



Taryn Simon, *Nuclear cooperation agreement. Baghdad, Iraq, December 2, 1974* (detail), from *Paperwork and the Will of Capital*, 2015
© Taryn Simon

MOMENTA | Biennale de l'image (formerly Le Mois de la Photo à Montréal) presents, in collaboration with the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, *Taryn Simon – Paperwork and the Will of Capital* from September 6 to November 13. The opening is being held on September 7 at 7:30pm, in the presence of the artist.

In signing of political accords, contracts, treaties, and decrees, powerful men flank floral centerpiece curated to convey the importance of the signatories and the institutions they represent. In *Paperwork and the Will of Capital* **Taryn Simon** (United States) recreates thirty-six of these centerpieces, photographing them against background and foregrounds colors keyed by the original décor of the historic ceremonies. Each photograph represents an “impossible bouquet”, a man-made fantasy of flowers that could never bloom naturally in the same season and geographic location – now made possible by the global consumer market. *Paperwork and the Will of Capital* addresses the instability of executive decision-making and the precarious nature of survival, as well as the reliability and endurance of records. Photographs of the recreated centerpieces from these signing, together with their stories, underscore how the stagecraft of political and economic power is created, performed, marketed, and maintained.

Taryn Simon (1975–) is a multidisciplinary artist who lives and works in New York. Her works have been the subject of exhibitions at the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art (Humlebaek, 2016), Garage Museum of Contemporary Art (Moscow, 2016), and Jeu de Paume (Paris, 2015); and she has participated in recent group shows, including *Animality* at Marian Goodman Gallery (London, 2016), *A Matter of Memory* at the George Eastman Museum (Rochester, 2016), and *In Focus: Animalia* at the Getty Center (Los Angeles, 2015). Simon's work was included in the 56th Venice Biennale (2015) and her installation *An Occupation of Loss*, co-commissioned by the Park Avenue Armory and Artangel, premiered in New York in 2016. Permanent collections include the Neue National galerie, Berlin; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Museum of Modern Art, New York; Tate Modern, London; and Centre Georges-Pompidou, Paris. She is represented by Gagosian Gallery and Almine Rech Gallery.

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 Artexte.

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?*

A tour of the exhibition with Taryn Simon and the curator, Ami Barak, takes place on October 8 at 12pm.

Portfolio Discoveries

The public is invited to discover the portfolios of 15 off-program artists on October 14 between 11am and 4pm at the Beverley Webster Rolph Hall of the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal. This activity offers a different view of the vitality of the local art scene.

MUSÉE D'ART CONTEMPORAIN DE MONTRÉAL

185 Ste-Catherine Street West

Sept. 6 – Nov. 13, 2017

Tuesday: 11am – 6 pm

Wednesday – Friday: 11am – 9pm

Saturday – Sunday: 10am – 6pm

**Opening: Thursday September 7,
2017 at 7:30pm**

Press Relations

Roxane Dumas-Noël

roxane.dumas-noel@macm.org

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).

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.