



Meryl McMaster, *Dream Catcher* (detail), from the *Wanderings* series, 2015
© Meryl McMaster

MOMENTA | Biennale de l'image (formerly Le Mois de la Photo à Montréal) presents, in collaboration with the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, *Meryl McMaster – In-Between Worlds* from September 8 to December 3. The opening is being held on September 7 at 6:30pm, in the presence of the artist.

By means of photography and a performative approach **Meryl McMaster** (Canada) explores the identity of First Nations and their cultural context. Examining her dual heritage – Indigenous and Euro-Canadian – through portraiture and self-portraiture, she surveys self-construction through lineage, history, and culture. In her photographs from the *Wanderings* series (2015) and *In-Between Worlds* (2010–15), McMaster employs a plethora of props – clothes, jewellery, talismans – which become extensions of the body and lead to a telescoping of identities. She positions herself in the middle of nature, considering the landscapes and the seasons as part of a cultural context in which myth and narration come together. These different images, which are so many portraits, may be interpreted as parables.

Meryl McMaster (1988–) is a Canadian artist who lives and works in Ottawa. Through portraiture and self-portraiture photography practices, she explores self-construction through lineage, history, and culture. Her work is presented throughout Canada and the United States; recent solo and group exhibitions include *25 x 25*, National Gallery of Canada (Ottawa, 2017); *From the Belly of Our Being*, Oklahoma State University Museum of Art (Stillwater, 2017); *Collected Journeys*, Anna Leonowens Gallery (Halifax, 2016); *Back Where They Came From*, Sherry Leedy Contemporary (Kansas City, 2016); *Meryl McMaster: Ancestral*, Bockley Gallery (Minneapolis, 2015); and *Meryl McMaster: Second Self*, Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian (New York, 2015). She has received the Hnatyshyn Foundation REVEAL Indigenous Art Award (2017) and the Eiteljorg Contemporary Art Fellowship (2013), and was long-listed for the 2016 Sobey Art Award.

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?*

Discussion

A discussion with the artist takes place on October 4 at 6pm in the exhibition space at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. By reservation.

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).

THE MONTREAL MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS (MMFA)

1380 Sherbrooke Street West

Sept. 8 - Dec. 3, 2017

Tuesday - Sunday: 10am - 5pm

Wednesday: 10am - 9pm

Saturday - Sunday: 10am - 5pm

Opening: Thursday September 7,
2017 at 6:30pm

Details: momentabiennale.com

Press Relations

Patricia Lachance

514-835-1600 ext. 315

plachance@mbamtl.org

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.