



Jonas St. Michael, *On Theatre Road* (detail), 2017
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MOMENTA | Biennale de l'image (formerly Le Mois de la Photo à Montréal) presents, in collaboration with Maison de la culture Frontenac, *Jonas St. Michael – On Theatre Road* from September 7 to October 8. The opening is being held on September 8 at 5pm, in the presence of the artist.

Jonas St. Michael (Canada) is interested in the image as it is mediated in movies, television, advertising, as well as painting, sculpture, and literature. He seeks to create an ostensible real, to yield something tangible that goes beyond the staging of an imaginary world. The video installation *On Theatre Road* (2017) explores the gaps in the lives of two men sharing a room. They express themselves in the form of an animated interchange followed by a long monologue by one of the characters, yet they ultimately fall short in constructing a stable or coherent narrative. St. Michael probes the ambiguous space between reality and fiction, questioning the nature of performance and storytelling. The work comes to communicate a social reality by addressing the zone between truth and fiction in figurative imagery.

Jonas St. Michael (1973–) is a Canadian artist who lives and works in Montréal. Through his photographic production, he examines the nature of representation and its relationship with wider cultural and social contexts. In his practice, he explores the meaning of fiction as something more than simply the constructing of an imaginary world – rather, a reframing of the real. His work has been presented nationally and internationally, including solo and group exhibitions at the Haus am Lützowplatz (Berlin, 2017), the Harcourt House Artist Run Centre (Edmonton, 2017), VU PHOTO (Québec City, 2016), OK Harris (New York, 2013), the British School at Rome (2016), La Scatola Gallery (London, 2012), and Galerie Les Territoires (Montréal, 2010).

MOMENTA 2017

For its 15th edition, MOMENTA has joined forces with curator Ami Barak, who has developed an outstanding program on the theme *What Does the Image Stand For?* The 2017 edition of MOMENTA explores the concept of photographic and videographic evidence for the prosecution, whether images are still or in motion, raising the question of images as avatars, and focusing on the fantastical and sublimated aspects of the reality that they convey. The 38 artists in this biennale invite us not to accept their testimony uncritically. The biennale comprises three segments. The first, which corresponds to the central exhibition at our headquarters, focuses on the work of 23 artists and is being presented at two sites: Galerie de l'UQAM and VOX, centre de l'image contemporaine. The second consists of 14 solo exhibitions spread throughout the city. And the third is an exhibition of documents located at Arttexte.

MOMENTA is also a vast program of public activities, talks, projections, and encounters, as well as many opportunities to meet the artists and see their works. The biennale would be incomplete without its catalogue, co-produced with the prestigious publishing house Kerber Verlag, which brings together texts by the curator and five authors who address the question *What Does the Image Stand For?*

One-off Tour

A guided tour of the exhibition at Maison de la culture Frontenac takes place on September 28 at 5pm.

So you won't miss anything in the 2017 edition, a detailed program is available for free at all of our exhibition partners and on momentabiennale.com.

Providing access to all biennale activities, MOMENTA Passports are available at La Vitrine box office (online: lavitrine.com).

MAISON DE LA CULTURE FRONTENAC

2550 Ontario Street East

Sept. 7 – Oct. 8, 2017

Tuesday – Thursday: 1pm – 7pm

Friday – Sunday: 1pm – 5pm

**Opening: Friday September 8, 2017
at 5pm**

Details: momentabiennale.com

MOMENTA | Biennale de l'image

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About MOMENTA

For nearly 30 years, Le Mois de la Photo à Montréal has been offering a stimulating framework within which to study current practices, evolutions, and issues associated with the still and moving image in Western culture, and to take the pulse of trends in contemporary image making. Renamed MOMENTA | Biennale de l'image in 2017, the organization plays a crucial role in the local, national, and international ecology of the visual arts community. Through its curatorial approach, renowned guest curators develop rigorous artistic programming based on relevant themes; the biennale enjoys a well-established reputation in its city and country, as well as abroad. It actively contributes to the recognition of Canadian artists – who comprise more than 50% of the artists in each edition – by presenting their work within an international context, in association with 15 exhibition partners. In 7 editions, the organization has exhibited more than 2,000 works by 400 artists, and welcomed almost 22 million visitors.