

Director of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts (MMFA) since November 2020, Stéphane Aquin was born in Montreal and has lived in the United States and Switzerland. He holds a Master's in Art History from Université de Montréal.

During the 1990s, following a first stint at the Museum in which he collaborated on the opening of then Jean-Noël Desmarais Pavilion, he made his mark as an art critic in Quebec and Canada. He rejoined the MMFA's ranks in 1998 as Curator of Contemporary Art, a position he held for 16 years. Over the course of this period, he significantly enhanced the institution's reputation for excellence.

In 2015, he left Montreal for Washington, D.C., to pursue the role of Chief Curator of the Smithsonian Institution's Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, which, under his leadership, returned to ranking as one of the world's major modern and contemporary museums.

Through the recognition he has earned over the years – stemming notably from his vast knowledge of art history in general, and the challenges facing today's museums – Stéphane Aquin has become an important figure in the cultural milieu. As Director of the MMFA, he is pursuing the development of the great Montreal institution with a focus on an inclusive approach to art, the artist's vision, education and innovation.