

December 20, 2019 – Please include in your announcements and listings

Toronto's *Night of Ideas* Comes Alive on Saturday, January 25, 5pm-2 am

In partnership with the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in Canada based in Toronto and Hart House, the Art Museum at the University of Toronto is thrilled to present the third annual ***Night of Ideas: Being Alive*** on Saturday, January 25, 2020 from 5pm to 2am.

The Art Museum was one of the first Canadian institutions to take part in this French-initiated global, free event, which takes place simultaneously in more than 50 cities. Following the success of the previous two years, 2020's ***Night of Ideas: Being Alive*** will engage attendees in events and activities that explore what it means to be alive, in the multiplicities of the body and the entanglements of identity.

Keynote speaker **Paul B. Preciado** is a philosopher, writer, curator, and trans activist. His work considers biopolitics and sexuality, looking at the ways technology and pornography have shaped how we think about gender. He has written about Playboy, architecture, and sexuality in the 1960s (*Pornotopia*, 2014); used his experiences taking testosterone to examine the business of desire and the pharmaceutical industry's role in expanding our definitions of gender (*Testo Junkie*, 2013); and invited his readers to relinquish ideas about "natural" gender, sign a countersexual contract, and embrace the possibilities offered by the prosthesis (*Countersexual Manifesto*, 2002). The Curator of Public Programmes for documenta 14, Preciado is also the curator of the Art Museum's exhibition *Lorenza Böttner: Requiem for the Norm*.

Lorenza Böttner: Requiem for the Norm will be the first North American presentation of the work of Chilean/German artist Lorenza Böttner. Born Ernst Lorenz Böttner in Chile in 1959, at eight he lost both his arms in an accident. Institutionalized in Germany, where he moved with his mother for treatment, he rejected prosthetics intended to compensate for his supposed disability. In art school, he started identifying as female and changed her name to Lorenza. Although her career spanned just sixteen years, Lorenza Böttner created over 200 individual works, painting with her feet and mouth and using dance, photography, street performance, drawing, and installation to celebrate the complexity of embodiment and gender expression. Casting herself as a ballerina, a mother, a young man with glass arms, a Greek statue, Böttner's work is irreverent and hedonistic, filled with the artist's joy in her own body.

Participants at ***Night of Ideas: Being Alive*** will be able to visit the exhibition as well as engage directly in conversation with an interdisciplinary line-up of internationally



acclaimed thinkers as part an intensive series of conversations, performances, and screenings, including Preciado's keynote lecture—all for free. ***Listening to Snow***, the Art Museum's winter exhibition on Canadian artist Michael Snow's sound-based works, which is part of the Hart House's centennial programming, will also be open to the public during the event. Additional speakers and activities, will be announced in the coming weeks.

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 Embassy. 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 2020 are Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec City, Moncton, Winnipeg, Calgary and Vancouver.

Night of Ideas: Being Alive

Saturday, January 25, 2020 from 5pm to 2am

Art Museum at the University of Toronto and Hart House

artmuseum.utoronto.ca

The *Night of Ideas* is presented in conjunction with the Art Museum's winter exhibition opening of *Lorenza Bottner: Requiem for the Norm* (5-7pm) with extended opening hours to midnight for the *Night of Ideas*, as well as for *Listening to Snow*.

Presented by:

Art Museum at the University of Toronto, Hart House, the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in Canada



RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE
CONSULAT GÉNÉRAL DE FRANCE
À TORONTO

Supported by:



Media Sponsors:

The logo for NOW, featuring the word "NOW" in a bold, black, sans-serif font with a thick horizontal bar above the letters.The logo for THE WALRUS, featuring the words "THE WALRUS" in a black, serif font. The word "THE" is smaller and positioned to the left of "WALRUS".

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 been a place where students, faculty, staff, alumni and members of the broader community find unique ways to connect through engagement with the arts, dialogue and wellness. Hart House plays a pivotal role in enhancing the student experience on all three campuses, and provides a haven for students and community members to come together, in all their diversity, to take delight in the sheer joy of discovering new things about themselves, each other, and the world we all share.

About the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in Canada

The Cultural Services 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.

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

Media Contact & Infos:

Marianne Rellin, marianne.rellin@utoronto.ca
Priscillia Leroy, presse@consulfrance-toronto.org