

Montreal, April 26, 2017 - For immediate release

ATSA, When Art Takes Action announces its programming for *CUISINE TA VILLE*

A free relational-art event to better know the refugees, both former and current, who make up Montreal's social fabric

Friday, May 12, 2017 from 5 to 11 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday, May 13 and 14, 2017 from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.
on the Esplanade of Place des Arts, in Montreal. Open to all!



ATSA, When Art Takes Action* proposes, in this year of celebrations marking the 375th anniversary of the founding of Montreal, to focus on diversity, with *CUISINE TA VILLE*, a relational art event, free of charge, designed to better know the refugees, from yesteryear and today alike, who make up Montreal's social and cultural fabric.

Comprised of encounters and reflection on migration and the individual and social upheavals it causes, this new participative intervention takes place May 12, 13 and 14, 2017 on the Place des Arts esplanade, in Montreal.

A row of white car shelters similar to the tents in UN refugee camps, and installations evoking the journey of flight and the memory of the home left behind will constitute the staging of *CUISINE TA VILLE*.

Under each shelter will take place the deeply human experience of meeting the Other, through original programming revolving around three sets of activities: **AUTOUR DE LA SOUPE, LE CŒUR ET LA TÊTE, AND ARTISTIC PROGRAMMING** comprised of live performances, exhibitions and cinema.

A large historical frieze will depict the major waves of refugee arrivals on these unceded lands, so each group can see where their story here in Québec began. A lexicon will explain the distinctions between asylum seekers, refugees and immigrants as well as other notions related to the phenomenon.

"We wish to learn and understand, to establish ties and to instigate an encounter with these people who have had to precipitously abandon their homes, suffer through unimaginable distress and precarity, and rebuild their lives here. Some recent arrivals have successfully integrated, some people have just newly arrived, while others have yet to arrive... There are those here who reach out to welcome the new arrivals, with all the humanity and apprehension that entails. Cuisine ta ville proposes a historical perspective; an assessment of the present and the issues related to integration within the host society; and a reflection on what to expect in light of the current international situation. Moyad, Véronique, Amram, Papy, Gracia, Philippe, Marya, Thibe.... Come meet them! Everything is free; all you need to bring is an open heart and an open mind!" — Annie Roy and Pierre Allard

PROGRAMMING

SITE HOURS

Place des Arts esplanade, Montreal. Free of charge. Open to all.

Friday, May 12 from 5 to 11 p.m. | Saturday, May 13 and Sunday, May 14 from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

CUISINE TA VILLE is a relational art event featuring multidisciplinary artistic programming and encounters that make it a lively gathering. Showing a way to weave a better social fabric for our city through openness to those Others who have been exiled and who are rebuilding their lives in our midst. Come taste, feel, hear, meet and share!

Schedule and programming details: <http://www.atsa.qc.ca/cuisine-ta-ville-programmation>

| AUTOUR DE LA SOUPE |

<http://www.atsa.qc.ca/cuisine-ta-ville-autour-de-la-soupe>

KITCHEN PARTY

The kitchen is the ultimate place for gathering, socializing and sharing. A group of 4 to 6 people, comprised of refugees from Hungary, Colombia, Syria, Poland, Congo, arrived in Montreal between 1956 and 2017, and their Québec friends welcome you to their tent to cook and to share the story of their many challenges met and still to come in their integration and new life in Québec.

Come chat and make some soup with Amir Khadir, Fatma Abu Areaf, Fabien Cishahayo, Sohie Brochu, Louise Mercure, Nadine Eid, Bijoux Somwe, Pierre Beauregard, Laila Guelzim, Ketty Nivyabandi, Léa Touzé, Thi Be, Fabienne Chami, Fatna Chater, Sasha Samar, Doan Trang, Raniabachour, Papy Mbwiti, Martin St-Denis, Leen Nabkie, and others. (Soup schedule to come.)

LE TEMPS D'UNE SOUPE

ATSA and partner Soupesoup serve up a “three-course” conversation platter in a setting that evokes the outdoor deck of a restaurant: (1) A “maître d' ” invites you to have a seat at a table with a stranger; (2) he provides both of you a menu of topics to help you break the ice and get a stimulating conversation going; (3) the experience is captured for posterity by the creation of a poetic portrait of your duo, which takes on a collective resonance when all such portraits are later screened as part of a slide show in the public space and at www.atsa.qc.ca/diaporama/.

| LE CŒUR ET LA TÊTE |

<http://www.atsa.qc.ca/cuisine-ta-ville-le-coeur-et-la-tete>

TESTIMONIALS AND SEMINARS... TO HELP MAKE A BETTER CITY

The public has 25 opportunities for encounter and reflection thanks to testimonials, often full of humour and always compelling, from refugees who share their life experiences, and to seminars by experts and case workers in the field who know the challenges of the demanding refugee process. Several important themes—peace, integration, francization, employment, isolation, trauma—are broached and discussed. Some of the testimonials will be accompanied with lectures, songs, photos, etc.

