

CELEBRATING EMERGING ARTISTS

APPRECIATION FOR THE
**CLAUDINE AND
STEPHEN BRONFMAN**
FELLOWSHIPS IN CONTEMPORARY ART

MAY 8, 2014

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OUR HEARTFELT APPRECIATION

The Claudine and Stephen Bronfman Fellowships in Contemporary Art support emerging artists after graduate school. This allows new talent to focus on their artistic careers as they transition to professional life.

As a leading patron of the arts, the Claudine and Stephen Bronfman Family Foundation has nurtured emerging artists — both at the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM) and Concordia University — since 2010. Such forward-thinking support has nurtured the vitality of Montreal as a centre of contemporary art by encouraging young artists to come and stay in our city. Two annual Claudine and Stephen Bronfman Fellowships in Contemporary Art support promising MFA, MA or PhD fine arts students at each institution.

Fellows have the unique opportunity to develop their art practice as they transition from student artists into independent professionals. The coveted awards have changed the professional landscape for recipients. Thanks to the generosity of the Claudine and Stephen Bronfman Family Foundation, a network of cooperation and exchange among fellows has emerged.

With 2014 marking the fifth year of this partnership, the Claudine and Stephen Bronfman Family Foundation has announced that it has renewed its generous funding to both Concordia and UQAM for an additional five years. This continued support reaffirms how fine arts faculties are incubators of talent that enrich Montreal's contemporary arts scene and raise the profile of Quebec and Canadian artists across the wider arts landscape.

“The fellowship simultaneously creates a network of cultural ambassadors and working artists that are supporting each other as they develop their creative practice and flourish on the national and international stage.”

— **Catherine Wild, dean, Faculty of Fine Arts, Concordia University**

“By reinforcing the collaboration between two of the most important faculties of fine arts in North America, the fellowship program confirms Montreal’s position as a high-level educational centre for the next generation of contemporary artists in Canada.”

— **Louise Poissant, dean, Faculty of Arts, UQAM**



From left: Louise Poissant, Aude Moreau (UQAM 2011 recipient), Claudine Bronfman, Stephen Bronfman, Catherine Wild, Pavitra Wickramasinghe (Concordia 2011 recipient)



TRANSFORMATIVE SUPPORT FOR ARTISTS

To date, 10 extraordinary young artists have received the fellowships. Valued at \$55,000 each, the fellowships provide invaluable access to studio space, materials and public recognition. Such support allows recipients to develop their professional practice and networks, broaden their teaching experience, undertake exhibitions or further their research.

STIMULATING OUR COMMUNITY

The Claudine and Stephen Bronfman Fellowships in Contemporary Art advance Montreal's arts community. They also encourage other patrons of the arts to support young artists.

"For me, receiving the Claudine and Stephen Bronfman Fellowship proved a decisive moment in defining my research projects, first by allowing me to expand my plans over the long term and secondly to initiate collaborations with international partners."

— Aude Moreau, UQAM recipient (2011)

"Receiving this fellowship has positively affected how people, both inside and outside Montreal, view my art practice. People commented on my reception of this award after seeing the announcement on Concordia's website, hearing about it within the Montreal art community and following its promotion in a local Jewish community newsletter."

— Kim Waldron, Concordia recipient (2013)

"The Claudine and Stephen Bronfman Fellowship in Contemporary Art stands out as one of the few Montreal-based, privately funded arts awards of importance. I realize that only Concordia and UQAM graduate students are eligible to compete, but their effect on the local scene is potentially as significant as that of the so-called 'national' awards on the scene in Canada as a whole."

— Maurice Forget, chair of the Concordia University Fine Arts Advisory Board

"The Claudine and Stephen Bronfman Fellowship in Contemporary Art is managed by university experts — an aspect that must be valued, encouraged and maintained — whereas the tendency today is to grant much decision-making power within the cultural and artistic milieu to motivated, but not professional, contemporary art connoisseurs."

— Louise Déry, director, Galerie de l'UQAM, jury member

"The effects on the individual's career are innumerable, extend over time and across multiple levels. They include self-confidence, peer recognition, visibility and mobility — well beyond the economic stability they offer."

— Monique Régimbald-Zeiber, associate dean, Research and Creation, Faculty of Arts, UQAM (2011-2013)

RAISING THE BAR, PROPELLING HIGHER EDUCATION

Through this fellowship program, the Claudine and Stephen Bronfman Family Foundation has enhanced two of Canada's premier fine arts faculties. The fellowships help Concordia and UQAM attract the country's top artistic talent.

"Each year, when the call for applications is made, the excitement begins to build. Students put in tremendous effort to craft impeccable application packages. This competitive process is in itself a rich and useful one, reflecting as it does the world the students will be entering."

— **Janet Werner, chair, Department of Studio Arts, Concordia University (2011-2013)**

"Our outstanding recipients have exhibited or performed around the world: in the United States, Europe, Senegal, Sri Lanka and South Korea among others. The fellowship reflects very well on Concordia's fine arts programs and the Montreal arts scene overall."

— **Éric Simon, chair, Department of Studio Arts, Concordia University (2013-2014)**

"These fellows form a micro-community of emerging elite (in the positive sense)."

— **Joanne Lalonde, associate dean, Research and Creation, Faculty of Arts, UQAM (2010-2013)**



Sébastien Cliche, Surveillance, 2010

FORGING NEW PARTNERSHIPS

High-profile members of the local and national arts communities are part of the fellowship jury as well as members of Concordia's and UQAM's fine arts faculties. Both universities also fund teaching positions for fellows — which reinforces their ties with the academic community. This partnership enhances dialogue and sets the stage for future collaborations that enrich Montreal's arts scene.



Pavitra Wickramasinghe, Silence of Thought, Music of Sight, 2012

"The conventional scholarly disciplines have access to postgraduate residences through the federal and provincial funding agencies. There is no such program for our artists. As such, this award allows our most promising graduates the same privileges as their peers across the university."

— **Haidee Wasson, associate dean, Faculty of Fine Arts,
Concordia University, jury member**

"I have worked with a number of the artists who received the fellowship and have witnessed firsthand the support Claudine and Stephen Bronfman have offered in the years following its reception. I commend them for their remarkable commitment."

— **Lesley Johnstone, curator, Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal**



Véronique Savard, UQAM 2010 recipient, and her 12 screen invitations



Julie Favreau, Ernest Ferdik, video installation view, 2011

A HISTORY OF FELLOWS

Claudine and Stephen Bronfman Fellowships in Contemporary Art

EXTERNAL JURY MEMBERS

- 2010: Steven Bates (Concordia) and Véronique Savard (UQAM)
2011: Aude Moreau (UQAM) and Pavitra Wickramasinghe (Concordia)
2012: Julie Favreau (Concordia) and Sébastien Cliche (UQAM)
2013: Nadia Seboussi (UQAM) and Kim Waldron (Concordia)
2014: Brendan Flanagan (Concordia) and Marie Dauverné (UQAM)
- 2009-10: Lesley Johnstone, Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal
2010-11: Marie Fraser, Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal
2011-12: Francine Perinet, director, Varley Art Gallery
2012-13: Gaetane Verna, director, The Power Plant
2013-14: John Zeppetelli, Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal



Claudine and Stephen Bronfman with 2012 fellowship recipients Sébastien Cliche (UQAM) and Julie Favreau (Concordia)