

Art Museum
University of Toronto
—
Justina M. Barnicke Gallery
University of Toronto Art Centre

7 Hart House Circle
Toronto, Ontario M5S 3H3
artmuseum.utoronto.ca

Art Museum

January 22, 2019 – Please include in your announcements and listings

The Night of Ideas Returns to Toronto on Saturday, February 2, 2019

In partnership with the Cultural Service of the French Embassy in Canada and Hart House, the Art Museum at the University of Toronto is thrilled to present the second annual **Night of Ideas: Facing the Present** on Saturday, February 2, from 7 pm to 2 am.

The Art Museum was one of the first Canadian institutions to take part in this French-initiated global, free, all-night event happening simultaneously in more than 50 cities. Following up on the success of the event in January 2018, **Night of Ideas 2019** will see attendees considering human migration in the context of culture and science – confronting one of the greatest present-day and future urgencies of humanity.

Night of Ideas: Facing the Present participants can engage in thoughtful interactive activities throughout the night that focus on the movement of people from a political, historical, economic and scientific perspective including a late-night Cricket match, board games from around the world, dancing and live music, a chance to sample samosas, and a variety of apples, tracing their path from farm to table.

Keynote speaker **Alain Mabanckou** is a novelist, journalist, poet, academic, and author of more than

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twenty novels translated into fifteen languages. His work, poetic and deeply influenced by the oral and literary traditions of Africa, depicts with dry humour the experience of postcolonialism in Africa and abroad. Originally from Pointe-Noire (Congo-Brazzaville), **Mabanckou** currently teaches literature and creative writing in the Department of French & Francophone Studies and African Studies Center at UCLA. Laureate of Prix Renaudot, Académie Française Prize winner for his entire work, and Man Booker International Prize finalist, Mabanckou is a leading Franco African writer in contemporary literature.

Additional speakers for **Night of Ideas: Facing the Present** include: **Marc Carbonell**, a member of SOS Méditerranée, a maritime-humanitarian organization of rescuers in the Mediterranean; **Mawena Yehouessi**, founder of the collective Black(s) to the Future; and **Sarah Sharma**, Associate Professor and Director of the McLuhan Centre for Culture and Technology, University of Toronto.

Connected to the two exhibitions opening at the Art Museum, *Vision Exchange: Perspectives from India to Canada* and *P. Mansaram: The Medium is the Medium is the Medium*, the **Night of Ideas** 2019 will focus on addressing issues of shifting histories and borders; relationships to the land, as well as the complex themes of migration, immigration and diaspora. Participants will be able to visit the exhibitions as well as engage directly in conversation with internationally acclaimed thinkers as part an intensive series of keynote

lectures, conversations, performances, and screenings – all for free.

As a special project in tandem with **Vision Exchange: Perspectives from India to Canada**, the Art Museum will present a one-night installation of **Divya Mehra's** *Afterlife of Colonialism, a reimagining of Power: It's possible that the Sun has set on your Empire OR Why your voice does not matter: Portrait of an Imbalanced, and yet contemporary diasporic India vis-à-vis Colonial Red, Curry Sauce Yellow, and Paradise Green*, placed neatly beneath these revived medieval forms: *The Challenges of entering a predominately White space (Can you get this in the gift shop?)* – an inflatable sculpture of the Taj Mahal, on exclusive view for **The Night of Ideas**.

Also, on the night of the reception, attendees can enjoy introductions to the exhibitions **Vision Exchange** with curators Jonathan Shaugnessy and Catherine Crowston, and **P. Mansaram: The Medium is the Medium is the Medium** with curators Indu Vashist and Toleen Touq of SAVAC.

Launched in London and Berlin in 2012 and 2014, the Night of Ideas is a concept coined by the Institut Français and the cultural services of the French Embassies. The 2017 edition was its first simultaneous edition, presented in places of culture and knowledge internationally, attracting more than 180,000 participants and 7 million followers. The participating Canadian cities in 2019 are Toronto, Vancouver, Montreal, Quebec City, Winnipeg, Halifax and Ottawa.

Night of Ideas

Facing the Present

February 2, 2019, 7 pm to 2 am

Hart House, 7 Hart House Circle

<https://artmuseum.utoronto.ca/program/night-of-ideas-2019/>

The Night of Ideas is presented in conjunction with the Art Museum's winter exhibitions opening February 2, 2019 from 5 – 7pm, with extended opening hours for the Night of Ideas 7pm – 12am.

Vision Exchange: Perspectives from India to Canada

Organized by the Art Gallery of Alberta and the National Gallery of Canada as part of the NGC@AGA exhibition series, curated by Catherine Crowston and Jonathan Shaughnessy.

Presented with the assistance of Chemould Prescott Road (Mumbai), Galerie Mirchandani + Steinruecke (Mumbai) and Nature Morte (New Delhi).

Toronto University of Toronto Art Centre, 15 King's College Circle

<https://artmuseum.utoronto.ca/exhibition/vision-exchange-perspectives-from-india-to-canada/>

P. Mansaram: The Medium is the Medium is the Medium

Curated by Indu Vashist and Toleen Touq and co-presented with SAVAC

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<https://artmuseum.utoronto.ca/exhibition/p-mansaram-the-medium-is-the-medium-is-the-medium/>

Both exhibitions will be on view until March 23, 2019.

Night of Ideas is Supported by:
University of Toronto, University College, French Embassy in Canada, Institut Français, Canadian Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council, Toronto Arts Council

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About the Art Museum at the University of Toronto

Comprised of the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery and the University of Toronto Art Centre, which are located just a few steps apart, the Art Museum at the University of Toronto is one of the largest gallery spaces for visual art exhibitions and programming in Toronto. Building on the two galleries' distinguished histories, the Art Museum organizes and presents a year-round program of in-house and off-site exhibitions, as well as intensive curricular and educational events. Learn more at artmuseum.utoronto.ca

About Hart House

Hart House is the University of Toronto's centre for experiential

education outside the classroom. Since it first opened its doors in 1919, Hart House has sought to function as a place where students—as well as faculty, staff, alumni and members of the broader community—find welcome and unique ways to connect with each other and the broader world through engagement with the arts, dialogue and wellness. Operating from a historic facility more than 200,000 square feet in size as well as a 150-acre farm in Caledon, Ontario, Hart House offers a wide range of services to both students and community members through a social enterprise model that generates revenue to support its student-focused programming on all three of the University of Toronto’s campuses.

About the Cultural Service of the French Embassy in Canada:

The Cultural Service of the Embassy of France in Canada works through the five Consulates to implement a cultural policy that focuses on four principal areas: cooperation, innovation, sustainable growth, and French-language initiatives. Canada and France develop a significant partnership in cultural and digital fields.

About the Institut français:

The Institut français is in charge of implementing France’s cultural action abroad. Under the supervision of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, its role is to act as the conduit for a new, more ambitious “diplomacy of influence”, within the framework of French governmental policies and priorities.