

Press release

New exhibition

From January 31, 2020 to January 24, 2021

Wandering, a Rohingya Story
*Art Reveals the Trials and Tribulations of
Exodus*

Parc des Champs-de-Bataille
Québec (Québec) G1R 5H3

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Québec City, Thursday, January 30, 2020 ✕ The Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec (MNBAQ) is proud to present in the cell block of the Charles Baillairgé Pavilion the multidisciplinary exhibition *Wandering, a Rohingya Story*. Admission will be free of charge. This immersive multimedia experience will offer visitors a humanistic artistic perspective of the Rohingya exodus, an unprecedented humanitarian crisis.

From **January 31, 2020 to January 24, 2021**, visitors can immerse themselves in the implacable reality of the refugee camps and thus observe the refugees' remarkable resilience. Art offers new proof, if such proof were needed, that it can forge links between individuals and spur reflection on complex topics.

Look and listen... to try to understand

Musée national
des beaux-arts
du Québec

In 2018, documentary photographer **Renaud Philippe** visited the Kutupalong camp in southeastern Bangladesh to bear witness to the reality of Rohingya refugees, a Muslim minority persecuted for decades in neighbouring Myanmar (formerly Burma). Deeply moved by the magnitude of the situation and Renaud Philippe’s powerful photographs, committed, award-winning documentary film-makers **Olivier Higgins** and **Mélanie Carrier** decided to return with the photographer to the Kutupalong camp, which within several months became the world’s biggest refugee camp with more than 600 000 exiled Rohingyas spread over 13 km². In this way, they wished to heighten worldwide awareness of this crisis, by making a documentary film.

The outcome of their efforts is *Wandering, a Rohingya Story*, an exhibition that encompasses photographs, film clips and soundscapes as well as dioramas by artist Karine Giboulo, portraits by artist Rosalie Gamache and drawings by Rohingya children. Visitors will witness the day-to-day lives of refugees and the living ghosts of an exiled people.

Six separate visual displays and soundscapes will enable visitors to reflect on the nature of a refugee camp. The ambient sound will mainly comprise sounds recorded during a visit to the Kutupalong camp. Citizen-visitors will be invited to reflect on the interconnection and interdependence of human beings and the importance of solidarity wherever we live.

SIX VISUAL DISPLAYS EMBODY SIX REALITIES

The first visual display represents the **CAMP**. This section of the exhibition reveals everyday activities such as meal preparation, water collection, food distribution or the waiting that shapes the passing days. Video mapping projects and several hundred of Renaud Philippe’s photographs suspended in space immerse visitors in the intensity of day-to-day life in the camp.

The next visual display is devoted to **RAIN**. Every year, the inhabitants of this region in Asia face heavy monsoon rains. This section highlights previously unreleased images of the refugees’ lives in the torrential downpours.



The tragedy has engendered physical and psychological injuries, reflected in **SCARS**, the third visual display, comprising excerpts from interviews with women who will bear the lasting impact of such suffering.

Draw for the pleasure of it, to invent, to dream. Draw to remember. Children do not perceive the world the same way as adults do. In the fourth visual display, Rohingya **CHILDREN'S DRAWINGS** produced in the Kutupalong camp illustrate both their dreams and their perception of this humanitarian disaster.

CHILDHOOD and a happy-go-lucky attitude often go hand in hand. The fifth visual display seeks to demonstrate that despite their dramatic situation, children have fun. Here, their everyday lives are presented with utmost simplicity: they squabble in the mud and play with a ball. Suspended from the ceiling, kites made by refugee children from the Centre multiethnique de Québec attempt to take flight.



The last visual display, **DIORAMAS**, created by artist Karine Giboulo, comprises roughly one hundred statuettes illustrating the daily lives of Rohingya refugees. The highly expressive polymeric figurines sensitively transport visitors first to exile, then to scenes of everyday life in the heart of the Kutupalong camp.

Wandering, a Rohingya Story is a highly emotionally charged exhibition presented in the former Québec City prison whose strikingly symbolic spaces reflect the experience of the Rohingya. It will heighten awareness among visitors of the lives of the refugees welcomed in Québec and elsewhere in the country. Cultural mediation activities such as film showings organized by Antitube, talks by the creators, and the construction of kites will take place throughout the year. The documentary film *Wandering, a Rohingya Story* will be shown in the fall of 2020.

Credits

Wandering, a Rohingya Story, an original idea of Olivier Higgins and Mélanie Carrier, in collaboration with Renaud Philippe

Design and production

Mélanie Carrier and
Olivier Higgins (MÖ FILMS)

Other guest artists

Karine Giboulo and
Rosalie Gamache

Project Management

Josée Duhaime

Operations Management

Yasmée Faucher

Project Management

Kasia Basta

Design and Graphic Design

Marie-Renée Bourget Harvey

The Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec is a government corporation subsidized by the Québec government.

