

Diane Obomsawin signs the seventh edition of *Lumière sur l'art*

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

418 643-2150
1 866 220-2150

mnbaq.org

Press Contact

Linda Tremblay
Media Relations Officer

418 644-6460, ext. 5532
linda.tremblay@mnbaq.org



Québec City, Wednesday, November 10, 2021 ✕ The new edition of *Lumière sur l'art* is synonymous with renewal and wonder on Avenue Cartier in Québec City. For the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec (MNBAQ) and the Société de développement commercial de Montcalm-Quartier des arts (SDC Montcalm-Quartier des arts), this outstanding attraction in the Montcalm district since 2015 not only places art front and centre in residents' lives but also affords a tremendous opportunity to celebrate the creativity of Québec artists through the 34 giant lampshades.

Diane Obomsawin, an artist of Abenaki ancestry, has been asked to create the seventh edition of the illuminated circuit. The animated filmmaker and illustrator has decided to juxtapose comic strip characters of her own invention and elements of geometric abstraction with archival photographs from the MNBAQ's Québec collection. The resulting new mixing of cultures is sure to charm passersby from all walks of life.

When colourful characters dance with black and white

Diane Obomsawin immersed herself with keen curiosity in the collection of Québec photographs before choosing more than 40 of them. She has embellished them with playful comic strip characters and coloured geographic patterns to create unique bridges between the past and the present, unique links between life long ago and contemporary life and, above all, designed works that are sure to move and amuse the public.



With great sensitivity, the artist has selected picturesque photographs of Québec City and Québec, mainly from the Yves Beauregard collection (*Rue dans la Basse-Ville de Québec* (1935), *Sports d'hiver sur les plaines d'Abraham* (1925), *Deux Enfants avec leurs skis sur la terrasse Dufferin, Québec* (1929), and so on), and from the Michel Lessard collection (*Famille dans un canot au lac Saint-Jean* (?) (circa 1890), *Indiens cris* (?) *dans un rabaska* (circa 1885), *Jean-Baptiste Taiaiake Rice* (circa 1870), *Descente en toboggan à la Citadelle de Québec* (circa 1870), *Famille dans un canot au lac Saint-Jean* (?) (circa 1890), *Tramway chasse-neige, rue D'Auteuil, Québec* (circa 1885), and so on), to name but a few. The negatives of Jules-Ernest Livernois, the team of Élise L'Heureux (Livernois' widow) and Louis Fontaine (also known as Bienvenu), Josée Pedneault, and even the American photographer Lida Moser, among others, are magnified by a series of colourful illustrations.



Lastly, to produce the 34 works, Diane Obomsawin did not hesitate to draw inspiration from the Fibonacci sequence, derived from the golden ratio, a principle whereby balance in design and graphic design favour the attainment of proportions that are ideal and pleasing to the human eye. The results clearly show that it is visually striking.



From Pellan to Diane Obomsawin

In the wake of works by Alfred Pellan and Fernand Leduc in 2015-2016, Rita Letendre and Jacques Hurtubise in 2016-2017, Pierre Ayot in 2017-2018, Manon De Pauw in 2018-2019, Jocelyn Robert in 2019-2020, and Pierre&Marie's *Les Paysages révolutionnaires* in 2020-2021, Diane Obomsawin's work was the obvious choice for the seventh edition of *Lumière sur l'art*.

“Diane Obomsawin has achieved a unique exploit by perfectly mixing the past and the present, old photographs from the MNBAQ’s Québec collection, and her fabulous contemporary characters. Her exquisitely sensitive work succeeds in engaging us but, above all, in drawing us together. Her singular collages boldly present scenes from the everyday lives of different communities, including the First Nations. The artist is unifying and inclusive and succeeds in creating an imaginative space for reflection that refers at one and the same time to the intimate and the universal,” noted Josée Duhaime, Director of Mediation and Visitor Experience at the MNBAQ. “The MNBAQ is pleased to be a mainstay of this outstanding initiative of businesspeople in the SDC Montcalm-Quartier des arts and to be a link between Avenue Cartier and the MNBAQ and between residents and their museum. It is important for the MNBAQ to maintain this facet of programming, which affords Québec artists a springboard and visibility for the works in our collection, and acts as an antidote to fall dreariness,” Ms. Duhaime concluded.

Diane Obomsawin, in a nutshell



Illustrator and animated filmmaker Diane Obomsawin, alias Obom, lives in Montréal. She publishes her comic strips with poetry publisher L’Oie de Cravan and in English with Drawn & Quarterly. She has produced several animated films as an independent filmmaker and seven auteur films, in collaboration with the National Film Board of Canada. Her animated films have been presented at festivals in Québec, Canada and abroad and have received prestigious awards, including the Grand Prize at the Ottawa International Animation Festival in 2017, the People’s Choice Award at L’Alternativa, Barcelona Independent Film Festival, in 2017, and the Silver Pegasus Award at Animator in Poland in 2013. Retrospectives of her work have been presented at the FIFA in 2008 and the Cinémathèque québécoise in 2016. Over the years, Diane Obomsawin has created a personal form of storytelling imbued with humour, humanity, and solemnity, which frequently incorporates autobiographical elements. Since 2012, she has also produced installations, which enable her to anchor differently her myths and dreamlike visions in time and space.

- *Biography, Nicole Gingras, Curator*

Information sheets

Giant lamps

Designed considering the golden number, which best respects the formats of the composition of the works, each of the 34 glossy semi-transparent vinyl paintings measures 942 cm long by 200 cm high. Three layers of ink were necessary to obtain optimum printing quality and ensure durability. The structure of the lamps, made of welded aluminum, weighs 56 kg and measures 1.6 m high and 2.4 m in diameter. City streetlamps provide lighting through five LED strip lights.

Self-supporting structures

The 17 self-supporting structures, each one equipped with two lamps, comprise three steel tubes with a diameter of 127 mm. Their height of 4.9 m and weight of 705 kg are equally impressive. They are painted brown like the city streetlamps and are mounted on the sidewalks on Avenue Cartier.

The Lumière sur l'art circuit is a lighting concept of LightEmotion, under the direction of a strategic committee comprising the Destination Québec City, the Commission de la capitale nationale du Québec, and Québec City. It was implemented by Scène Éthique under the direction of the SDC Montcalm-Quartier des arts and its partners. The project was made possible initially through financial support from Québec City, the Entente de partenariat régional en tourisme de la région de Québec (EPRTRQ) between the Ministère du Tourisme, the Destination Québec City and the Secrétariat à la Capitale-Nationale, the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec (MNBAQ) and the advisory role of the Commission de la capitale nationale du Québec. Financial contributions from Québec City, the MNBAQ and the SDC Montcalm-Quartier des arts have made this edition possible.

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

Québec 

Lumière sur l'art 2021-2022

Avenue Cartier, Quartier des arts, Québec City

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

Pages 1 et 2 – Diane Obomsawin, details of works from the 2021-2022 *Lumière sur l'art* circuit

Page 3 – Diane Obomsawin