



THE HNATYSHYN FOUNDATION

PRESS RELEASE

ARTIST MARCEL DZAMA AND CURATOR MARIE-JOSÉE JEAN RECEIVE HNATYSHYN AWARDS

OTTAWA, July 26, 2013 – Gerda Hnatyshyn, C.C., President and Chair of the Board of The Hnatyshyn Foundation, today announced the recipients of the 2013 *Hnatyshyn Foundation Visual Arts Awards*. The \$25,000 prize for outstanding achievement by a Canadian artist is awarded to Marcel Dzama of Winnipeg, while the winner of the \$15,000 award for curatorial excellence in contemporary art is Marie-Josée Jean, general and artistic director of VOX, centre de l'image contemporaine. Since 2006, a total of \$305,000 has been awarded.

Marcel Dzama's practice is characterized by an immediately recognizable visual language that draws from a diverse range of references and artistic influences such as Marcel Duchamp, Oskar Schlemmer, the Ballet Russes and Dada. While seduced into thinking we recognize all that is apparent the work resists straightforward interpretation in its allegorical and dream-like scenarios.

In recommending Dzama for The Hnatyshyn Foundation Visual Art Award, the jury noted that an expansive range and depth of narrative has emerged since he first became known for his now distinctive drawings. Evident in pieces made across media, including recent large-scale ceramic tableaux and ambitious films, Dzama's work reveals a tougher, more politicized reading combining personal histories aligned with the strategies of early modernism. Such beguiling sophistication foiled by the unpredictable lends a nuanced, multilayered air to his subjects while elucidating a resonance with our contemporary world.

Born in 1974 in Winnipeg, Dzama now lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. Dzama has exhibited widely and in 2010, the major survey, *Aux mille tours/Of Many Turns*, presented the artist's work at the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, Canada. Other recent solo exhibitions include *Con razón o sin ella/With or Without Reason*, Centro de Arte Contemporáneo de Málaga, Spain; *A Touch of Evil/Un toque de maldad*, Museo de Arte de Zapopan (MAZ), Zapopan, Mexico; World Chess Hall of Fame and Museum, St. Louis, Missouri (all 2012); *A Game of Chess*, Gemeentemuseum, The Hague; *The Never Known into the Forgotten* Kunstverein Braunschweig, Germany (both 2011); Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich (2008); *Tree with Roots*, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, UK (2006); and *The Lotus Eaters*, Le Magasin – Centre National d'Art Contemporain de Grenoble, France (2005). A comprehensive monograph of Dzama's work, produced and designed in collaboration with the artist, will be published by Abrams in fall 2013.

The recipient of the 2013 Hnatyshyn Foundation Award for Curatorial Excellence in Contemporary Art is **Marie-Josée Jean**.

Born in Repentigny, Quebec, Marie-Josée Jean is the general and artistic director of VOX, centre de l'image contemporaine, and an exhibition curator, in addition to teaching at the Université du Québec à Montréal and the Université Laval in Québec City. In 2012, she completed an important capital project that enabled Artex, the Regroupement des Centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec (RCAAQ) and VOX to permanently occupy two floors of The 2-22, a new cultural building in downtown Montréal. She has spent more than fifteen years researching the theory and practice of contemporary art, organizing exhibitions and publishing essays. She is currently working on a major research project, in association with Canadian and European institutions, on the history and practice of exhibitions developed by artists. She also served as artistic director of the 6th and 7th Mois de la Photo de Montréal, titled *Le Souci du document* [Photography as Documentation] (1999) and *Le Pouvoir de l'image* [The Power of the Image] (2001). As an independent curator, she has produced exhibitions at venues including the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec, the Casino Luxembourg—Forum d'art contemporain, the Centre d'art Santa Mònica in Barcelona, the Nederlands Fotomuseum in Rotterdam, the Neuer Berliner Kunstverein in Germany, and the Villa Arson, Centre national d'art contemporain in Nice. She lives and works in Montréal and Vienna, Austria.

In recommending Jean for The Hnatyshyn Foundation Visual Art Award, the jury commented, "For more than 15 years, Marie-Josée Jean has researched conceptual art with a fresh analytical eye, examining both the recent history of the movement, as well as its iconic works, in a field yet to be the subject of a single in-depth study. Her exhibitions, publications and lectures attest to her diligence and precision, as well as a high degree of intellectual rigour. The expertise she has acquired in relation to the theories and practices of conceptual art extends into the field of museology as well: issues such as a work's placement and recontextualization inform her chosen area of expertise, and are key to the concepts conveyed in her essays and the exhibitions she curates. As a result, her work has been key in helping to advance this particular discipline."

The award recipients were selected by a jury of arts professionals from across Canada:

- Eve-Lyne Beaudry, Curator, Contemporary Art, Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec
- Robert Enright, Contributing Editor and Film Critic for Border Crossings magazine; Professor and University Research Chair in Art Theory and Criticism, School of Fine Art and Music, University of Guelph
- Peggy Gale, Independent Curator
- Diana Nemiroff, Curator and Art Historian
- Nigel Prince, Executive Director of the Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver

The Hnatyshyn Foundation offers its sincere congratulations to this year's recipients.

About The Hnatyshyn Foundation

The Hnatyshyn Foundation is a private charity established by the late Right Honourable Ramon John Hnatyshyn, Canada's twenty-fourth Governor General, to assist emerging and established artists in all disciplines with their schooling and training, and promote to the Canadian public the importance of the arts in our society. Its programs are funded by donations from government, foundations, corporations and individuals. The Department of Canadian Heritage has provided \$5 million in grants to assist the Foundation.

Information about *The Hnatyshyn Foundation Visual Arts Awards* is available on the Foundation's website, www.rjhf.com, or by contacting:

The Hnatyshyn Foundation
(613) 233-0108
admin@rjhf.com