

MOMENTA

BIENNALE D'ART CONTEMPORAIN



Raphael Barontini, *Empereur Henri-Christophe d'Haïti*, 2017

**19th EDITION OF MOMENTA:
THE EVENT THAT KICKS OFF THE CULTURAL SEASON!**

**A program accessible to everyone:
23 artists, 22 exhibitions,
11 exhibition spaces**

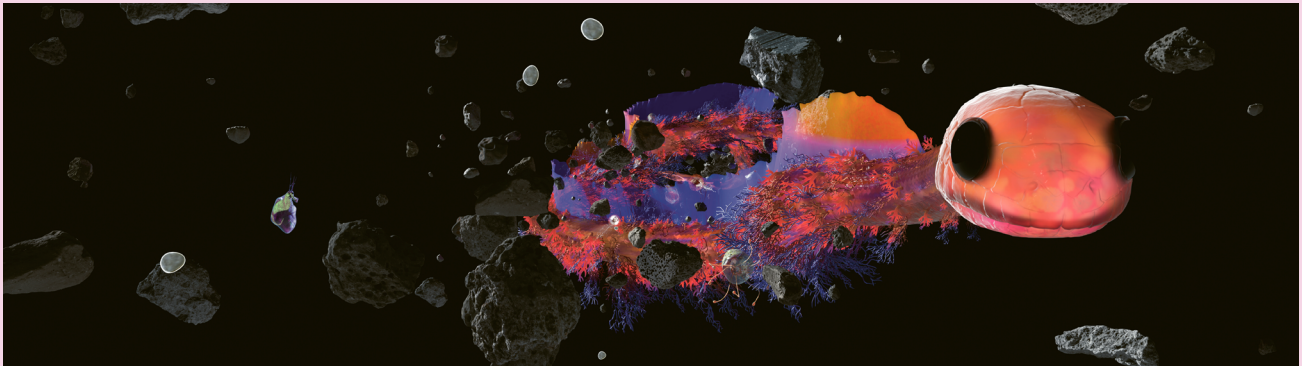
**Starting September 10, 2025
In Tiohtià:ke / Mooniyang / Montreal**

Tiohtià:ke / Mooniyang / Montreal, Monday, August 11, 2025 – MOMENTA Biennale d'art contemporain is proud to present its 19th edition, starting September 10, 2025. Curated by Marie-Ann Yemsi, the Biennale has partnered with Montreal museums, galleries, and artist-run centres to offer the public a series of exhibitions that explore *In Praise of the Missing Image*.

This year MOMENTA celebrates its 19th edition, and also its first as a contemporary art biennale. Within this unusual blending of old and new is the most accurate expression of what truly sets biennales apart in the field of art. Biennales embrace the future while being firmly rooted in the present.

This edition of the Biennale aims to amplify emancipatory voices through which joy becomes a means of transgression and collective creation. The Biennale explores the political and poetic potential of joy, bringing it forth as a source of care, resilience, and resistance.

Presented in **11 exhibition spaces** across the city, the Biennale's programming will form a dialogue among the work of **23 Canadian and international artists**, representing **14 countries**, **4 provinces**, and **5 Indigenous communities**. From one exhibition to the next, artists will explore hybridization, fluidity, and fugitivity to create emancipatory images that reveal marginalized or erased narratives.



Joséfa Ntjam, *swell of spæc(t)es*, 2024, image still. Courtesy of LAS Art Foundation © Joséfa Ntjam / ADAGP, Paris / CARCC, Ottawa, 2025

Through the unruly material of art, In Praise of the Missing Image invites us to imagine collectively the means, political and poetic, by which we may inhabit the impasses of the present and sketch out ways toward the future.

Marie-Ann Yemsi, guest curator

MOMENTA BIENNALE D'ART CONTEMPORAIN

MOMENTA's Inauguration

Musée d'art
contemporain
de Montréal

Sept. 10
5:30 p.m.

Grand opening

This festive occasion will mark the inauguration of the Biennale's 19th edition with a lively evening bringing together artists, partners, and the public for cocktails at Le Cathcart. Together, we'll celebrate the launch of the new edition.

Gallery exhibitions

[Click here](#) to see the complete program for the 22 exhibitions.

As well as many activities!

PHI

Sept. 9
5:30 p.m.

Discussion: guest curator Marie-Ann Yemsi and artist Josèfa Ntjam

Archives
nationales

Sept. 13
1:30 p.m.

Panel: Biennale artists and guest curator Marie-Ann Yemsi

Montreal
Museum
of Fine Arts

Sept. 14
2 p.m.

Discussion: guest curator Marie-Ann Yemsi, curator Anne-Marie St-Jean Aubre, and artist Anique Jordan

Fonderie Darling

Oct. 2
5:30 p.m.

