

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

For Immediate Release: December 19, 2017 – Please include in
your announcements and listings

**The Night of Ideas
Is Launched in Toronto
Thursday, January 25, 2018 7pm to 7am**

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 **Night of Ideas: To Sleep or Not to Sleep** on Thursday, January 25, from 7 pm to 7 am. The Art Museum is one of the first Canadian institutions to take part in this French-initiated global, all-night event happening simultaneously in more than 50 cities. Night of Ideas will bring together international artists, writers, philosophers, historians, neuroscientists and other restless minds to tackle such wide-ranging subjects as the neuroscience of sleep, the meaning of downtime, the health impact of sleeplessness, the cultural importance of dreaming, and the architecture and politics of sleep.

The audience will be able to engage directly in conversation with these thinkers as part an intensive series of keynote lectures, workshops, performances, screenings and readings, explains Art Museum Executive Director Barbara Fischer, and spend the long winter night, sleepless or soothed by the sounds of a lullaby.

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Scheduled in conjunction with the Art Museum's exhibition **Figures of Sleep**, the gathering of award winning, internationally recognized, writers, researchers and performers includes among many others: world-renowned Spanish architectural historian and theorist Beatriz Colomina, who examines the bedroom as an architectural space turned modern day office and control room. French Geographer Luc Gwiazdzinski considers the ways in which city life is shaped by the 24-hour cycles of day and night; U.S. art historian Tom McDonough looks at the role of boredom in the visual arts in a 24/7 world, and Janine Rivière explores the history of nightmares and their interpretation from medical explanations to political, religious, or supernatural associations. UofT's Director of the McLuhan Centre, Sarah Sharma's fieldwork focuses on the differential impact of time on people's working lives in a globalized economy—from taxi drivers to the jet-setting business class. Additional programming includes workshops for the sleep-deprived; a rare, archival screening of Andy Warhol's 1963 film *Sleep*, and the broadcast of composer Max Richter's phenomenal *Sleep*, an eight-hour lullaby for a frenetic world.

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. In 2018 the Canadian cities, Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver will join this global initiative.

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Supported by the Institut français; TD Insurance; Media
Sponsors: NOW Magazine and CIUT

Night of Ideas
To Sleep or Not to Sleep
January 25, 2018, 7 pm to 7 am

<http://artmuseum.utoronto.ca/program/night-of-ideas/>
<https://www.lanuitdesidees.com/en/>

Presented in conjunction with the Art Museum exhibition,
Figures of Sleep

Both sites of the Art Museum at the University of Toronto
Justina M. Barnicke Gallery, 7 Hart House Circle, Toronto
University of Toronto Art Centre, 15 King's College Circle

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Media Contact: [FLIP PUBLICITY](https://www.flip-publicity.com), 416.533.7710, Damien Nelson,
damien@flip-publicity.com

About *Figures of Sleep*

The exhibition, curated by Sarah Robayo Sheridan, will include visual art works such as: a large-scale, slide-dissolve installation by Swiss artists **Peter Fischli** and **David Weiss**, that immerses the viewer in a barrage of mind-wandering questions from a

stress-induced sleeplessness; a series of portraits from *Les Dormeurs* by French artist **Sophie Calle**, who asked people to give her a glimpse of their sleep by sleeping in her bed for eight hours while being photographed; a haunting, miniaturized sculpture of an old woman curled up in her bed by Australian artist **Ron Mueck**; documentation from American artist **Chris Burden**'s 22-day long stay in bed, performed for the duration of his exhibition at the Market Street program in San Francisco in 1972; and *Burrow* by Canadian artist **Liz Magor**, a series of cast tree trunks that house sleeping bags, unsettling the association of urban homelessness and outdoor refuge.

Figures of Sleep will feature Toronto artist **Jon Sasaki**'s remarkable endurance dance work *A Rest*. Performed by **James Phillips**, *A Rest* takes its cue from depression-era dance marathons in which two people sustained a pose by leaning on each other for physical support. When these poses are performed solo, the viewer sees the dancer strain in an unsustainable position without relief, ultimately causing collapse.

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.

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 Hart House

Hart House has been the centre for education outside the classroom at the University of Toronto since 1919. Open to students and the community 365 days a year, Hart House invites exploration in the arts and culture, recreation and wellness and debate and dialogue. It is a place to develop skills, interests and networks that can last a lifetime. The facilities include spaces for study, socialization and celebration including a vintage theatre, the internationally renowned Art Museum, a fully equipped gym, a satellite farm location, and Gallery Grill gourmet restaurant.

