

## The Galerie de l'UQAM and Le Mois de la Photo à Montréal present the monsters of Australian artist Patricia Piccinini in the solo exhibition *Another Life*

**Dates:** September 1<sup>st</sup> to October 9, 2015

**Opening:** Friday, September 11 at 7 pm

**Exhibition tour with the artist, the curator Joan Fontcuberta and art historian Ariane de Blois:** Friday, September 11 at 12:45 pm

Montreal, August 17, 2015 – Le Mois de la Photo à Montréal presents, in partnership with the [Galerie de l'UQAM](#) *Another Life*, the first solo show of artist **Patricia Piccinini** in Canada. In keeping with the theme of this 14th edition of the International Biennial of the Contemporary Image, *The Post-Photographic Condition*, the exhibition *Another Life* takes an intriguing and ambivalent look at the relationships between species in a context of genetic tinkering. Through photography, video and sculpture, Piccinini creates a world where humans, animals and monsters coexist and even help each other.

The opening will take place Friday, September 11 at 7 pm, with the artist and Joan Fontcuberta, guest curator of the exhibition and of the Mois de la Photo 2015, in attendance.

### The exhibition

On a planet that has been invaded, not by aliens but by images, Patricia Piccinini questions our future as humans. And in doing so, she avoids the monstrous image to concentrate on the image of the monster: *monstrum, monstrare*. The monster is revealed.

Piccinini parodies monstrosity and demonstrativeness as a kind of apocalyptic precursor. In her surprising and captivating universe, forms drawn from biology and aesthetics swing between Frankenstein and Walt Disney, Pixar and H. R. Giger, and *The Island of Dr. Moreau* and Dolly the sheep. In the artist's native Australia, the fauna has evolved endogenously to produce species not found anywhere else in the world. How long will these animals survive if their environments are threatened? As if on a rescue mission, Piccinini has conjured up a new species whose role is to protect endangered creatures. This gesture reminds us that life increasingly pushes the boundaries of nature, resulting in implants, *in vitro* fertilization, cloning, biotechnology, mutations – in short, genetic tinkering.

*Another Life* conveys a sense of fascination and horror of the monstrous when it permeates everyday life, as an embodiment of the Freudian uncanny. If human beings are animals that know how and are able to smile, as George Steiner stated, what does post-humanity have in store for us? Will we be able to reject the new barbarism? In all likelihood, we will be capable of doing so only by opting to humanize technology, rather than technologize people.

### The artist

Patricia Piccinini was born in 1965 in Freetown, Sierra Leone; she lives and works in Melbourne. Her works have been presented in solo and group exhibitions at the Tolarno Galleries in Melbourne (2015), the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art in Melbourne (2014), the National Portrait Gallery of Australia in Canberra (2014), the Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney (2014), the Canberra Museum and Gallery (2013), the Museum of Contemporary Art in Taipei (2013), the Haunch of Venison in London (2012), the Victoria and Albert Museum in London (2011), the Museum of Contemporary Photography at Columbia College in Chicago (2011), the Mori Art Museum in Tokyo (2010), the Frye Museum in Seattle (2007), and the Venice Biennale (2003). Her works are included in many public collections in Australia, including those of the National Gallery of Australia, the University of Melbourne, the Waverly City Gallery, and the Parliament House. In 2014, she received the Artist Award from the Melbourne Art Foundation. She is represented by Tolarno Galleries in Melbourne and Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery in Sydney. [patriciapiccinini.net](http://patriciapiccinini.net)

**Interview with the artist:** <https://youtu.be/Swx7ewLxyfw>

## The curator

Over almost four decades of prolific dedication to photography, Joan Fontcuberta (born in Barcelona in 1955) has developed an artistic and theoretical practice, which focuses on the conflicts between nature, technology and truth. He has written a dozen books about aspects of the history, aesthetics and epistemology of photography. He has curated international exhibitions, including *Fotografía 2.0* (Círculo de Bellas Artes, PhotoEspaña, Madrid, 2014), *Artwork as Collection* (FotoColectania, Barcelona, 2013), *From Here On* (Les Rencontres d'Arles, 2011), *Idas & Chaos. Trends in Spanish Photography 1920-1945* (International Center of Photography, New York, 1987). In 1982, he co-founded the biennial photography festival Primavera Fotográfica in Barcelona, and in 1996 he was appointed artistic director of the Arles Rencontres Internationales de la Photographie. Since 2008, he has been president of the Visual Artists Association in Catalonia. He has had solo exhibitions at the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the Chicago Art Institute, among others, and his works are featured in a number of institutional collections, including at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa, and the Centre Georges- Pompidou in Paris. In 2013, he received the Hasselblad Foundation Award.

## Le Mois de la Photo à Montréal, 14th edition – *The Post-Photographic Condition*

For its 14<sup>th</sup> edition, Le Mois de la Photo à Montréal explores *The Post-Photographic Condition*, a theme conceived by Catalan guest curator Joan Fontcuberta. The post-photographic era is characterized by the massification of images and by their circulation and availability online. Digital technology not only provokes ontological fractures in photography, but also engenders profound changes in its social and functional values. Deployed in 16 exhibition sites, the biennial will feature the works of 29 Canadian and international artists who critically react to this massive presence of images and their unlimited access in our current visual culture.

[moisdelaphoto.com](http://moisdelaphoto.com)

## Free activities

The artist, the curator and art historian Ariane de Blois will meet the public on Friday, September 11, from 12:45 to 1:45 pm.

## Guided tours of the exhibition:

Available at any time. Reservations required with Philippe Dumaine, 514-987-3000, ext. 3280, or [dumaine\\_allard.philippe@uqam.ca](mailto:dumaine_allard.philippe@uqam.ca)

## Support



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## Address and Opening Hours

Galerie de l'UQAM  
Pavillon Judith-Jasmin, Room J-R120  
1400 Berri, corner of Sainte-Catherine East, Montreal  
Berri-UQAM Metro  
Tuesday to Saturday, noon to 6 pm

*Exceptionally, the Galerie de l'UQAM will be closed on Saturday, October 10. The opening hours will be extended to 8 pm on Thursday, October 8.*

Free admission

## Information

Phone: 514 987-8421

[www.galerie.uqam.ca](http://www.galerie.uqam.ca) / [Facebook](#) / [Twitter](#) / [Instagram](#)

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**High-resolution photos:** <http://www.salledepresse.uqam.ca/photos.html>, under "Galerie de l'UQAM"

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