



Valérie Mréjen, *Leur histoire* (detail), 2014
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MOMENTA | Biennale de l'image (formerly Le Mois de la Photo à Montréal) presents, in collaboration with Optica, *Valérie Mréjen – Q&R – Q&A* from September 9 to October 21. The opening is being held on September 8 at 7:30pm, in the presence of the artist.

Valérie Mréjen's (France) moving and still images are inspired by personal memories, commonplace ideas, and misunderstandings. The exchanges taking place in her works, loaded with intensity, transform banal situations into existential metaphors. In *Leur histoire* (2014), two people seated at a restaurant table chat. Their conversation is punctuated by images collected elsewhere, as if these images could put some order in their relationship. In *Déshabillé* (2017), six characters evoke memories and personal stories related to clothing. In this situation the clothes make the man; it is appearance that reveals the characters' psychological complexity. In *La Baule, ciel d'orage* (2016), the candour of the life stories and exchanges leaves room for a poetry of the everyday, an aesthetic of the refrain, in which such beings become innocent and touching heroes who easily inspire our affection.

Valérie Mréjen (1969–) is a French artist, filmmaker, and novelist who lives and works in Paris. A graduate of the Paris-Cergy National Graduate School of Art, she has always been interested in different means of expression as ways of exploring the potential of language. She draws her inspiration from accounts of real-life experiences, which she rewrites and stages. She launched her art career with a number of artist's books, before turning to video. In 2008, her work was featured in a solo exhibition, *La place de la concorde*, held at the Jeu de Paume Museum (Paris). She has also done many short films, documentaries (*Pork and Milk*, 2004; *Valvert*, 2008), and, co-directed with Bertrand Schefer, a full-length film titled *En ville* (Quinzaine des réalisateurs, Cannes, 2011). She published *Mon grand-père* (1999), *L'Agrume* (2001), and *Eau sauvage* (2004) with Les éditions Allia, and *Forêt noire* (2012) and *Troisième personne* (2017) with Les éditions P.O.L. She is represented by Galerie Anne-Sarah Bénichou (Paris).

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?*

Mix and Match Tour

A Mix and Match Tour combining a guided tour of the exhibitions at Optica and Centre CLARK takes place on September 23 at 12:30pm.

Screening nights at Cinémathèque québécoise

A screening night presenting a selection of the artist's works takes place on September 27 at 7pm.

OPTICA

5455 de Gaspé Ave, Space 106

Sept. 9 – Oct. 21, 2017

Tuesday – Saturday: 12pm – 5pm

Opening: Friday September 8, 2017
at 7:30pm

Details: momentabiennale.com

Press Relations

Esther Bourdages

communications@optica.ca

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.