notice or been dismissed because of bias. Through this exhibition and future acquisitions, the MNBAQ is committing itself to openness and inclusion.

## *Three key themes and their seminal works*

The exhibition hinges on three powerful themes. Among the seminal works that brilliantly illustrate the first theme, “Break with Québec’s colonial history — Hear and record the memory of those who experienced it,” mention must be made of Jean McEwen’s major work *Where Do We Come From? What Are We? Where Are We Going?*, after which

the exhibition is named, and *Juno I, II et III* (2017), sculptures by Caroline Monnet.

At the heart of the exhibition, the theme “The wounds stemming from this history – How to collectively rebuild our lives,” is powerfully expressed by Massimo Guerrera’s creation *À mots perdus* (1990), Andrew Dutkewych’s *It’s Difficult to Say* (1992), and Mike Patten’s *Native Beating* (2011).

The third theme, more closely linked to current affairs, “Right-wing populism, popular anxiety and identity,” is reflected in Dominique Blains’ *Locum Sanctum* (1995), Milutin Gubash’s sculptures *A Doll 1* and *A Doll 2* (2015), and Alfred Halassa’s powerful series of posters entitled *Du totalitarisme à la démocratie* (2009).




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## Conversation, the first series of MNBAQ podcasts

The exhibition *Where Do We Come From? What Are We? Where Are We Going?* marks the launching of *Conversation*, the first series of MNBAQ podcasts, where visitors will be invited to discover its collections through a conversation between an artist and a key figure from the realms of culture and ideas. This audio experience seeks to invite participants to consider art from all angles, whether artistic, historic, political or philosophical.

The first episode of *Conversation* focuses on identity, colonialism, healing, nuance and populism. This initial exchange offering a wealth of meaning and reflections features Jeremie McEwen, professor of philosophy at Cégep Montmorency, a hip-hop musician, a commentator on the programs *C’est fou* and *On dira ce qu’on voudra* on ICI Radio-Canada Première, who is the son of the celebrated painter Jean McEwen; and Caroline Monnet, a filmmaker and multidisciplinary artist of Breton and Algonquin origin who focuses here on the Aboriginal identity and bicultural reality.

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## Credits

*Where Do We Come From? What Are We? Where Are We Going?* is an exhibition developed by the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec.

### *Project Directorship*

**Annie Gauthier**  
Director of Collections and  
Research, MNBAQ

### *Curatorship*

**Maude Lévesque**  
Curator of CPOA and public  
engagement, MNBAQ

### *Operations Management*

**Yasmée Faucher**  
Department Head, MNBAQ

### *Exhibition and Graphic Design*

**Danièle Lessard**  
**Nathalie Racicot**

### *Project Manager*

**Kasia Basta**

### *In Gallery Programs*

**Marie-Hélène Audet**  
Mediation Coordinator,  
MNBAQ  
**Catherine-Eve Gadoury**  
Coordinator of Cultural Action,  
MNBAQ

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*The Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec is a state corporation funded by the  
Gouvernement du Québec.*



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***Where Do We Come From? What Are We? Where Are We Going?***  
**November 15, 2018 to November 12, 2019**  
**Gérard-Morisset Pavilion of the MNBAQ**

INFORMATION : 418 643-2150 or 1 866 220-2150 /mnbaq.org

Page 1 – Photos: Left to right: Jean McEwen, *D'où venons-nous? Que sommes-nous? Où allons-nous?*, 1975. Huile sur toile, 203,1 x 178 cm (1<sup>er</sup> élément); 203,5 x 275,2 cm (2<sup>e</sup> élément); 203 x 183 cm (3<sup>e</sup> élément). Collection du Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec. Don d'Indra McEwen (2010.210) © Succession Jean McEwen / SOCAN Crédit photo: MNBAQ, Idra Labrie // Caroline Monnet, *Odyssée I*, 2017. Acrylique sur cèdre, 224,6 x 91,2 cm. Collection du Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec. Achat (2018.67) © Caroline Monnet Crédit photo: MNBAQ, Idra Labrie // Alfred Halasa, *Du totalitarisme à la démocratie*, 2009. Sérigraphie, 88 x 113 cm. Collection du Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec, Don de l'artiste (2015.232) © Alfred Halasa Crédit photo: MNBAQ, Idra Labrie // Inconnu, *Zacharie Vincent Telariolin. Photographie d'un tableau, de l'album de collection, dit de Napoléon Garneau*, 1878.

Épreuve à l'albumine argentique, 10,5 x 6,4 cm (carte); 8,9 x 6,1 cm (image). Collection du Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec, Don de la collection Michel Lessard (2013.168.29) Crédit photo: MNBAQ

Page 2 – Photos: From top to bottom: Andrew Dutkewych, *It's Difficult to Say*, 1992. Bronze et assiettes de porcelaine (52), 140 x 210 x 600 cm (dimensions variables). Collection du Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec, Don de Christine Veilleux et Martin Champagne (2013.47) © Andrew Dutkewych Crédit photo: MNBAQ, Idra Labrie // Marc Séguin, *Ruines n° 2 (Arches)*, 2011. Huile et cendre sur toile, 152,5 x 203,5 cm. Collection du Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec, Don de François R. Roy (2013.149) © Marc Séguin / SOCAN Crédit photo: MNBAQ, Idra Labrie

Page 3 – Photos: From top to bottom: Caroline Monnet, *Juno I*, 2017. Goudron, acrylique, cheveux synthétiques et bois, 190 x 43,5 x 45 cm. Collection du Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec, Achat (2018.64) © Caroline Monnet Crédit photo: MNBAQ, Idra Labrie // Massimo Guerrera, *À mots perdus*, 1990. Huile et encre? sur panneau de bois gravé, plâtre, livres, coffret en bois et alène, 91,4 x 122 x 22 cm. Collection du Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec, Don de Marc Letellier (2013.87) © Massimo Guerrera Crédit photo: MNBAQ, Denis Legendre // Milutin Gubash (en collaboration avec Katarina Gubash, mère de l'artiste), *A Doll 2*, 2015. Tuyaux de cuivre et d'acier, bouteilles de plastique, polystyrène, ruban adhésif, vieux draps appartenant au père de l'artiste, complet appartenant à l'artiste, cravate, chemise de coton, bottes de cuir, sac de papier, silicone, lampe DEL et fibre de verre, 196 x 74 x 53 cm. Collection du Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec, Achat (2016.107) © Milutin Gubash / SOCAN Crédit photo: MNBAQ, Denis Legendre

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## General Information

OPENING  
HOURS OF THE  
MUSEUM COMPLEX

### Until May 31, 2019

Tuesday to Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Wednesday till 9 p.m.

Closed Mondays (except December 31, 2018, March 4, April 1 and May 20, 2019)

Closed December 24 et 25

### 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 p.m. to  
9 p.m.: **half-price**

Reduced rates for groups

### SERVICES AVAILABLE

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

### CONTACT US

418 643-2150 or

1 866 220-2150

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