

Textile Museum of Canada announces new Melissa Levin Emerging Artist Program



The Textile Museum of Canada (TMC) is honoured to announce the launch of the **Melissa Levin Emerging Artist Program** in memory of the renowned Toronto-based artist who died October 27, 2015. Born in the United States, Melissa Levin lived in Chicago and San Francisco before moving to Toronto. An artist, filmmaker, documentarist and teacher, she has been a prolific and award-winning chronicler and satirist of urban lesbian lifestyles since 1997. Often featuring Levin's partner, visual artist Nina Levitt, her works have been presented in festivals and galleries around the world. In 2000 she was the recipient of Toronto's VTape award for the Best Emerging Video Artist, and since then has been awarded grants from the Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council and the Toronto Arts Council.

With her background as a textile and costume designer, Melissa Levin's love of pattern and colour is apparent through her extensive and idiosyncratic collection of vintage textiles, clothing, housewares, jewelry and kitsch. Her generosity and creativity will live on in support of a new generation of artists whose work will continue to challenge and delight. "The Textile Museum of Canada is honoured to share Melissa's legacy of artistic curiosity and exploration," says Executive Director Shauna McCabe, "Through the initiative of Nina Levitt, this program will be a reflection of Melissa's passion for mentoring young artists in all disciplines." The fund will support a customized program of research at the TMC, including access to the library and a permanent collection of over 13,000 global artifacts, exposing emerging artists to new worlds of inspiration through materiality and design.

Donations in her memory can be made to the Melissa Levin Emerging Artist Program by contacting support@textilemuseum.ca or calling 416-599-5321 x2246. Donations can also be made [online](#).