NATHALIE BONDIL RECEIVES LEGION OF HONOR
The MMFA’s Director General and Chief Curator honoured by French Culture Minister

Montréal, October 11, 2019 — The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts (MMFA) congratulates Nathalie Bondil, its Director General and Chief Curator, who has been decorated with the prestigious Legion of Honor. At a ceremony at the Museum, Franck Riester, the French Culture Minister, presented Ms. Bondil with the rank of Knight of the Legion. The highest national distinction in France, the Legion of Honor celebrates people with outstanding achievements in their field. The Museum is delighted with this honour, which recognizes its Director General’s exceptional accomplishments and her substantial contribution to the world of culture.

During the ceremony, the Culture Minister praised Ms. Bondil’s vitality and vision, “... [she] has put her boundless energy to work for the extraordinary development of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.” He reiterated the importance of her involvement in circulating and promoting artists of the Francophonie on the world stage, through blockbuster exhibitions such as The Fashion World of Jean Paul Gaultier: From the Sidewalk to the Catwalk and through partnerships with numerous museums in France. “You have transformed this museum. It is much more than just a place for conservation and exhibition. It truly is an arts complex that is open to all — one that, thanks to you, has developed a unique international presence,” he added.

Mr. Riester also commended Ms. Bondil for the influence of her humanist vision on the MMFA: “In its development, the Museum aspires to be a driver of social advancement. By seeking to provide access to culture to all, you have given it an inclusive and humanist mission. You make sure that Indigenous artists and those from diverse cultural backgrounds are given a prominent place, through programs and residencies. Since you are convinced art is a mode of expression that sparks dialogue, you advocate in favour of programming that explores society’s big questions, as reflected in the themes you propose for exhibitions. You are also developing the Museum’s universal accessibility, to make it a warm and inviting place where everyone feels welcome.”
The Legion of Honor
Founded by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802, the Legion of Honor is the highest order of merit in France. It currently has 92,000 members and is presented on behalf of the Head of State to citizens who have demonstrated exemplary service to the nation, for both military and civilian achievements. A minimum of 20 years of activity is required to be considered for the Legion of Honor.
legiondhonneur.fr

Image: Franck Riester, French Culture Minister, presents the Legion of Honor to Nathalie Bondil, Director General and Chief Curator, MMFA.
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Information
Maude N. Béland Patricia Lachance
Media Relations Officer | MMFA Media Relations Officer | MMFA
T. 514-285-1600, ext. 205 T. 514-285-1600, ext. 315
C. 514-886-8328 C. 514-235-2044
mbeland@mbamtl.org plachance@mbamtl.org

About the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts
Drawing over 1 million visitors annually, the MMFA is one of the most visited museums in Canada and North America. Its highly original temporary exhibitions combine various artistic disciplines – fine arts, music, film, fashion and design – and are exported to the four corners of the world. Its rich encyclopedic collection, displayed in its five pavilions, includes international art, world cultures, decorative arts and design, and Quebec and Canadian art. The Museum has seen exceptional growth in recent years with the addition of two new pavilions: the Claire and Marc Bourgie Pavilion, in 2011, and the Michal and Renata Hornstein Pavilion for Peace, in 2016. The MMFA complex also includes Bourgie Hall, a 460-seat concert hall, as well as an auditorium and a movie theatre. The MMFA is one of Canada’s leading publishers of art books in French and English, which are distributed internationally. The Museum also houses the Michel de la Chenelière International Atelier for Education and Art Therapy, the largest educational complex in a North American art museum, enabling the MMFA to offer innovative educational, wellness and art therapy programmes.
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