
Art Matters

By Lauren Smith

Vicky Chainey Gagnon received a most welcome invitation from Michaëlle Jean this past month. The Foreman Art Gallery curator was invited to be a panelist at Art Matters, a forum on visual literacy that is organized by the Governor General.

Gagnon received the invitation for her work on the community art lab project in Lennoxville. The art lab was started 12 years ago in an effort to bring art into everyday life. Gagnon says her goal is to bring art into the community through a variety of methods, including discussion groups and films.

"The panel at Art Matters is important" said Gagnon, "it allows culture to

be openly discussed...The idea of a public forum is crucial in defining culture"

With dwindling funds available for the production of culture and the fact that society doesn't afford a place of importance to contemporary artists, Art Matters is a step in the right direction, Gagnon added.

Gagnon attended Champlain College before heading to Concordia for Film and Art History. From there she got her Master's from York and is currently working on a doctorate in Museology.

Gagnon says she is very grateful for the support she's received from Bishop's for the community art lab. She is happy to have realized this project at Bishop's.

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