Come meet and listen to:

- > Aglaja Wojciechowski, born in Switzerland and living in Trois-Rivières for the past 60 years.
- > Amine Salah, a business intelligence analyst.
- > Carl Bouchard, a professor at Université de Montréal, who teaches a course on the history of pacifism.
- > Carlos Roldan, a lawyer who fights for human rights.
- > Charlotte Guerlotté, an anthropologist and researcher at the Table de concertation des organismes au service des personnes réfugiées et immigrantes (TCRI) and Déborah Grausem, pairing officer at the TCRI; they will talk about intercultural pairing.

- > Denise Otis, from the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, on international protection in Canada.
- > Fabien Cishahayo, a native of Burundi, arrived in Canada in January 1993, and a lecturer at Université de Montréal, on the topic of exile.
- > Gracia Beylouné and her husband George Deeb, refugees who have recently arrived in Montreal, on the reasons that forced them to flee Syria.
- > Hicham and *Conver-station FM*: four new arrivals aged 16 to 24 who have found refuge in Québec and who provided testimonials on the radio and before elected officials on the difficulties they are experiencing in their new host society.
- > Jonathan Durand, a documentary filmmaker.
- > Kenza Bennis, a native of Morocco, journalist and author (*Les monologues du voile*, published by Robert Laffont).
- > Ketty Nivyabandi, a socially engaged poet and author, born in Burundi, and founding member of the Women's Movement for Peace and Security in Burundi.
- > Léonce Sekamana, a native of Rwanda, Olympic swimmer, and songwriter.
- > Marjorie Villefranche, director of Maison d'Haïti, will discuss the different waves of immigration of Montreal's Haitian community.
- > Marya Zarif, co-founder of La Maison de la Syrie and the Fondation Je veux jouer.
- > Moyad Almarzoki, a Syrian refugee who arrived in Saskatoon but later chose to move to Québec in order to learn French!
- > Nadia El-Mabrouk, a native of Tunisia, professor at Université de Montréal, who last April 4, along with some 60 co-signatories, published a letter in *La Presse* daily titled *Faire partie d'un « nous » rassembleur* ("On being part of an inclusive society").
- > Papy Maurice Mbwiti, a native of Congo, actor, author, theatre director, and fierce advocate for freedom of expression.
- > Paul Clarke, executive director of Action Réfugiés Montréal (ARM) on changing negative perceptions of refugees.
- > Philippe Ducros, artistic director of Espace libre, with texts and photos from his writing residency in Alep, Syria and from his visits to Somali refugee camps in Ethiopia and the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- > SINGA Québec, founded in 2015 to build bridges between refugees and the host society.
- > Véronique Harvey, social worker, psychotherapist, trainer and speaker specializing in intercultural issues and trauma.
- > Sylvain Thibault, responsible for pairing of Syrian refugees at the TCRI, will moderate a roundtable with refugees and sponsors.

| ARTISTIC PROGRAMMING |

<http://www.atsa.qc.ca/cuisine-ta-ville-programmation-artistique>

Exile, loss, uprooting, wandering and coping are themes that have inspired numerous performers and visual artists. Art helps many people to get through such difficult times, to start over, to tell their story. Here are some artistic works that invite you to approach and embrace the Other.

LIVE PERFORMANCES

- > Ensemble Zaman (Lamia Yared, oud and vocals; Nathaniel Huard, percussions, riqq and bendir; Yosof Al Yosof, ney, Oriental flute);
- > The band Las Mechas and their feminist songs;
- > Meryem Saci and her soulful jazz vocal stylings;
- > Mafane and her tales of exile and resilience;
- > Voyageurs immobiles (a reading in French and in Québec Sign Language of Estelle Savasta's *Traversée*);
- > Syrian artists will "cook" some "siege soup" as part of an immersive experience;
- > Slam artist IVY delivers texts about identity, as part of a roundtable comprised of children of refugees;
- > UncleFofi's Couscous Comedy Show;
- > Aram Bayat and her Iranian dances.

