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Re: The 2019-2022 Montreal Studio Laureates

The Darling Foundry is pleased to announce the names of the 9 winning artists of its 2019-2022 Montreal Studio Program: Frances Adair Mckenzie, Philippe Battikha, Simon Belleau, Michael Eddy, Karine Fréchette, Jeanette Johns, Marlon Kroll, Marion Lessard and Sandra Volny.

With the assistance of a committee composed of David Arseneau, an artist currently in residence at the Darling Foundry, Daphné Boxer, curator and co-director of Vie d'Ange, and Mark Lanctôt, curator at the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, the programming team, composed of Caroline Andrieux, founder and artistic director, and Ji-Yoon Han, curator, made the difficult choice of selecting 9 artists from the 126 applications received. The committee members unanimously applauded the high quality of the submitted applications and the particular care that the applicants have visibly brought to their candidacy.

The Darling Foundry is honored by the impressive number of applications received. Such interest tremendously encourages the mission of the institution, which has just acquired high-end production workshops for the arts community, with the support of the City of Montreal. However, in a climate marked by the growing instability of artists' studios and real estate speculation, this large demand also sounds the alarm. The availability of affordable and sustainable work spaces for artists in our city is paramount to ensure the flourishing of contemporary artistic creation, so unique to our city, which has the largest concentration of visual artists in Canada.

The final selection of the 2019-2022 Montreal Studio laureates reflects the Darling Foundry's deep commitment to emerging and exploratory artistic practices. It brings together a group of mainly women, whose practices navigate audaciously between several artistic mediums and do not fear the hybridization of materials, genres and disciplines.

2019-2022 LAUREATES

Working in the animation of volume that she puts at the service of a baroque and feminist imagination, **Frances Adair Mckenzie** develops a sculptural practice conceived in dialogue with the animated image.

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A musician by training, **Philippe Battikha** has reoriented himself towards a practice of sound art that questions our environment and our ability to listen to what surrounds us, by re-contextualizing objects and spaces.

The work of **Simon Belleau** combines image, sculpture, and the literary imagination towards a very personal dramaturgy infused with an animistic approach to the material world.

Of conceptual and anarchist inspiration, the artistic practice of **Michael Eddy** is in many ways unclassifiable. It combines writing, processes such as styrofoam engraving, video and drawing, in order to take a biting look at the world today.

Karine Fréchette's paintings and volume forms create vertiginous spaces, which testify to an authentic obsession for waves and cascades of images, whether metaphorical, physical, optical or energetic.

Through drawing, photography, book or print, **Jeanette Johns** explores with great elegance scientific systems of world representation such as diagrams, perspective games and optical illusions.

Whether by ceramic or drawing, or by the combination of the two, **Marlon Kroll** invents images where the body and the architecture, the intimate and the outside interlace like communicating vessels.

Marion Lessard is the name of a collective of 5 fictional characters, embodied in one person: through performances, artists' books, quiet interventions, videos, the collective questions structures which govern western societies, be they linguistic, socio-political, psychic, topographical.

Sandra Volny's work is based on scientific research, field investigations and inventive experiments with sound, its properties and its memory as an instrument of orientation in the world.

The list of 2019-2022 winners was announced at the Darling Foundry's Annual Artist Sponsors Evening on Thursday, November 15th. This event is an opportunity for the Darling Foundry to thank its circle of 13 patrons who in the past 12 years have ensured a total of 30 studio sponsorships. Their generous and continued support allows our program to expand while empowering artists to pursue the development of their work.