



PRESS RELEASE

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The Power Plant opens a new group exhibition and celebrates with a lakeside summer opening party on Friday, 29 June 2012

The Power Plant's Summer 2012 season opens with a group exhibition of work united by the idea of art as tools. *Tools for Conviviality* features artists from Toronto, Vancouver, Paris, and Vienna, some emerging and some more established, who create and engage tools to comment on how we live in this world. Participating artists include: **Abbas Akhavan, Raymond Boisjoly, Geoffrey Farmer, Claire Fontaine, Kyla Mallett, Swintak/Don Miller, Reece Terris, Oscar Tuazon, Ulla von Brandenburg, and Franz West.**

This exhibition features works that are interactive as well as mechanisms towards self-help, political shifts, ritual devices, defence, and critique. Referencing the 1973 text by philosopher Ivan Illich of the same name, which sought to dismantle the specialization of industrial knowledge by elites, *Tools for Conviviality* seeks to develop a politic of having more individual influence in the world. The tools that most interested Illich, and are reflected in the exhibition, have links to self-organization, Wiki models, democratic space, and forms of communal activity.

Curated by Melanie O'Brian, this exhibition is on view from **30 June through 26 August 2012**, and **opening party is set for Friday, 29 June from 8 - 11 PM, free to the public.** Many of the artists will be in attendance, so please join us on the gallery's lakefront terrace as we continue to celebrate our 25th anniversary year.

Works by Abbas Akhavan and Claire Fontaine include homemade armaments, while Franz West's interactive *Adaptives* connect viewers with their individual visual and tactile experience of objects. Geoffrey Farmer presents a project based around a half-formed figure that will be added to and changed by children over the course of the exhibition, and Ulla von Brandenburg's engagement with stage and props results in a film installation (seen only once before) that approaches the power of ritual as a tool. Kyla Mallett's appropriated constellation-like diagrams are pulled from a self-improvement manual, Oscar Tuazon's sculptural work brings an industrial aesthetic to playful utopian architecture, and Reece Terris identifies a professional and personal custom of thanks and consolation. Raymond Boisjoly's new exterior text-based

The Power Plant
Contemporary Art Gallery

© Harbourfront centre

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work considers The Power Plant's location within aboriginal histories and Western vernaculars, and Swintak/Don Miller's new work grafts a piece of an experimental rural project onto the gallery.

THIS EXHIBITION IS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE POWER PLAYERS PROGRAM: BMO FINANCIAL GROUP, CIBC, MANULIFE FINANCIAL, ROGERS, STONEGATE PRIVATE COUNSEL, AND TD SECURITIES

Dissenting Histories: 25 Years of The Power Plant

continues to 26 August 2012 with a new artist project by Dave Dymant
 Curator: Melanie O'Brian

Dissenting Histories: 25 Years of The Power Plant is an ongoing project designed to activate and put into dialogue the gallery's rich histories. Installed in a space designed by Markus Miessen, a German architect and writer who has considered institutional histories and has contributed to our thinking about participation in public space and design, the archive exhibition considers our history within local and international contexts, as well as within present spatial and theoretical concerns. As a space for staging events around The Power Plant's history, including the *From the Archives* series of presentations and lively conversations between curators and artists vital to The Power Plant's history, we are also presenting print materials, videos, slides, and an online archive of ephemera. Toronto-based artist **Dave Dymant** is mining the archives and responding to the project with a new series of works. Working with audio, video, photography, and the production of artists' books, multiples and editions, Dymant's witty practice mines popular culture, vernacular photography and music.

As a way of marking its past achievements and looking forward to its future successes, The Power Plant continues the **ALL YEAR, ALL FREE** program. Due to the generous support of the Hal Jackman Foundation, gallery is free to everyone, dropping admission fees for the entire year.

Please send all requests for interviews and images to
rboyko@thepowerplant.org.

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Upcoming Programs and Events

PRIMARY EDUCATION SPONSOR: CIBC

OPENING PARTY

Friday, 29 June, 8-11 PM

The Power Plant

FREE

Be one of the first in the city to see the new exhibitions and meet many of the participating artists.

FREE admission to all and a cash bar will be available.

