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Ydessa Hendeles' solo show, *The Milliner's Daughter*, takes over The Power Plant for its Summer 2017 Exhibition Season

The second exhibition season of The Power Plant's 30th Anniversary Year dedicates the entire gallery to a survey of work by Ydessa Hendeles.

The Power Plant takes Canada's celebration of its sesquicentennial anniversary as its point of departure for its 2017 exhibition seasons. The year's programs will invite visitors to consider those who lived on the land before the 1867 Confederation by addressing the consequences of a colonial past on our present, in Canada and beyond.

For the gallery's Summer 2017 Season, The Power Plant will present a solo show by Ydessa Hendeles. Her intensely personal work touches on such themes as memory, loss, trauma and survival while embodying a wide-reaching and resonant cultural history. Titled *The Milliner's Daughter*, the show is the artist's first major survey exhibition at a public institution in Canada and an expressive reflection on pertinent issues and topics of our time.

The Power Plant opens the season with a [FREE Public Opening Party](#) on Friday, 23 June 2017 from 6-11PM, with the exhibition on view from 24 June to 4 September 2017.

Ydessa Hendeles [*The Milliner's Daughter*](#)

Curator: Gaëtane Verna, Director, The Power Plant

Ydessa Hendeles explores perceptions of difference and diversity, assembling objects and artefacts into contemporary fables about the way representation and distortion, appropriation and assimilation can filter group and individual identities. For her first retrospective exhibition at a public institution, The Power Plant will display a selection of her artworks drawn from the past decade.

While the artworks in *The Milliner's Daughter* are informed by Hendeles' own personal and familial history, they also invite viewers to find points that resonate or connect with their own lives. The exhibition thus puts a graphic focus on their own stories, fostering a relationship with the audience that is engaging and never passive.

The Power Plant
Contemporary Art Gallery

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Presented over both floors of the gallery, *The Milliner's Daughter* offers a single, multi-layered narrative. Included is *From her wooden sleep...* (2013), built around a group of wooden artists' manikins composed in an unsettling tableau vivant. Sitting on benches arranged on the gallery floor rather than displayed on plinths, the manikins form a distinct community whose intense focus and collective gaze challenge visitors to consider and attempt to understand their relationship to the other occupants of the same space. Also part of this exhibition are *THE BIRD THAT MADE THE BREEZE TO BLOW* (2006-11), *Crypt* (2016), *Canadian Child* (2009), *The Dead Jumbo*. (2011) and *Marburg! The Early Bird!* (2008-16).

For this first survey of her work, Hendeles has also created a new element, *Blue Beard* (2016), in The Power Plant's Fleck Clerestory to provide a dramatic and evocative portal for the exhibition. Through the lens of cultural objects and icons, the narrative that unfolds through the galleries conjures a storyline about the power dynamics in relations between insiders and outsiders with all the vivid playfulness—and serious intent—of childhood fairy tales.

About Ydessa Hendeles

Ydessa Hendeles is a pioneering exponent of curating as a creative artistic practice. Blurring the borders between collector, curator and artist, she has fashioned her own distinctive space in the contemporary art world.

Beginning in the early 1990s, Hendeles began to incorporate her artistic projects into her exhibition programme at the Ydessa Hendeles Art Foundation in Toronto and continued to do so until the gallery closed in 2012, after 25 years and the passing of her mother. Hendeles' psychologically charged works have been exhibited at: New Museum, New York (2016); Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Israel (2016); Kunsthau Hamburg, Germany (2016); Institute of Contemporary Arts, London (2015); Konig Galerie, Berlin (2012); Andrea Rosen Gallery, New York (2011); Marburger Kunstverein, Marburg, Germany (2010); Gwangju Biennale, South Korea (2010); National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa (2004); and Haus der Kunst, Munich, Germany (2003). Hendeles is represented by Barbara Edwards Contemporary, Toronto, where her recent work, *Death to Pigs*, was exhibited in 2016. She now divides her time between studios in Toronto and New York.

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Summer 2017 Season Programs and Events

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The Power Plant's public programs provide many opportunities for a deeper engagement with the works of art as well as their makers, curators and other cultural producers. During this Summer 2017 Season, visitors can learn more about Ydessa Hendeles' exhibition from the hosts of our Sunday Scene talks, who range from artists and curators to historians and writers. Children aged 7 to 12 will also have an opportunity to create their own exhibition-inspired artworks in our ongoing Power Kids workshop. New to this season is a Writing Workshop hosted by David Best, where participants will be invited to consider perspectives on outsiders and insiders and author their own pieces of fiction. Award-winning dancer and choreographer Arthur Stashak also returns after his Fall 2016 performance, and will share a dance piece inspired by Hendeles' show. Last but not least, we invite our guests to drop by for our weekly Power Tours, during which, each Saturday, our Gallery Attendants discuss the many facets and intricacies of the exhibition.

PUBLIC OPENING PARTY

Friday, 23 June 2017, 6 PM

Be among the first to experience this major survey exhibition by Ydessa Hendeles. Celebrate the launch of the gallery's Summer 2017 Season—the second in The Power Plant's 30th anniversary year!—at the Public Opening Party. Cash bar available all evening.

SUNDAY SCENE

Various Sundays, June to September 2017, 2 PM

Hear from speakers from within the art world and other disciplines as they draw

provocative connections between the exhibitions and broader cultural and intellectual debates. Guests include: Toronto-based artist Ekow Nimako; Rick Rhodes of Rick Rhodes Dupont Projects gallery; Rui Amaral, Director and Curator of Scrap Metal Gallery; and more.

PERFORMANCE: *Hollow* by Arthur Stashak

Tuesday, 25 July 2017, 7 PM

Award-winning dancer and choreographer Arthur Stashak presents a new performance inspired by Ydessa Hendeles' *From her wooden sleep...* and dedicated to the memory of those who were lost in the Holocaust as well as the triumph of those who survived.

PANEL DISCUSSION: *Remembrance and Difference*

Thursday, 10 August 2017, 7 PM

The Power Plant hosts a panel discussion on the topic of memory as an avenue to open a discourse about its role in shaping identity. Led by Dr. Shelley Hornstein, the panel will explore this theme from diverse perspectives. Dr. Hornstein is Professor of Architectural History and Visual Culture at York University and an author of and contributor to books and anthologies related to memory in visual art.

WRITING WORKSHOP: *Outside In* with David Best

Saturday, 22 July 2017, 2 PM and Saturday, 19 August 2017, 2 PM

This hands-on writing workshop invites participants to consider different perspectives about outsiders and insiders, themselves and others. Writers at any level of experience will have the opportunity to create and share new pieces of flash fiction, poetry or memoir in response to a number of open-ended exercises.

For a full list of programs and events
thepowerplant.org/ProgramsEvents.aspx

About The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery

The Power Plant is Canada's leading public gallery devoted exclusively to contemporary visual art. It is a vital forum for the advanced artistic culture of our time that offers an exceptional facility and professional support to diverse living artists, while engaging equally diverse audiences in their work. The Power Plant pursues its activities through exhibitions, publications and public programming that incorporate other areas of culture when they intersect with visual art.

Director: Gaëtane Verna

ADMISSION: ALL YEAR, ALL FREE
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Providing as many people as possible with access to these programs and events remains the gallery's top priority. The initiative leading these efforts is a renewed partnership with BMO Financial Group, whose support of the ALL YEAR, ALL FREE initiative is vital to expanding and diversifying audiences by eliminating the cost of admission to The Power Plant's exhibition program.

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For more information please visit:

thepowerplant.org

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