Prix Polygone

The Prix Polygone is awarded by the magazine *Vie des Arts* and the Conseil des arts de Montréal as part of the MOMENTA professional meetings.

Chapelle de la
Cité-des-
Hospitalières

Oct. 3
7 p.m.

***Voiceless Mass* by Raven Chacon, performed alongside Quatuor Bozzini**

Centre CLARK

Oct. 16
6 p.m.

Discussion: artist OK Pedersen, joined by Mathilde Fauteux and Ben Stidworthy

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MOMENTA Routes

MOMENTA has prepared five routes to offer the public a unique experience of the neighbourhoods hosting its program – an outing that includes art exhibitions, culinary experiences, and unusual venues. The routes include visits to Mile-End, the Quartier des spectacles, Old Montréal, and downtown, and the highlight, MOMENTOUR: a full day to discover all of the Biennale's exhibitions!

Professional Meetings

MOMENTA extends its program to include a series of professional meetings for a broad network of curators, conservators, directors, cultural workers, and artists from Québec, Canada, and abroad. Through exhibition visits, networking activities, and a series of talks, including a performance – some of which are open to the public – MOMENTA offers visual arts professionals opportunities to share their knowledge and to benefit from that of their peers in a program that highlights Québec expertise and international excellence.

Cultural Mediation Program

The 19th edition of MOMENTA will offer an array of free cultural mediation activities addressed to a variety of audiences. The artistic programming will be supplemented by an extended cultural mediation program, MOMENTA Créatif, which will include a multitude of educational activities, creative workshops, and guided tours to help visitors make the most of their Biennale experience.



Publication

In Praise of the Missing Image

Once again, MOMENTA is working in collaboration with the prestigious German publishing house Kerber Verlag. The publication, to be launched on the Biennale's opening day, brings together a range of perspectives on its programming and the issues that drive it. Each artist is profiled, and the book includes an exclusive piece by artist Lou Sheppard. Author Yaniya Lee and theorist Françoise Vergès contribute new essays that broaden and deepen the reflections intrinsic to this edition of the Biennale.

132 pages

A co-publication of MOMENTA and Kerber Verlag

Available in English and French starting September 10 at our exhibition partners

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Anique Jordan, *To Score the Marvelous/Chorus*, 2023. Photo: Darren Rigo

About the guest curator

Marie-Ann Yemsi is a curator and contemporary art consultant who has been director of the Villa Arson art centre in Nice, France, since September 2024. With a degree in political science, Yemsi pays particular attention to theoretical, critical, and aesthetic productions in the Global South and develops multidisciplinary art programs at the intersection of the visual arts, performance, dance, music, and writing. Her projects focus on collaborative art practices and experimental forms, highlighting themes such as memory, history, gender, and identity in relation to contemporary political, social, and ecological issues. She has organized numerous international exhibitions including, most recently, the group exhibition *Ubuntu, a Lucid Dream*, at the Palais de Tokyo in Paris, and Grada Kilomba's *A World of Illusions*, at the Norval Foundation in Cape Town, South Africa. She was a recipient of the Villa Albertine, a prestigious French program of residencies in the United States, in 2025, and in 2026 she will present an exhibition and a publication resulting from her research and work with contemporary artists in the archives of *The Afro*, one of the oldest and most important African American newspapers, conserved in Baltimore.

About MOMENTA

MOMENTA Biennale d'art contemporain is a flagship Montreal event that, every two years, invites artists and audiences to gather in the city's museums, galleries, and artist-run centres. For 35 years, it has produced exhibitions, public events, and educational workshops that introduce participants to local and international artists whose works pique curiosity and stimulate reflection.

Press relations

For requests concerning the Biennale
Stéphanie Culakowa
 stephanie.culakowa@rugicomm.ca
 + 1.514.245.1417

For requests concerning
 the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal
Livia Belcea
 livia.belcea@macm.org
 + 1.514.847.6210

MOMENTA Biennale d'art contemporain
 5445, de Gaspé avenue, suite 611
 Montreal (Quebec) H2T 3B2
 Canada
momentabiennale.com

MOMENTA BIENNALE D'ART CONTEMPORAIN

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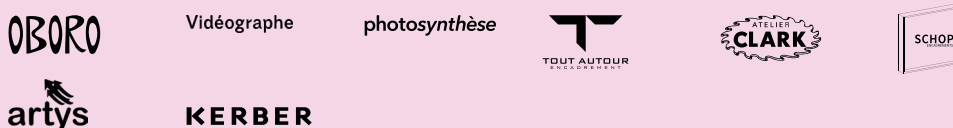
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