ARTISTS' TOUR: Tools for Conviviality

Saturday, 30 June, 2 PM

The Power Plant

FREE

Curator & Head of Programs Melanie O'Brian introduces this gallery tour led by participating artists **Abbas Akhavan, Raymond Boisjoly** and **Kyla Mallett**. This is a unique opportunity to meet the artists and hear about their work first-hand.

BOOK SALE

Sunday, 1 July, 2-6 PM

The Power Plant - Lakefront Terrace

FREE

Join us for our annual book sale of art books and exhibition catalogues and enjoy deep discounts up to 75% off.

LIVE: Mariachi Fuego

Sunday, 1 July, 3-4 PM

The Power Plant - Lakefront Terrace

FREE

We are pleased to welcome Toronto mariachi band Mariachi Fuego for a series of performances this summer. They will perform in relationship to Reece Terris's project for *Tools for Conviviality*.

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@ Lakefront centre

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POWER KIDS: Geoffrey Farmer's Figure
Sunday, 1 July, 3-5 PM
The Power Plant
FREE

For children ages 8-12 and their younger siblings and adult companions.

Through props and costumes, artist Geoffrey Farmer proposes a project that reinterprets The Hunchback of Notre-Dame for the current exhibition *Tools for Conviviality*. Participants have the chance to activate this work by adding to and transforming a large sculptural figure over the course of the exhibition. Please call 416.973.4949 to reserve a spot.

2012 POWER KIDS SPONSOR: BMO FINANCIAL GROUP

More about the Artists in *Tools for Conviviality*

Abbas Akhavan (b. 1977 in Tehran, Iran) Akhavan's work has been exhibited nationally and internationally including at Fonderie Darling (Montreal), Vancouver Art Gallery, Artspeak (Vancouver), Mercer Union (Toronto), ABC Art Berlin Contemporary, KW Institute for Contemporary Art (Berlin), Kunsten Museum of Modern Art (Aalborg, Denmark), Le Printemps de Septembre-à Toulouse (France), Performa 11 (New York City). Akhavan is preparing for upcoming solo exhibitions at the Peel Art Gallery (Brampton, Canada) and the Delfina Foundation (London, UK). Akhavan's work is represented by The Third Line (Dubai).

Raymond Boisjoly (b. 1981 in Langley, Canada) Since completing his studies at Emily Carr Institute and the University of British Columbia (MFA), Boisjoly has had solo exhibitions at Access Gallery (Vancouver) and Republic Gallery (Vancouver), as well as a public art project at the Central Vancouver Public Library. He has participated in group exhibitions at the Vancouver Art Gallery, Or Gallery (Vancouver), The Hedreen Gallery at Seattle University, and Helen Pitt Gallery (Vancouver). His work is currently included in *Phantasmagoria*, a group exhibition at Presentation House Gallery (North Vancouver). Boisjoly's work is represented by Republic Gallery (Vancouver).

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Geoffrey Farmer (b. 1967 in Vancouver, Canada) Farmer has had solo exhibitions at the Walter Phillips Gallery (Banff), the Museo Experimental El Eco (Mexico City), Catriona Jeffries Gallery (Vancouver), Witte de With (Rotterdam), the Drawing Room (London, UK), The Power Plant (Toronto), and Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal. He has been included in exhibitions at San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Tate Modern (London, UK), ICA Boston, Project Arts Centre (Dublin), the 12th Istanbul Biennial, and dOCUMENTA (13) (Kassel, Germany). Farmer's work is represented by Catriona Jeffries Gallery, Vancouver and Casey Kaplan Gallery, New York.

Claire Fontaine is a Paris-based collective founded in 2004. Claire Fontaine's recent exhibitions include Städtische Galerie im Lenbachhaus und Kunstbau (Munich), Contemporary Art Museum (St. Louis), and CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts (San Francisco). Claire Fontaine's work is represented by Galerie Neu, Berlin, Galerie Chantal Crousel / Air de Paris, Paris, and Metro Pictures, New York.

Kyla Mallett (b. 1976 in Vancouver, Canada) Mallett's work has been exhibited at the Contemporary Art Gallery (Vancouver), Vancouver Art Gallery, Art Gallery of Alberta (Edmonton), Mount St. Vincent University Gallery (Halifax), Modern Fuel (Kingston), Artspeak (Vancouver), Canadian Cultural Centre (Paris), and threewalls (Chicago). Mallett is an Assistant Professor in Visual Art and Graduate Studies at Emily Carr University.

