

Rencontres on the Web and presentation of the *Interwoven Roots* project

New Richmond, August 12, 2020 – Not being able to stage the usual Rencontres on Tour given the context of the pandemic, this year's Rencontres internationales de la photographie en Gaspésie is presenting Rencontres on the Web, which will allow the public, beginning August 21, 2020, to see videos, interviews and archival photographs online.

“Complementary to the exhibitions being held right across the Gaspé region since mid-July,” mentions Claude Goulet, executive and artistic director of Rencontres, “the material posted during Rencontres on the Web will enable audiences everywhere to discover the artists participating in the 2020 edition, along with their work, in addition to encouraging them to visit the Gaspé Peninsula to discover the actual exhibits. We're also taking advantage of the opportunity to showcase three residency projects that have taken place in the region over the last ten years and that feature residents of the Gaspé.”

In addition, leading up to Rencontres on the Web, the team behind the short documentary *Interwoven Roots* will be in the Gaspé on Saturday, August 15, from 4 to 6 p.m. for a get-together with the public on the site where that video/photo project is being exhibited, the Centre culturel de Paspébiac. Drama teacher Mélissa Lefebvre, who had the original idea for the project, director Paul Tom and photographer [Joannie Lafrenière](#) (Montreal, Québec) will be doing a presentation of *Interwoven Roots*, the result of a photographic and intergenerational meetup of colorful seniors and teenagers recently arrived in Montreal.

Videos

Beginning August 21, 2020, Rencontres on the Web will be presenting an excerpt from the video *Deployment*, by [Emmanuelle Léonard](#) (Montreal, Québec) – the exhibit of the same name is being held in Chandler – as well as an excerpt from *Stem*, by [Nelly-Eve Rajotte](#) (Montreal, Québec), a film work enjoying large-scale projection at Carleton-sur-Mer.

The public will also get to see *Interwoven Roots* (described above) and *Atterwasch*. Directed by Frédéric Dubois (Québec/Germany) and [Marco del Pra](#) (Italy/Germany), this documentary deals with the German village of Atterwasch and the uncertainty facing its inhabitants under pressure to make way for a new open-pit coal mine.

Finally, two excerpts from *Nomad Conversations*, a documentary shot by the French-Italian artist [Elena Perlino](#) during a residency in Québec Innu communities in 2019, will also be screened on the Web.

Snapshots with the 2020 artists

Not being able to host the artists of this 11th edition in the Gaspé Peninsula for the usual Rencontres on Tour, the event entrusted director and editor Émilie Beaulieu-Guérrette with the mission of reaching out to them so that we could share with the public a glimpse of their work. The result was a series of short videos introducing the photographers and videographers of the 2020 edition.

Empreintes... dix ans de Rencontres

While waiting for the publication of the work *Empreintes... dix ans de Rencontres*, scheduled for autumn 2020, Rencontres is offering the public a look back in pictures at three outstanding exhibitions staged as part of the event and featuring residents of the Gaspé Peninsula. Those are the exhibits *Chandler, les portraits en papier*, *Gaspésiennes* and *Journal de la Stone (1965-2015)*, *New Richmond*.

Presented in Chandler in 2011, *Chandler, les portraits en papier* by Dan Bergeron consisted of a series of public portraits carried out during an artist's residency and whose subject was the former workers at the defunct Gaspésia pulp and paper mill. At the second edition of Rencontres, before the plant's demolition, those photos were exhibited in very large format on disused buildings of the mill complex.

The *Gaspésiennes* project, meanwhile, by Jean-François Bérubé (Montreal, Québec) and Sophie Jean (Rimouski, Québec), grew out of a residency of over 14 days in the vast Gaspé region in 2011 designed to photograph women in their environment and in a small improvised mobile studio. Seeking to pay tribute to the women who contributed to the development of the region, Rencontres

presented the results of their project in Carleton-sur-Mer in 2011, then at Cap-Chat in 2012. Their impressive mosaic, entitled *Gaspésiennes*, showed 30 committed, warm-hearted women of the peninsula.

Lastly, *Journal de la Stone (1965-2015), New Richmond*, presented at Rencontres in 2016, is the work of Gaspé native Guillaume D. Cyr. The artist, who had done a series of photographs from 2005 to 2015 on the theme of the Smurfit-Stone paper mill in New Richmond (closed since 2005), created a photo installation of 40 portraits of employees and printed newspapers that presented a triptych of photo series. The first part of the triptych, taken from the series *Gaspésie Human Less II*, was done in conjunction with Yana Ouellet.

Exhibitions and installations

A reminder that the 11th Rencontres is also presenting, until September 30, 2020, 15 exhibitions and installations in 12 of the peninsula's municipalities, towns and national parks. Grouped under the theme "Resistance," they display the work of 11 Québec artists and five international artists.

International partnerships

On the French side, the partnership of Rencontres and Diaphane, pôle photographique en Hauts-de-France continues, as does the one with the city of Nantes and the organization Les PUI – Pratiques et Usages de l'Image that provides for public events in Montreal and in Nantes. Additionally, Rencontres is carrying on with its collaboration with independent publishing house NoRoutine Books (Lithuania) as well as with the Istituto Italiano di Cultura Montreal, while a first collaboration is about to be realized with the Italian contemporary photography festival Cortona on the Move.

About Rencontres

An annual summertime event, Rencontres international de la photographie en Gaspésie introduces the public to contemporary photographic creation, its language, its codes and its various esthetics through occupation of a particular region: the Gaspé Peninsula. There it presents a series of exhibitions and installations, public events conceived as a space for reflection and initiation, and a program of artist residencies and of exchanges with festivals in other countries. Information: photogaspesie.ca.

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