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.

About the speakers and performers:

Internationally renowned architectural historian and theorist, **Dr. Beatriz Colomina**, has written extensively on the intersections of sexuality, media and architecture. Her essay, *The Century of the Bed*, conceived the theme for the 2014 annual “curated by vienna” series where international curators, artists, and contemporary galleries re-examined the bed as an architectural space. She is the current the Director of Graduate Studies in History and Theory of Architecture at Princeton University.

Chloé Delaume is the author of over 20 novels. Her work includes experimental autofiction and feminist utopia. She experiences literature as her own lab, where she weaves different kinds of formats and genres. While a resident at Villa Médicis in Rome, she embarked on a work cycle focusing on witches as a magical and political figure, leading to the publication of the novel *Les Sorcières de la République* (Éditions du Seuil, 2016) or *Witches of the Republic* in English. *Certainement pas* will be her first novel translated to English, to be published in Fall 2018.

French philosopher and psychoanalyst, **Dr. Cynthia Fleury**, considers the impact of information technologies on decision-making in democratic systems and is currently working on a reevaluation of political theory in light of current theories of communication. She is a founding member of the European Network of Women Philosophers at UNESCO, and holds the Research Chair in Philosophy at the Hôtel-Dieu in Paris.

The work of Geographer and urban planner, **Dr. Luc Gwiazdzinski**, is centrally concerned with the ways in which the 24-hour cycles of day and night shape city life. He is the author of several books that take the night as an object of geographical study, including *The Night: the Last Border of the City* and *The City: 24/24*. He is a Professor in the Department of Urban Arts at the University of Grenoble, France.

Interdisciplinary scholar, **Dr. Ian J. MacRae**, is interested in the 'borderlands' of language as sites of collision, contact, and cultural exchange through which he reads the tensions, and the constructions, of race, class, gender, ethnicity, and indigeneity across a range of media and modes. It is through this lens that he is currently preparing "Arctic Dreams and Nightmares: The Monstrous Vision of Alootook Ipellie" for publication. He is currently an Associate Professor of English at Wilfred Laurier University.

Dr. Tom McDonough is the editor of *Boredom*, a title part of an acclaimed series of anthologies that document major themes and ideas in contemporary art published by MIT Press. His work addresses the intersections of art and political struggle in the postwar era, with a special emphasis on France. He is currently an Associate Professor and Chair Associated Faculty,

Comparative Literature Department at Binghamton University,
The State University of New York.

Dr. Amira Mittermaier's first book, *Dreams that Matter: Egyptian Landscapes of the Imagination*, brings together textual analysis and ethnographic fieldwork to explore Muslim practices of dream interpretation, as they are inflected by Islamic reformists, Western psychology, and mass mediation. She is currently an Associate Professor the Departments for the Study of Religion & Near Middle Eastern Civilizations at the University of Toronto.

British neuroscientist, **Dr. Adrian M. Owen**, has spent the last 20 years pioneering breakthroughs in cognitive neuroscience. His labs at The University of Western Ontario study so-called “disorders of consciousness”, such as brain injury and neurodegenerative diseases, along with the physiological mechanisms of sleep. He is currently holds the Canada Excellence Research Chair in Cognitive Neuroscience and Imaging.

Dr. Christelle Peyron is a leading expert in the study of narcolepsy at the Neuroscience Research Center of Lyon in France. She is currently studying the mechanisms and pathways responsible for our sleep-wake cycles with particular interest given to narcoleptic subjects who experience a sleep disorder known as cataplexy – where muscle spasms that usually occur during REM occur during awake states.

Dr. Janine Rivière explores the variety of ways in which early modern people understood and interpreted dreams, from medical explanations to political, religious, or supernatural associations. Her most recent publication, *Dreams in Early*

Modern England: Visions of the Night, explores the dream in relation to divination, religious visions, nightmares and sleep disorders. She currently teaches in the International Foundation Program at New College at the University of Toronto.

Dr. Sarah Sharma's monograph *In the Meantime: Temporality and Cultural Politics* focuses on how people's different relationships to labor configure their experience of time. Analysing the interconnected forms of labor and technology associated with occupations that do not adhere to the 9-5 work schedule, she argues that personal understanding of time often functions as a form of biopolitical social control necessary to global capitalism. She is currently an Associate Professor and Director of the McLuhan Centre for Culture and Technology at the University of Toronto.