Québec 



Presented with the support of the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, the Conseil de la culture de la région de Québec and the Entente de développement culturel entre le gouvernement du Québec et la Ville de Québec, in collaboration with the Festival de cinéma de la ville de Québec, Antitube, HCR Canada, the CRI, the Canadian Commission for UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), the Manicouagan-Uapishka World Biosphere Reserve, MU Conseils and the extraordinary collaboration of Rohingya refugees from Kutupalong Camp and the Rohingya Community of Québec City

Wandering, a Rohingya Story

Cell block of the Charles Baillaigé Pavilion

From January 31, 2020 to January 24, 2021

Free of charge

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

Photos: Renaud Philippe

Biographical information on the documentary film-makers and the exhibition artists

Mélanie Carrier and Olivier Higgins, documentary film-makers

Born in Québec City, Olivier Higgins and Mélanie Carrier are biologists by training. They discovered video while documenting their numerous adventures. In 2007, they produced the documentary film [Asiemut](#), which won 36 awards abroad, was distributed in 40 countries and broadcast on several television networks, including ARTE, RTBF, TSR and Al Jazeera.

In 2010, the director-producer couple founded MÖ FILMS, an independent production company devoted to documentary films that seeks to contribute to debate and contemporary societal challenges. Their second film, [Encounters](#), selected by the National Geographic Society, won several awards abroad and their environmentally-themed satirical short film [Ice Philosophy](#) was presented at numerous festivals.

Their documentary feature film [Québécoisie](#), which examines relations between Quebecers and the First Nations, has won numerous awards. It was nominated for a Jutra Award in 2014 and won the work of the year award of the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec. TV5 Monde disseminated the film in nearly 200 countries and territories in 20 languages.

After giving more than 400 film talks in Québec, Europe and the United States, Mélanie and Olivier undertook various projects, including the documentary feature film [Wandering, a Rohingya Story](#) (slated for release in 2020), which examines the Rohingya refugee crisis in Bangladesh and is the focus of a multidisciplinary exhibition presented at the MNBAQ starting January 31, 2020.

Renaud Philippe, photographer

Renaud Philippe grew up and lives in Québec City. An award-winning documentary photographer, he has mainly focused for the past 15 years on the long-term impact of armed conflicts on civilian populations. He

concentrates principally on South Asia (India, Nepal, Bangladesh) and East Africa (South Sudan, Uganda, Kenya), always independently, often in times of crisis.

He collaborates regularly with the *New York Times*, the *Globe and Mail* and *Le Devoir*. *The Guardian*, *National Geographic*, *The Atlantic*, *MacLean's*, *Le Monde diplomatique*, *Canadian Geographic*, *Le Figaro*, and *Days Japan* are among the publications that have featured his work. Renaud Philippe's work has been exhibited in Thailand at the Bangkok Art and Culture Center, in London at The Guardian Photo Gallery, and at photojournalism festivals in Cambodia, Germany, France, Canada and the United States. His committed photographic series have received several awards, including the National Newspaper Award, the Picture of the Year International, the Flash Forward award of the Magenta Foundation, and the National Magazine Award.

Karine Giboulo, visual artist

Karine Giboulo was born in Sainte-Émélie-de-l'Énergie and lives and works in Montréal. For the past 20 years, she has focused on painting, works on paper and sculpture. She is recognized for her miniature diorama projects and large-scale installations inhabited by polymeric figurines. Inspired by the everyday efforts of people the world over, each artistic project is an epic masterpiece specially designed to encourage deep contemplation and arouse a keen emotional reaction.

Karine Giboulo has participated in numerous solo and group exhibitions in Canada, the United States and Europe: Musée des beaux-arts de Montréal (2010, 2013, 2019), Place des Arts de Montréal (2018), Spinnerei, Leipzig (2017), 21c Museum, Louisville (2010, 2018), Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery, Waterloo (2016), Musée de la civilisation, Québec (2015), McMichael Canadian Art Collection, Kleinburg (2013-2014), Mendel Art Gallery, Saskatoon (2010). In 2011, she received the prestigious Winifred Shantz Award in Ceramics accompanied by a residency in Mumbai. Grants from the Canada Council and the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec have supported her work. Her works *What is my name*, *All you can eat* and *Electronic Village* are part of the collections of the McMichael Canadian Art Collection in Kleinburg, Ontario, the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts and the 21C Museum in Kentucky, respectively.

