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The Power Plant honours Director & Artistic Director Gaëtane Verna as she departs the institution

The passionate leader leaves The Power Plant after an illustrious ten-year tenure and begins a new endeavour at The Wex

Gaëtane Verna will be leaving her role as the Director & Artistic Director of The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery to begin an exciting new journey as the next Executive Director of the Wexner Center for the Arts (The Wex) at Ohio State University. Verna has skillfully stewarded The Power Plant for the past decade—an incredible, unprecedented achievement that was celebrated earlier this year. Her last day will be September 16, 2022.

“It has been a privilege and honour to serve as the Director & Artistic Director of The Power Plant, a leading contemporary art gallery recognized for its groundbreaking exhibitions and programming, for more than a decade,” said Verna. “I would like to thank everyone who has made a contribution to the institution, from the artists, our supporters, and our donors, to our passionate Board of Directors and the talented team at The Power Plant who have made this important work possible.”

Verna first joined The Power Plant in March 2012, making her the first woman, Black, and BIPOC leader of the contemporary art gallery. Verna has made an everlasting contribution to the institution by championing a bold artistic vision and a robust exhibition program with thought-provoking artists from Canada and the world.
Verna was instrumental in launching The Power Plant’s touring exhibition program, which led to increased exposure of exhibitions both nationally and internationally. The commissioning program at The Power Plant, in which artists create new major works of art, is a testament to her artist-centred approach.

Verna also passionately supported artists both in Canada and abroad through The Power Plant’s publications, artist memberships, and Emerging Artist Network. During her tenure, Verna led exceptional fundraising initiatives, resulting in the creation of new roles, fellowships, and departments, including the Communications, Public Programs & Outreach, and Development teams, which consolidated and made possible the continuous growth of The Power Plant and its activities.

As a passionate leader, Verna instilled an empowering ethos of inclusivity and accessibility, which is reflected in the lineup of exhibiting artists, in the makeup of the talented team, and in the dynamic Board of Directors at The Power Plant.

Verna is an accomplished champion of the arts, and she extends her contribution to the field by serving on the Board of Directors of the Canada Council for the Arts, TV5 Québec Canada, the Holt/Smithson Foundation, and the Sobey Arts Foundation. Verna is the former President of the Toronto Arts Council’s Board of Directors and serves on the advisory committees of the Art Gallery of Ontario’sarts of Global Africa and the Diaspora, and the Mosaic Institute. She is one of the founders of the Black Curators Forum, and in 2017 she was appointed Chevalier de l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters) by the French government to spotlight and recognize her significant contribution to furthering the arts in France and throughout the world.

The Power Plant is grateful for the unique impact that Verna has made in transforming the institution into what it is today— an open and engaging space that generates conversations and addresses issues important to every community.

About The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery
The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery 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 and offers an exceptional facility and professional support to diverse living artists, while also engaging equally diverse audiences. The Power Plant pursues its activities through exhibitions, publications, and public programming that incorporate other areas of culture when they intersect with visual art. For more information, please visit thepowerplant.org.

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