

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Canadian Experts participating in  
**NEW NATURE**

An Immersive Media and Climate Science Exchange between Canada -  
Germany - US - Mexico  
May, 25 - 28

Montreal, May 25th, 2020 — **The Goethe-Institut Montreal is pleased to announce that NEW NATURE, an imaginative year-long exchange between 25 leading climate scientists, artists, producers, and creators from Canada, Germany, Mexico and the US working on the forefront of immersive technologies, kicks-off online today with a week-long conference, May 25-28, comprising internal workshops, as well as a public conversations which will continue to manifest in public artist talks, screening series, labs and an online exhibition over the course of this year.** Project partners are, amongst others, the **National Film Board Interactive Studio** in Montreal, one of the world's leading digital content hubs, creating groundbreaking interactive documentaries and animation, mobile content, installations and participatory experiences, as well as the **Phi Centre** in Montreal, a multifunctional centre where art can express itself in its various forms of art, film, music, design and technology, as well as **Milieux Institute at Concordia University** in Montreal.

**The opening keynote on May, 25 at 14:00 EST** will be held by **Leanne Betasamosake Simpson**, multi-talented Michi Saagiig Nishnaabeg scholar, writer and artist and moderated by **Ian Mauro**, an environmental scientist, geographer and filmmaker.

NEW NATURE's Canadian experts include

**Louis-Richard Tremblay** works on projects that combine editorial content, cutting-edge design, technologies and social platforms, where interactivity supports the creation of experiential and narrative universes exploring phenomena that transform individuals and society. At the NFB since 2013, he has worked mostly on international co-production. His most recent work concerns our connected and tech-infused society, played out in portable experiences and immersive environments. He mentored countless creators and producers on projects large and small and regularly gives conferences and master class in Universities and Festivals. He is driven by the thrill of working with teams of creators who join forces to push the limits of their craft.

**Marie-Pier Gauthier** is a producer at the NFB's Montreal Interactive Studio and has been contributing to this rich narrative laboratory for the past eight years. Whether it's digital creation on mobile phones or on the web, interactive installations or virtual or augmented reality projects, she supervises the execution of projects by innovative creators working at the crossroads of different disciplines. She produces projects using a range of storytelling tools, including social networks, code, design, artificial intelligence, and conversational robots. With degrees in journalism and interactive production, Marie-Pier has collaborated on more than 100 interactive works (including *The Enemy*, *Do Not Track*, and *Way to Go*) which have received more than 100 awards in Canada and abroad.

A driving force in communications, **Myriam Achard** has more than 20 years of experience in public relations and press relations. For the past 14 years, she has worked with Phoebe Greenberg to develop and promote the Canadian and international avant-garde arts scene. She has been Chief, New Media Partnerships & PR at PHI since it opened in 2012, and is Director of Communications for the PHI Foundation for Contemporary Art. Over the past years she has devoted a great deal of her energy to representing PHI internationally, and has thus created an extraordinary distribution network for projects (VR, immersive, interactive, XR, etc.) on which PHI takes part today as a co-producer, as well as a distributor. Phi saw its creative impulsion gain international recognition on three continents, from New York to Venice and Tokyo.

**Elizabeth Miller** is a documentary maker and professor at Concordia University who uses collaboration and interactivity as a way to connect personal stories to larger social concerns. Her multi-platform projects on timely issues such as water privatization, refugee rights, gender and environmental justice have won awards and influenced decision makers. Her work has been broadcast on international television, streamed on Netflix and featured in galleries, climate conferences and at festivals, including Hot Docs and SXSW.edu. Miller is a Full Professor in Communications Studies at Concordia University in Montreal and her book *Going Public: The Art of Participatory Practice* (2017) and articles including *Choreographies of Collaboration:*

*Social Engagement in Interactive Documentaries* (2016) have been integrated into educational curricula.

**Jill Didur** is Associate Dean and Professor of English & Postcolonial Environmental Humanities at Concordia University, Montreal, and a member of the Technoculture Art and Games Research Centre at Milieux Institute for Art, Culture and Technology. She is the co-editor of *Global Ecologies and the Environmental Humanities: Postcolonial Approaches* (Routledge 2015) and author of *Unsettling Partition: Literature, Gender, Memory* (UTP 2006). She has published on the significance of locative media, colonial botanical exploration, and imperial and postcolonial garden writing, as well as literary subversions of landscape practice in colonial and postcolonial India. She is the creator of the mobile app, the *Alpine Garden MisGuide / Jardin Alpin Autremont* (iTunes Apple Store 2015) which was installed at the Jardin botanique de Montréal in May 2015. She is currently developing a locative experience reflecting on settler environmentalism and the Anthropocene, Global Urban Wilds, for installation in Montreal's Champs des Possibles.

**Allison Moore**, a new media artist working in expanded cinema and based in Montréal. For the past 14 years, she has crafted an independent practice participating in residencies, workshops, and exhibitions internationally. Her work has been programmed at Tokyo Arts and Space (Japan), ISEA 2015, OBORO (Montreal), Traverse Video (France), Museu de Arte de Belem (Brazil), Festival of Nouveau Cinéma (Montréal), FIFA Experimental (Montréal), MAPP Festival and MUTEK Montreal. Her series of multi-screen video panoramas depict improbable landscapes referencing scenic dioramas. Her work Wunderkammer, a 35-screen video wall can be seen in Place-Des-Arts (Québec).

