

PRESS RELEASE



MOMENTA | Biennale de l'image is proud to present its 16th edition, *The Life of Things*, organized by curator María Wills Londoño in collaboration with Audrey Genois and Maude Johnson.

The Biennale joins forces with the McCord Museum for the exhibition *Celia Perrin Sidarous: The Archivist*

Montreal, September 9, 2019 – Until January 12 2020, at the McCord Museum, Celia Perrin Sidarous will be presenting her meticulous installation *The Archivist*, a new work in which she plays with both representation and the materiality of images and objects. In a series of photographic stagings, Perrin Sidarous explores the concepts of trace and memory by examining the experiences that physical and represented objects accumulate over time. Objects from the McCord Museum's collection selected by Perrin Sidarous are displayed next to photographs and other artefacts that she made or acquired.

Celia Perrin Sidarous was born in Canada, and lives and works in Montreal. Her artistic approach provides a new perspective on collecting practices. Her work has been presented at a variety of contemporary art platforms, including Norsk Billedhoggerforening in Oslo, the Centre CLARK in Montreal, the CONTACT Photography Festival in Toronto, Four Six One Nine in Los Angeles, and the FOCUS Photography Festival in Mumbai.

"We are delighted to be hosting the wonderful exhibition *The Archivist* by artist Celia Perrin Sidarous as part of Momenta | Biennale de l'image. Photography is one of the pillars of the McCord Museum, and our association with the Biennale underscores our desire to raise the profile of this art and its artists within our institution," noted McCord Museum president and CEO Suzanne Sauvage.

Celia Perrin Sidarous is grateful to the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec for its financial support.

Exhibition-related activities – *The Time of Objects* workshops

On September 25 and October 2 and 9, at the McCord Museum, people are invited to take part in an exchange focusing on Celia Perrin Sidarous's exhibition *The Archivist* and to share memories and tell their own stories related to the objects from the McCord Museum's collection.

The full program of MOMENTA 2019 brings together 39 artists from 20 countries in 13 exhibitions. It includes the MOMENTA Creative program, which offers a host of educational activities, creative workshops and guided visits, developed in relation to the Biennale's theme, for groups, families, and individuals. For further details: momentabiennale.com.

McCord Museum, museum of photography

The McCord Museum's photography collection encompasses over 1,317,610 photographs that primarily document the social history of Montreal, but also that of Quebec and Canada. Ranging from a series of daguerreotypes created in the 1840s to modern digital images, the collection illustrates the development of the art of photography along with the great transformations that have marked the city over the last two centuries. The

Notman Photographic Archives constitute the core of the collection, with some 450,000 photographs from the Montreal studio founded in 1856 by William Notman (1826–91) and run by his sons until 1935 under the name Wm. Notman & Son.

About the McCord Museum

The McCord Museum is the museum of all Montrealers, a social history museum that celebrates life in Montreal, both past and present—its history, its people, and its communities. Open to the city and the world, the Museum presents exciting exhibitions, educational programming and cultural activities that offer a contemporary perspective on history, engaging visitors from Montreal, Canada and beyond. It is home to over 1.5 million artefacts, comprising one of the largest historical collections in North America, organized into the following departments: Dress, Fashion and Textiles, Photography, Indigenous Cultures, Paintings, Prints and Drawings, Material Culture and Textual Archives. McCord Museum: Our People, Our Stories.

MOMENTA | Biennale de l'image

MOMENTA | Biennale de l'image, formerly Le Mois de la Photo à Montréal, is an international contemporary art biennale devoted to the image. The Montreal-based Biennale has taken place every two years since 1989. Its activities include exhibitions, public events, educational programs, artistic and social collaborations, and more. Over the last eight editions, the Biennale has presented more than 450 artists and attendance has totalled 2 million. There were 171,854 exhibition visits during the 2017 MOMENTA.

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Interviews may be arranged with artist Celia Perrin Sidarous, President and Chief Executive Officer Suzanne Sauvage and Photography curator Hélène Samson.

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Exhibition presented by



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