

Conversations: 12th Rencontres de la photo en Gaspésie

Photography, video and augmented reality in 16 exhibitions and installations

New Richmond, June 23 2021 – On the theme *Conversations*, the 12th Rencontres de la photographie en Gaspésie will be taking place this summer in 12 municipalities, towns and national parks on the peninsula. Held for the most part out of doors, the 16 exhibits and installations will show the work of 15 artists from Québec and abroad, along with a selection of photographic works gathered in the exhibition *L'espace du livre*. With just two exceptions, each of the exhibits will run from July 15 to September 30, 2021.

"*Conversations* examines our relationship with privacy, with our feelings, with our immediate environment and with the importance of dwelling on humanity," explains Claude Goulet, executive and artistic director of Rencontres. "A story line that appeals to our engagement, to observation, to presence and absence, to fast-changing societies, and that pays tribute to human strength and resilience, this edition brings together 15 artists, and as many styles and forms, leaving broad space for dialogue. What's involved is politics, time, life, the private and, of course, territories."

In the **Côte-de-Gaspé RCM**, *Sound Mirrors* by **Bertrand Carrière** (Longueuil, Québec) will be presented at the Théâtre de la Vieille-Forge site in **Petite-Vallée**, while Musée de la Gaspésie, in **Gaspé**, will play host to the augmented-reality project *Plongéons* by **Sven** (Montreal, Québec). Still in Gaspé, *As if the day never existed* by **Nele Van Canneyt** (Belgium) will take place near the Horacio LeBouthillier house (a few steps from the Birthplace of Canada).

As for the **Rocher-Percé RCM**, *Fabric of self: folded and folded again, 2021* by **Maude Arsenault** (Montreal, Québec) will be presented in two locations in Percé: on the boardwalk (Charles-Robin historical sector in **Île-Bonaventure-et-du-Rocher-Percé National Park**) and near Rue du Quai. In **Chandler**, the park in front of Cantine du Chenail will host *Isolation* by documentary photographer **Renaud Philippe** (Québec City, Québec).

In the **Bonaventure RCM**, *Time's out | Temps fluide* by **Marie-Claude Gendron** (Montreal, Québec), composed of photos and videos, will take place in two outdoor settings: the site of Centre culturel de **Paspébiac**, and the boardwalk. The video installation *Why Should I Stop?* by **Leila Zelli** (Montreal, Québec), meanwhile, will be staged inside the cultural center. Near the tourist information center in **Bonaventure**, the public will be able to see *A Sisterhood* (a community of nuns) by artist **Valeria Luongo** (Italy/Great Britain). At **New Richmond**, Taylor's Point Park will be exhibiting *The places that inhabit us*, the result of the photographic mission by **Chloé Beaulac** (Longueuil, Québec) in the Laurentians in 2019.

In the **Avignon RCM**, **Maria** will host *Amour (Amur)* by artist **Claudine Doury** (France), a member of Agence VU'. This exhibit will be installed near the natural steel frame (a work of art by Yves Gonthier) in the rest stop area.

Three exhibitions will be held in **Carleton-sur-Mer**. *Documentary Adrift* by **Nayla Dabaji** (Montreal, Québec), bringing together photographic, textual and sound elements, will take place at the Vaste et Vague artist center from August 6 to September 6, 2021. *A Dialogue with Solitude* by **Dave Heath** (Toronto, Ontario), will be presented at Parc des Horizons. Finally, *L'espace du livre 2021* will be held at the Gabrielle-Bernard-Dubé library from July 30 to September 4, 2021. This exhibition consists of more than 25 Québec-published photobooks chosen by curator Serge Allaire and the same number of French books selected by the Nantes-based organization Pratiques et Usages de l'Image, all of which consider publication as the intended result of an artistic approach.

Miguasha National Park, in Nouvelle, will be hosting *Gypsies* by **Jacques Léonard** (Spain) outside the former visitor center. A new exhibit location, the **Battle of the Restigouche National Historic Site** in Pointe-à-la-Croix, will welcome *Traces* by **Yves Arcand** (Matane, Québec). Finally, the Deux-Rivières Lookout, in **Matapédia**, will be the setting for *The Sweet Ends* by **Samuel Graveline** (Montreal, Québec).

Rencontres on tour

Back this year from September 3 to 5, 2021, a unique event that lies at the heart of Rencontres will bring together visitors, artists and the local population for encounters on the subject of creation: open-air projections, discussions with the artists, guided exhibit tours, and so on. The full program will be announced in early August 2021 on photogaspesie.ca, in the Events section.

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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