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

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Art Museum

For Immediate Release

The Art Museum at the University of Toronto is nominated for a 2019 UMAC Award of Excellence for *Figures of Sleep* and *The Night of Ideas*, 2018

(Toronto, May 7, 2019) The Art Museum at the University of Toronto is thrilled to be one of three international nominees of the **2019 UMAC Award.** The award honours excellence and innovation in university museums and collections and, most importantly, celebrates the impact of university museums and collections on their host universities (here understood as higher education institutions), their communities and contemporary society. The winner will be announced at the 19th UMAC Annual General Assembly on September 3, 2019, in Kyoto, Japan.

Figures of Sleep, **curated by Sarah Robayo Sheridan, the Art Museum Curator,** was a major international art exhibition, paired with **Night of Ideas 2018**, an intensive all-night forum of screenings, performances and public debates on the question Is sleep in crisis? The conjoined event brought artists' existential and political concerns with sleep into dynamic dialogue with the latest scientific and humanities research into the meaning of downtime, the health impact of sleeplessness, the cultural importance of dreaming, and the architecture of the bedroom. Welcoming over 7,000 visitors, the project explored a timely subject through cross-disciplinary perspectives, shaping a new model of social engagement for a university gallery.

Figures of Sleep featured works by artists Francis Alÿs, Rebecca Belmore, Louise Bourgeois, Chris Burden, Sophie Calle, Chris Curreri,

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO   HartHouse   UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Peter Fischli and David Weiss, Rodney Graham, Tehching Hsieh, On Kawara, Hassan Khan, Liz Magor, Ron Mueck, Bruce Nauman, Gabriel Orozco, Jasmeen Patheja, Jon Sasaki, and Mladen Stilinović.

In the words of the UMAC 2019 Award Committee:
"Fantastic! An innovative approach to programming that is transferable for any museum-specific concept, specific programs, and scale for programming."
"Original and very rich. This project really makes you want to spend a night at the museum!"

UMAC is the international committee for university museums and collections of the **International Council of Museums**, **ICOM**. It is an international forum for all those working in, or associated with, academic museums, galleries and collections. The UMAC Award of Excellence honours excellence and innovation in university museums and collection and, most importantly, celebrates the impact of university museums and collections on their host universities (here understood as higher education institutions), their communities and contemporary society. Through the Award, UMAC commends outstanding recent contributions to all areas of museum and collections theory and practice, particularly those with an interdisciplinary approach and the potential for worldwide application.

For more information on the UMAC Award 2019 please visit
http://umac.icom.museum/umac-award/umac-award-2019/

For more information on *Figures of Sleep* please visit
https://artmuseum.utoronto.ca/exhibition/figures-of-sleep/

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About the Art Museum at the University of Toronto:
The Art Museum is comprised of the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery (Hart House) and the University of Toronto Art Centre (University College). Located just a few steps apart, the two galleries were federated in 2014 and began operating under a new visual identity as the Art Museum at the University of Toronto, one of the largest gallery spaces for visual art exhibitions and programming in Toronto. Building on the two galleries' distinguished histories, the Art Museum originates and organizes an intensive year-round program of exhibitions and events that foster—at a local, regional, and international level—innovative research, interdisciplinary scholarship, and knowledge of art and its histories befitting Canada's leading university and the country's largest city.