VISUAL ARTS

- > *Allée simple* (ATSA): a new, *in situ* installation comprised of suitcases and clothes, evoking the flight and journey of refugees.
- > *Arrimage(s)*: 4 video projections of testimonials from newly arrived Syrians and volunteers working with refugees.

- > *Ces objets qui parlent de nous* by Frédérique P. Corson and Thisbée Kolk: installation.
- > *Briser les barrières* by Gabrielle and Céline: photographs and stories.
- > *Terre d'accueil*: poster exhibit.
- > Photography project by Stéphanie Colvey on the reality of being a Syrian refugee in Montreal.
- > *L'instant du danger* by Charles-Henri Debeur: exhibit of photos from the book of the same name.
- > *Flash Forward*: 12 Syrian teenagers document the process of their integration.
- > Photo essay on the situation of Bhutanese refugees, by Renaud Philippe.

CINEMA

AUGMENTED REALITY

CLOUDS OVER SIDRA (2015), in collaboration with Phi Centre

FEATURE-LENGTH FILMS

UNE NUIT SANS LUNE (2016) by Thi Be Nguyen and Marie Hélène Panisset / Uniaction - 86 min.

NOUS AUTRES, LES AUTRES (2016) by Jean-Claude Coulbois - 83 min.

LA MAIN ET LES AUTRES (2015) by Paul Carvalho - 53 min.

EXIL (2014) by Charles-Olivier Michaud - 99 min.

FUOCOAMMARE (2016) by Gianfranco Rosi - 114 min.

IN THIS WORLD (2003) by Michael Winterbottom - 88 min.

L'ARBRE QUI SE SOUVIENT (2003) by Massoud Raouf - 50 min.

LE PONT DE L'EXIL (1997) by Jean-Pierre Gariépy - 51 min.

MID-LENGTH FILMS

LES CASQUES BLANCS (2016) by Orlando Von Einsiedel - 41 min.

LE PRIX DE L'EXODE (2006) by Bruno Boulianne and Loreto Garrido - 27 min.

NON AU 3^{ÈME} MANDAT (2017) by Joseph Bitamba - 30 min.

19 JOURS (2016) by Asha Siad and Roda Siad, NFB - 26 min.

FORBIDDEN SUN DANCE (2009) by Lila Ghobady - 32 min.

SHORT FILMS

AUTOUR D'UNE TABLE (2013) by Parissa Mohit - 11 min.

GOAL TO SYRIA by Amjad Wardeh - 4 min.

RETIRANTES by Maira Coelho - 13 min.

LA MÉMOIRE EST NOTRE PATRIE by Jonathan Durand. Trailer. Theatrical release Fall 2017.

www.atsa.qc.ca | <https://www.facebook.com/atsa97/> | [@ATSAmontreal](https://twitter.com/ATSAmontreal) | [#CuisineTaVille](https://hashta.com/#CuisineTaVille)

Volunteers are still needed to help with logistics and ensure the event runs smoothly. To find out about the tasks and time slots and to register (under the tab **Volunteers/Bénévoles), visit www.atsa.qc.ca.**

**QUAND
L'ART
PASSE À
L' ACTION**

***ATSA, When Art Takes Action**

The first intervention produced by Annie Roy and Pierre Allard, *La Banque à Bas* (The Sock Bank), was held December 5, 1997. An ersatz automated teller machine, put together from kitchen ranges whose doors served to deposit and withdraw warm socks, was illegally placed in front of the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal to shine a spotlight on the indecent profits generated by banks at a time when the divide between rich and poor was only getting wider. Over the 20 years that followed, the Montreal duo went on to produce nearly 50 urban interventions in the field of social art, including 16 editions of *État d'Urgence*.

Please note that artists Annie Roy and Pierre Allard, formerly known as ATSA, now go by the name **ATSA, When Art Takes Action**. "Global conflicts, barbaric acts of inhumanity that attack our fundamental freedoms, and their hypermediatization giving rise to a turning inward and a racism fueled by stereotypes, have made us shy away from the acronym and recontextualize it by adding to it our slogan

that conveys our identity as pacifists. And so: **ATSA, When Art Takes Action**. This is the new name of our artistic collective. It in no way shrinks from our past, but aligns itself with the present.”

CUISINE TA VILLE is presented by ATSA, When Art Takes Action, is made possible in part by the Government of Canada, and is produced in collaboration with the Table de concertation des organismes au service des personnes réfugiées et immigrantes (TCRI — council of organizations serving refugees and immigrants) and Amnesty International Canada's Francophone Branch, with help from a multitude of such organizations, including CSAI, PRAIDA, La Maison de la Syrie, CARI St-Laurent, ARM, and more.

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