Swintak (b. 1977 in Vancouver, Canada) Swintak's work has been exhibited at the Hessel Museum of Art (New York), HMK Mariakapel (Hoorn, Holland), Model Niland (Sligo, Ireland), Blackwood Gallery (Mississauga), Khyber Institute of Contemporary Art (Halifax), Art Gallery of Ontario (Toronto), YYY Artist's Outlet (Toronto), Dalhousie University Art Gallery (Halifax) and Rockefeller Centre (New York City). She has presented independent public interventions and relational happenings in Shelburne, Amsterdam, Banff, Vancouver, Teslin, New York, Salt Lake City, Death Valley, and Los Angeles.

Don Miller (b. 1959 in Ajax, Ontario) Miller is an idea-based visual artist, architect and co-founder of Don Blanche. Miller has presented performances, videos, readings and interventions at Elora Centre for the Arts, Blackwood Gallery (Mississauga), Ghost Ship (Amsterdam), York University (Toronto), Knock on Woods (Holland), Pleasure Dome/ Cinecycle (Toronto), Engine Gallery (Toronto), Tranzac (Toronto), and Anna Leonowens Gallery (Halifax).

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Reece Terris (b. 1968 in Vancouver, Canada) Terris's work has been exhibited at Anna Leonowens Gallery (Halifax), The Western Front (Vancouver), Vancouver Art Gallery, Tate Modern (London, UK), Or Gallery (Vancouver), Whatcom Museum of History & Art (Bellingham, WA), Presentation House Gallery (Vancouver), and Simon Fraser University (Burnaby).

Oscar Tuazon (b. 1975 in Tacoma, USA) Tuazon co-founded the artist-run collective and gallery, castillo/corrales in Paris. He studied at Cooper Union School of Art and the Whitney Independent Study Program, New York. He has had numerous solo shows including the Swiss Institute (New York); The Power Station (Dallas), Standard (Oslo), ICA London (UK), Kunsthalle Bern (Berne, Switzerland), Parc Saint Léger - Centre d'art contemporain (Pougues-les-Eaux, France), Centre international d'art et du paysage de l'île de Vassivière (France), Künstlerhaus Stuttgart, David Roberts Foundation, (London, UK), Palais de Tokyo (Paris), and Seattle Art Museum. Tuazon's works were part of 54th Venice Biennale in 2011 and the 2012 Whitney Biennale. His work is represented by Michelle Maccarone, New York and Galerie Balice Hertling, Paris.

Ulla von Brandenburg (b. 1974 in Karlsruhe, Germany) von Brandenburg's work has been exhibited at Chisenhale Gallery (London), Irish Museum of Modern Art (Dublin), Stedelijk Museum (Amsterdam), Wattis Institute for Contemporary Art (San Francisco), Kunstverein Düsseldorf, Palais de Tokyo (Paris), Kunsthalle Zürich, Biennale de Lyon 2011, Yokohama Triennale 2008, Biennale Jerusalem 2008, Performa 07, and Tate Modern (London). Her work is represented by Pilar Corrias, London and Galerie Art Concept, Paris.

Franz West (b. 1947 in Vienna, Austria) West has exhibited internationally for more than three decades including Documenta IX (1992) and Documenta X (1997), Kassel, Germany; Sculpture Projects in Münster (1997); and the Venice Biennale (1988, 1993, 1997, 2003). In 1997 The Museum of Modern Art held a solo show of his work. West's work has been exhibited at the Museo Nacional de Arte Reina Sofía (Madrid), Whitechapel Gallery (London, UK), Kunsthalle Wien, (Vienna), The Baltimore Museum of Art, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Museo Tamayo (Mexico City), Museum Ludwig (Cologne), and the Vancouver Art Gallery. His work is represented by Gagolian Gallery, New York.

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For more information on exhibitions and all public programs, call
+1.416.973.4949 or visit www.thepowerplant.org

The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery at Harbourfront Centre
231 Queens Quay West, Toronto, ON, M5J 2G8, Canada

Admission:
ALL YEAR, ALL FREE

Gallery Hours:
Tuesday to Friday 12 - 6 PM
Saturday - Sunday 12 - 8 PM
Open holiday Mondays

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Media Contact:

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