

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Immigrant artist counters values charter
with a more inclusive, collective statement**

Montreal, October. 10, 2013. For the past three years artist and social activist **Carolina Echeverria** has been working on an artistic statement of collective cultural values. Her upcoming exhibit, **Native Immigrant**, is on collision course with the proposed **Charter of Quebec Values**, presenting an inclusive vision in the face of the exclusion that some see as a threat to divide Quebec society.

“I see it as a fantastic opportunity to finally include immigrants into the dialogue,” says Echeverria. “Imagine if that charter of values would have been written together, how amazing that would have been. Instead of everybody fighting we would all be excited about creating a new society or creating an identity based on common values.”

Echeverria is inviting the public to take part in a collective work of art based on her own, and others’, experiences as newcomers to Canada. “We are all immigrants like it or not,” she says. “We just have different arrival dates.”

Visitors are invited to express that experience by participating in the creation of two works of art: **The Charter of Immigrant Values**, a large mural to be completed by guests and visitors, as a kind of painted manifesto of Native Immigrants, will later be donated to a deserving government institution. And **Immigrant Dress**: a naked mannequin planted in a pot of indigenous earth will be adorned with a dress made up of donated fabric or other objects of sentimental multicultural value. This interactive and collective dress-making activity will take place over a period of three weeks. Both projects will allow for open dialogue about immigration, and our mutual connections as Native Immigrants and the people of this Uncertain Nation.

The exhibit is framed by a new collection of thirty paintings created by the artist bringing together the influence of Norval Morrisseau, Algonquin artist and creator of the Woodland School of Art, and Brigada Ramona Parra, a 1970’s leftist muralist movement inspired by the aesthetics of the indigenous peoples of Chile.

The installations are a collaborative, interactive effort. Public participation is a must.

Native Immigrant. October 24-November 3

Rialto Hall Theatre, 5711 Ave. du Parc

Vernissage: Thursday, October 24, 5:00-8:00

Opening ceremonies featuring Native women’s singing group Odaya*

Gallery Hours: Wednesday to Sunday, 12 - 7 pm, through to Sun. November 3rd.

Public Immigrant Dress Making Activity: Wed. to Sun. daily 12-2 pm, 4-6 pm. Open to all.

***Odaya**, a dynamic group of committed and creative Aboriginal women, raises awareness and builds bridges through song, celebrating the richness of the Aboriginal cultures, and promoting women's and indigenous peoples' rights.

Immigrant: A plant or animal that establishes itself in an area where it previously did not exist. With the exception of First Nations' Peoples, we are **ALL immigrants.*

-30-

Press Contact:

“Daniel Laxer” <press@nativeimmigrant.com

514-952-3813