

## **Body, identity and procreation: Heidi Barkun. *LET'S GET YOU PREGNANT!* at Galerie de l'UQAM**

**Dates:** February 7 – March 21, 2020

**Opening:** Thursday, February 6, 5:30 p.m.

Montréal, January 24, 2020 – Artist Heidi Barkun proposes a foray into the world of in vitro fertilization with *LET'S GET YOU PREGNANT!* Based on the testimonies of women who have gone through unsuccessful in vitro treatments, the exhibition is an invitation to reflect on how identity, science and procreation intersect.

### **The exhibition**

The first “test-tube baby” came into the world over 40 years ago. Since then, over seven million children have been born through in vitro fertilization. Popular culture leads us to believe that every attempt of this biotechnology is successful. In Quebec, stars such as Céline Dion and Julie Snyder have become models of its triumph. However the global success rate is just 27%. *LET'S GET YOU PREGNANT!* reveals the experience of failure of in vitro fertilization within the same social, political and medical systems that place motherhood at the forefront of women’s lives. An audio and museum installation creates a virtual conversation between 28 participants, including the artist, who have undergone failed in vitro fertilization cycles and have not become mothers.

With chairs arranged in a circle, the exhibition space becomes a site of consciousness-raising. Answering questions about identity, the body, the medical system and failure, participants convey through dialogue the contradictions inherent in the experience of unsuccessful in vitro fertilization. In addition, artefacts from the treatments of 16 of the 28 participants are displayed: vials, syringes, medical documents, baby booties, images of lost embryos, etc. This sensitive exhibition invites the public to hear these 28 women, and to rethink the intersections of science, socially-defined roles and procreation.

With the participation of: Aconia, Andréa, Anna, Arlene, Brigitte, Cristina, Delphine, Doha, Eliane, Emilie, Eve, Geneviève, Isobel, Julie, Linda, Lindsay, Lolo, Magalie, Marie-Eve, Marie-Hélène, Mica, Myrienne, Nicole, Princessmeg, Sylann, Térésa, Thalie

### **The artist**

**Heidi Barkun** is a master’s candidate in Visual and Media Arts with a concentration in Feminist Studies (UQAM). As a transdisciplinary artist, she explores the constructions of identity through a practice in site-oriented installation, using voice, text, objects and place as means of resistance against normative definitions. The focus on infertility in her recent works follows four years of failed in vitro fertilization treatments.

Barkun obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Anatomy and Cell Biology (McGill University, 1995) and a Bachelor of Fine Arts with distinction (Concordia University, 1999). She is the recipient of grants from several organizations, including the Canada Council for the Arts, the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec and the Réseau québécois en études féministes (RéQEF). The many scholarships she has received include the Bourse de l’Institut de recherches et d’études féministes (IREF) – maîtrise (2018), the Bourse Initiatives de la Faculté des arts (2018), the Bourse Claude-Courchesne en arts visuels et médiatiques (2017), the Bourse Anita-Caron – IREF (2017) and two scholarships for excellence in graduate studies (FARE) (2017, 2018). Her work has been shown in Canada, the United States, Europe and South America and is included in the National Bank Collection and the Senvest Collection.

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

### **Public activities**

The artist will be in the exhibition space, offering tea and speaking with visitors in a casual setting.

Saturday, February 15, noon – 6 p.m.

Saturday, March 21, noon – 6 p.m.

#### La nuit des idées à Montréal

Thursday, January 30, 2020, 6 – 9 p.m.

Cœur des sciences, UQAM

175, Président-Kennedy Avenue, Montréal

In French

Free admission

[Sign up here](#)

On January 30, Galerie de l'UQAM, Cœur des sciences and the Consulat général de France à Québec will present a new edition of *La nuit des idées* in Québec. Centred on the theme *Être vivant·e : à la vie, à la mort*, the event brings together seven leading figures with distinctive backgrounds, including Heidi Barkun. Started by the Institut français and supported by the Fondation de France, *La nuit des idées* is held once a year on the same date on five continents, uniting thousands of people for a night of international, interdisciplinary and intergenerational debate around a common theme.

#### Book launch: *Waiting*

Thursday, February 6, 5:30 p.m.

Galerie de l'UQAM

Free admission

\$25,113 pages, in French and English

During the opening for exhibitions *These Rooms of Earth and Stones* and *Heidi Barkun. LET'S GET YOU PREGNANT!*, Galerie de l'UQAM will be launching its most recent publication entitled *Waiting*. This book follows the exhibition bearing the same name, presented at the gallery in winter 2018, that delved into our relationship with time, in particular time spent working, and the pivotal place it holds in our lives.

#### Artist Talk: Heidi Barkun

As part of the *L'art observe* series

Wednesday, February 19, 2020, 12:45 – 1:45 p.m.

Galerie de l'UQAM

In French and English

Free admission

Galerie de l'UQAM invites you to a presentation by artist Heidi Barkun, graduating master's student in Visual and Media Arts with a concentration in Feminist Studies (UQAM). The artist will discuss her artistic approach as well as research undertaken during her academic career, in an atmosphere conducive to exchange. It will be an opportunity for Barkun to reveal the processes and ideas that underlie her exhibition.

#### Nuit blanche à Montréal

Saturday, February 29, 2020

8 p.m. – midnight

Galerie de l'UQAM

Free admission

Make the most of Montréal's Nuit blanche by visiting exhibitions *These Rooms of Earth and Stones* and *Heidi Barkun. LET'S GET YOU PREGNANT!* at Galerie de l'UQAM. We are extending our opening hours as part of this nocturnal event. Heidi Barkun will be present to speak with visitors from 8 to 10 p.m.

### **Educational program**

Our mediators look forward to taking you and your group on guided tours of *Heidi Barkun. LET'S GET YOU PREGNANT!* The tours are flexible and open to all school and community groups. The content can be adapted to meet your particular needs and to complement material covered in the classroom. These activities are available free of charge, in French or English, or even with an interpreter in American Sign Language (ASL) or Langue des signes québécoise (LSQ).

+ more information: <https://galerie.uqam.ca/en/educational-program/>

Reservations required:

Philippe Dumaine

Cultural Mediation Manager, Galerie de l'UQAM

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(514) 987-3000 ext. 1424

### **Support provided by**

### **Address and opening hours**

Galerie de l'UQAM

Judith-Jasmin Pavilion, Room J-R120

1400 Berri, corner of Sainte-Catherine East, Montréal

Berri-UQAM Metro

Tuesday – Saturday, noon – 6 p.m.

Free admission

### **Information**

Phone: 514 987-6150

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

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**Source:** Julie Meunier, Press Relations Officer

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