**Aljumaine Gayle** is a queer interdisciplinary creative technologist working at the intersections of technology, art, design and data justice. Currently enrolled in OCADU's Digital Futures program and actively co-organizes/co-designs programming on behalf of IntersectTO. Aljumaine's artwork explores the notions of othering of blackness in contemporary life and aims to subvert this othering through Afrofuturism and artistic use of technology. His interactive digital art challenges tokenism and trauma narratives that characterize the majority of mainstream black art, film and music.

**Heather Davis** is an assistant professor of Culture and Media at Eugene Lang College, The New School in New York. Her current book project focuses on plastic and its links to petro capitalism. She has lectured internationally, including at the MoMA, the National Gallery of Canada, MIT, Columbia University, Yinchuan Biennale, and Sonic Acts. She has written about the intersection of art, politics and ecology for numerous art and academic publications. She is the co-editor of *Art in the Anthropocene: Encounters Among Aesthetics, Politics, Environments and Epistemologies* (London: Open Humanities Press, 2015) and editor of *Desire Change: Contemporary Feminist Art in Canada* (MAWA and McGill-Queen's UP, 2017).

**Ian Mauro** is the Executive Director of the Prairie Climate Centre (PCC) at the University of Winnipeg. He is an environmental scientist, geographer, and filmmaker as well as a former

Canada Research Chair, Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada's College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists, and Apple Distinguished Educator. Mauro has served on expert panels related to food security, climate change and energy issues. He has also developed a trilogy of feature-length climate change films across Canada, including *Qapirangajuq: Inuit Knowledge and Climate Change* (co-directed with acclaimed Inuk filmmaker Zacharias Kunuk) and *Beyond Climate* (produced and narrated by scientist and broadcaster Dr. David Suzuki). With the PCC, Mauro also developed the *Climate Atlas of Canada*, which is an interactive platform that weaves climate science and storytelling to promote climate resilience and action across Canada. Mauro's work has been featured in academic conferences, museums, film festivals and news media such as the United Nations, Smithsonian Institution, National Geographic, Royal Ontario Museum, ImagineNative, Berlin International Film Festival, The Globe and Mail and This American Life.

**Ladan Mohamed Siad** is Toronto and New York based interdisciplinary, designer, creative technologist, researcher, who is exploring the relationships between design, technology and the universalities of black diasporic experience.

**Tosca Teran** is an interdisciplinary artist working at the intersection of art and ecology. Her work has been featured at SOFA New York, Culture Canada, Metalsmith Magazine, The Toronto Design Exchange, the Memphis Metal Museum, Urban Glass Brooklyn, Music Works Magazine, and Vector Festival. In 2019 Tosca was one of the first Bio-Artists in residence at the Museum of Contemporary Art Toronto in partnership with the Ontario Science Centre, as well as a recipient of the 2019 BigCi Environmental Award at Wollemi National Park within the UNESCO World Heritage site in the Greater Blue Mountains to further explore her work in bio-sonification of fungi and trees with local mycologists and botanists throughout Wollemi, the Sydney Botanical Gardens, and with Māori rangers concerned with Kauri dieback at the Arataki Visitor Centre, New Zealand.

NEW NATURE is curated by Canadian documentary filmmaker and independent curator **Samara Chadwick**. She has programmed films and conferences for HotDocs in Toronto, the Berlin Biennale, the Montreal International Documentary Festival (RIDM), the Points North Institute, and the Camden International Film Festival (CIFF), as well as for the Goethe-Institut (VR:RV 2018, New Nature 2020).

**More about the international experts and partners:** [goethe.de/canada/newnature](https://goethe.de/canada/newnature)

## **INTERNATIONAL PROJECT PARTNERS**

The meetings between German, Canadian, Mexican, and US experts will be initially held online, and within the context of large notable festivals and institutions, including: *Retune – Creative Technology Platform*, a biennial event at the intersection of Art, Design, and Technology in Berlin; *Massive Science*, a content and media company operating worldwide and delivering bleeding-edge scientific research and expertise, and *Museum of the Moving Image* in New York City, the only museum in the U.S. dedicated to the moving image in all its forms and with a

specific focus on the intersection of science and cinema with its *Science on Screen* series; the *XR Hub Bavaria*, an initiative of the Bavarian Ministry for Digital Affairs that connects scientists, companies and artists to enable new projects and thereby strengthen extended reality in Bavaria.

### **ABOUT *NEW NATURE***

NEW NATURE is a series of encounters over the course of 2020 between 25 leading climate scientists, artists, and technologists from Canada, Germany, Mexico, and the United States. Working on the forefront of immersive technologies, the project participants will engage in a series of in-depth collaborations to reflect on climate change and imagine desirable futures.

**NEW NATURE is a project by the Goethe-Institut, realized with the support of the Federal Foreign Office of Germany.**

For more information on the project: [goethe.de/canada/newnature](https://goethe.de/canada/newnature)

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