

Press Release

July 9, 2015

Textile Museum of Canada launches *Watercolour*, a project featuring sail designs by international artists presented in partnership with the Toronto 2015 Pan Am/Parapan American Games

The Textile Museum of Canada is pleased to announce *Watercolour*, a cultural project presented in partnership with the Toronto 2015 Pan Am/Parapan American Games. Celebrating the culture and artistry of Pan American nations, *Watercolour* will comprise 41 sails featuring artwork by one artist from each participating country. Encompassing work from internationally renowned to emerging and mid-career artists, the designs will animate sailboats on Lake Ontario with their rich visual diversity during ceremonies at the Toronto 2015 Games.

Celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2015, the Textile Museum of Canada's award-winning work with contemporary artists and global cultural traditions informed the project. "Sails are among the most ancient and most iconic expressions of textiles in everyday life," says Textile Museum of Canada Executive Director Shauna McCabe. "Transcending space and time, sails make perfect sense as a way to communicate what we have in common – the universal experiences and imaginations that inspire everyone – artists to athletes – to achieve their dreams." Together the designs on the sails speak to shared environments and ways of life as well as cultural and artistic relationships between Pan Am countries.

Watercolour showcases some of the leading artists of the Pan American nations. Representing Canada, Sobey Art Award winner (2014) **Nadia Myre** has collaborated with Powerhouse Prize winner (2012) **Karen Elaine Spencer** to design "AKI," an elegant combination of Anishnabe-mowin, Spanish, French and English words to ask: "Who will win in this land here?" **Paula Barragan** of Ecuador has adapted a traditional Zuleta embroidery pattern in celebration of indigenous heritage. Representing Trinidad, **Christopher Cozier** is recognized internationally for his politically and culturally incisive artwork, along with his role in developing contemporary art discourse and practice throughout the Caribbean. **Chris Johanson** of the United States draws on urban and suburban experiences, graffiti and the aesthetics of street art in his work, clearly captured on the American sail. **Ami Zanders**'s entry reflects her work in the Bermuda National Gallery's 2014 Biennial – bright and colourful yarn, beads and threads call forth the light and vibrancy of her country. Argentinian duo **Chiachio & Giannone** craft embroidered collages that play with self-portraiture and images of global identity.

Scheduled sailings will take place daily from July 14 – 17, launching at 5:30 pm from Harbourfront Centre Sailing & Powerboating (HCSP) docks (275 Queens Quay W at Rees Street). The boats will hold off in fleet position from 6 – 6:10 pm at Ontario's Celebration Zone at Harbourfront Centre (231 Queens Quay W.) before continuing east towards Corus Quay (Queens Quay and Jarvis Street) where they will loop and return to the HCSP for 6:30. Recommended viewing is from the foot of the Power Plant Art Gallery (231 Queens Quay W. and Simcoe Street) and Sugar Beach (25 Dockside Drive).

Each day will feature a different selection of the 41 representative participant countries. The Textile Museum of Canada presents *Watercolour* in partnership with the Toronto 2015 Parapan/Parapan Am Games and the Toronto Arts Council. For more information visit www.textilemuseum.ca/exhibitions/watercolour.aspx or call the Museum at 416-599-5321.

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For further information, please contact:
Paul Henderson, Marketing and Communications Associate
phenderson@textilemuseum.ca
416-599-5321 x2239

NOTES FOR EDITORS

Comprehensive list of Toronto 2015 Watercolour artists and Pan American national affiliations

Antigua and Barbuda: Heather Doram
Argentina: Chiachio & Giannone
Aruba: Danilo Geerman
Bahamas: Dylan Rapillard
Barbados: Elizabeth Stewart
Belize: Pen Cayetano
Bermuda: Ami Zanders
Bolivia: Sonia Falcone
Brazil: Carolina Ponte
British Virgin Islands: Debi Carson
Canada: Nadia Myre and Karen Elaine Spencer
Cayman Islands: Randy Chollette
Chile: Malu Stewart
Colombia: Maite Tobon
Costa Rica: Felix Murillo
Cuba: Alejandro Gómez Cangas
Dominica: Pauline Marcelle
Dominican Republic: Fernando Tamburini
Ecuador: Paula Barragán
El Salvador: Boris Ciudad Real
Grenada: Maureen St. Clair
Guatemala: Hugo Gonzalez Ayala
Guyana: Marlon Forrester
Haiti: Christina Clodomir-Makeda
Honduras: Bella Wilshire
Jamaica: Bernard Hoyes
Mexico: Héctor Falcón
Nicaragua: Alejandro Benito Cabrera
Panama: Maria Raquel Cochez
Paraguay: Renatta Avila
Peru: Magaly Sanchez
Puerto Rico: Ricardo Ávalo
Saint Kitts and Nevis: Kate Spencer
Saint Lucia: Llewellyn Xavier
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines: Camille Musser
Suriname: Marcel Pinas
Trinidad and Tobago: Christopher Cozier
United States of America: Chris Johanson
Uruguay: Santiago Velazco
Venezuela: Paulo Castro
Virgin Islands: Lucien Downes

Press images:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/mr0schr47os9kxw/TMC_PAN_AM_Watercolour_PRESSKIT.zip?dl=0