Kala Miya, poet

Kala Miya is a Rohingya born in the village of Long Doon Foki Daung Nga Kuu Ya in the province of Maung Ya in Arakan State in western Myanmar (formerly Burma). In 2012, he fled his country of birth because of violence toward the Rohingya community and sought refuge in India. He has lived in the Kutupalong refugee camp in Bangladesh since 2018. He has worked as a translator and fixer for journalists and non-governmental organizations. He was a key collaborator during the filming of the documentary *Wandering, a Rohingya Story*, acting as a translator and directing interviews on site. His poetry, written in the world's biggest refugee camp, sheds light on the exhibition *Wandering, a Rohingya Story*.

Mohammed Shofi, witness

Mohammed Shofi is a Rohingya born in the village of Buthidong in Arakan State in Myanmar (formerly Burma). In 1990, he fled his country of birth because of violence by Burman nationalists against the Rohingya Muslim minority. He lived for 18 years in the Kutupalong refugee camp in Bangladesh before being accepted as a refugee in Canada in November 2008. He settled in Québec City with members of his family. Very actively involved in the community, he quickly learned French. In addition to contributing significantly to translation in the feature-length documentary *Wandering, a Rohingya Story*, he became the film's narrator. It is also Mohammed Shofi who, at the very end of the exhibition, tells his story.

Rosalie Gamache, visual artist

A native of Montréal, Rosalie Gamache settled in Québec City in 2014 to complete her bachelor's degree in visual and media arts at Université Laval, after studying drawing and academic painting at the Russian Academy of Art in Florence. She is involved in the community through an array of activities related to present-day art and the fine arts. Her artistic practice has been rewarded with grants, including a project grant under the Première Ovation – visual arts, media arts and arts and crafts measure, and through her participation in exhibitions in Montréal, Québec City, Jonquière, Florence, Italy, and Marseille, France.

Marie-Renée Bourget Harvey, graphic designer and stage designer

Marie-Renée Bourget Harvey has a passion for the arts and communication. A graphic designer by profession, she also engaged in enriching, essential studies in anthropology and the visual arts before obtaining her degree in set designing from the Conservatoire d'art dramatique de Québec in 2005. She is also the co-founder of tectoniK_ and the worksites / artistic constructions of the Carrefour international de théâtre. She has the tremendous honour and pleasure to work with numerous talented stage directors, creators and artists to create sensitive, striking, multifaceted performance spaces. She constantly seeks aptness and cohesion in creation, driven by a desire to instil poetry both on the stage and in everyday life.

Keven Dubois, multidisciplinary artist

Keven Dubois is a native of Québec City. While completing his bachelor's degree in theatre, he discovered an interest, which became a passion, for light. The discovery persuaded him to undertake a master's degree in theatre arts and screen arts at Université Laval. His studies focused on video projections as a source of stage lighting. His involvement in research under the *Castelet électronique* project enabled him to represent Canada at the Prague Quadrennial, where he revealed to festival-goers the operation of the *Castelet électronique* and the findings of his own research on video light. Since then, he has promoted this original stage-lighting method in projects such as *Le Voyage de Tchekhov à Sakhaline*, *Dreamland*, *Photosensibles*, *GLORIA* and *Dragonfly of Chicoutimi*. In 2018, Keven Dubois received the Prix Jacques-Pelletier and the Prix de la critique (set designing category) for the lighting and video design in the play *HYPO*.

Louis-Robert Bouchard, multidisciplinary artist

Louis-Robert Bouchard is a professional artist, designer, integrator and technician who has participated for nearly 15 years in numerous projects in the realms of technology, sound, image and the stage. He is involved in several companies, organizations, institutions and artists' groups. He also collaborates with professional artists in the dance, theatre, performance, music, audio arts, visual arts, multidisciplinary arts, audiovisual installation and research sectors.

Through his collaborations, he has established himself as a reference in experimental multidisciplinary creation, complex video projection, sound spatialization and interactivity. In 2015, he founded Interférences, a production company with a mandate to produce works that combine the arts and technology.

General Information

OPENING
HOURS OF THE
MUSEUM COMPLEX

Until May 31, 2020

Tuesday to Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Wednesdays till 9:00 p.m.

Closed Mondays (except March 2, April 13 and May 18, 2020)

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ADMISSION

Adults: 22 \$

Seniors (65 and Over): 20 \$

Ages 18 to 30: 12 \$

Ages 13 to 17: 7 \$

Families (2 adults and 3 children
13 to 17): 48 \$

Families (1 adult and 3 children
13 to 17): 26 \$

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

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