

## ECOLOGIES A SONG FOR OUR PLANET

March 10, 2021 – February 27, 2022  
The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts  
Jean-Noël Desmarais Pavilion – Level S2



Kim Dorland (born in 1974), *Nature Painting II*, 2008, oil and acrylic on plywood.  
MMFA, gift of Pierre and Anne Marie Trahan, Majudia Collection

**Montreal, March 2, 2020 (revised Sept. 13, 2021) – Ecological issues are of crucial importance in our era of climate upheaval, and it is only natural for contemporary artists to take up these topics in their practice and thinking. Presented at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts (MMFA), the exhibition *Ecologies: A Song for Our Planet* includes installations, videos, sculptures, paintings, drawings and photographs that convey humanity’s relationship with nature. The nearly 90 works, which will be exhibited in rotation, mostly come from the MMFA’s collection and include recent acquisitions by Jocelyne Alloucherie, Shuvina Ashoona, Olafur Eliasson, Charles Gagnon, Lorraine Gilbert, Jessica Houston, Isabelle Hayeur, Alec Lawson Tuckatuck, Lisette Lemieux, Monique Mongeau, Marie-Jeanne Musiol, Peter Qumaluk Itukalla, Claude Simard and Barbara Steinman.**

Deforestation, melting ice caps, pollution, the overexploitation of natural resources, and disappearing plant and animal species are just some of the negative impacts of human activity on the climate and ecosystems. Accelerated by the Industrial Revolution, this activity has caused an unprecedented environmental crisis that affects all living things. Humanity’s destructive force is one of the central themes of this exhibition expressed through the works of such artists as Edward Burtynsky, Isabelle Hayeur and Robert Longo.

While the detrimental consequences of these insults are felt on every continent, it is the human populations living symbiotically with the natural world that are the most adversely affected. In Canada, as in other countries with a history of colonization, the occupation of ancestral lands and the exploitation of natural resources have had disastrous consequences on the environment and way of life of Indigenous peoples, issues that are conveyed by artists such as Adrian Stimson and Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun.

*Ecologies: A Song for Our Planet* also includes sublime depictions of nature that offer a counterpoint to the alarming prospects sounded in the exhibition. The works of Andreas Feininger and Justine Kurland instill wonder before the

beauty and power of the world, while those of Lorraine Gilbert and Jessica Houston imagine new worlds made better by human life, with landscapes of composite images or real scenes transformed by colour.

“The exhibition *Ecologies: A Song for Our Planet* stimulates contemplation on sustainable development and alternatives for a safer world, achieved through a more harmonious relationship between humankind and nature,” explained **Iris Amizlev**, Curator of Intercultural Arts at the MMFA.

### **Requiem for a Glacier by Paul Walde**

**Until September 12, 2021**

Along with this exhibition, the MMFA is presenting the video installation *Requiem for a Glacier* (2013), Paul Walde’s homage performed by 50 musicians on Farnham Glacier in British Columbia. This musical performance memorializes an area threatened by global warming and a proposed resort development – a controversial project since quashed by the Qat’muk Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area agreement covering land belonging to the Ktunaxa First Nation.

### **Credits and curators**

An exhibition organized by the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.

Curator: Iris Amizlev, Curator of Intercultural Arts, MMFA.

### **Acknowledgements**

The exhibition is a presentation of Hydro-Québec.

Official Sponsor: Denalt Paint

In collaboration with the MMFA’s Young Philanthropists’ Circle

Public Partners: Ministère de la Culture et des Communications, Canada Council for the Arts and Conseil des arts de Montréal.

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## **PRESS INVITATION**

**Monday, March 15, and Monday, March 22, 2021**

Exhibition tour with Iris Amizlev,  
Curator of Intercultural Arts, MMFA

By appointment from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.: [presse@mbamtl.org](mailto:presse@mbamtl.org)

Download high-resolution images [here](#).

Press Room: [mbam.gc.ca/en/press-room](http://mbam.gc.ca/en/press-room)

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### **About the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts**

Founded in 1860, the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts (MMFA) is the oldest art museum in Canada and a leading museum in North America. Its collection showcases Quebec and Canadian heritage and international art from a critical and intercultural perspective, and comprises over 45,000 paintings, sculptures, graphic art works, photographs, multimedia installations and decorative art objects dating from antiquity to the present. The MMFA’s exhibitions span every discipline from archaeology to fine arts, to contemporary practices. Laid out over five interconnecting pavilions, the Museum complex includes over 80 exhibition galleries, the Bourgie concert hall, an auditorium and movie theatre, the Boutique and Bookstore, an in-house publishing department, a public sculpture garden and the Michel de la Chenelière International Atelier for Education and Art Therapy. A pioneering museum

in the provision of art therapy, the MMFA works with the community, education, health and technology sectors to give all people exposure to art through inclusive and enriching experiences. [mbam.qc.ca](http://mbam.qc.ca)