

Official Event



Québec

Montréal

Montreal, April 12, 2017 - For immediate distribution

ATSA, When Art Takes Action invites the public to *Cuisine ta ville*

Relational art event, free of charge, to better know the refugees, both former and current, who make up Montreal's social fabric.

Friday, May 12, 2017 from 5 to 11 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday, May 13 and 14, 2017 from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.
on the Esplanade of Place des Arts, in Montreal



Montreal, April 12, 2017 --- The first intervention produced by Annie Roy and Pierre Allard, *La Banque à Bas* (The Sock Bank), was held December 5, 1997. An ersatz automated teller machine, put together from kitchen ranges whose doors served to deposit and withdraw warm socks, was illegally placed in front of the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal to shine a spotlight on the indecent profits generated by banks at a time when the divide between rich and poor was only getting wider. Over the 20 years that followed, the Montreal duo went on to produce nearly 50 urban interventions in the field of social art, including 16 editions of *État d'Urgence*.

In 2017, a year marked by celebrations for Montreal's 375th anniversary, *ATSA, When Art Takes Action proposes a new participative intervention by inviting Montrealers to the Place des Arts esplanade for a big "kitchen party" with refugees, both former and current, and those people who have welcomed them as they rebuild their lives.**

A row of white car shelters similar to the tents in UN refugee camps, and installations evoking the journey of flight and the memory of the home left behind will constitute the staging of this relational art event. Under each shelter, in a warm, informative setting, will take place the deeply human experience of meeting the Other whom we do not know well, by way of a "kitchen party" as well as seminars, testimonials, exhibitions, live performances, films, and *Le Temps d'une Soupe* one-on-one conversations. A large historical frieze will depict the major waves of refugee arrivals in Québec, so each group can see where their story here began. A lexicon will explain the distinctions between asylum seekers, refugees and immigrants.

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The event's full programming details will be unveiled shortly.

Volunteers are key to this organization. 780 hours of citizen implication are available now. Visit www.atsa.qc.ca to subscribe !

"We wish to learn and understand, to establish ties and to instigate an encounter with these people who have had to precipitously abandon their homes, suffer through unimaginable distress and precarity, and rebuild their lives here. Some recent arrivals have successfully integrated, some people have just newly arrived, while others have yet to arrive... There are those here who reach out to welcome the new arrivals, with all the humanity and apprehension that entails. Cuisine ta ville proposes a historical perspective; an assessment of the present and the issues related to integration within the host society; and a reflection on what to expect in light of the current international situation. Moyad, Véronique, Amram, Sasha, Papy, Gracia, Philippe, Marya, Thibe.... Come meet them!" --- Annie Roy and Pierre Allard

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ATSA, When Art Takes Action



Please note that artists Annie Roy and Pierre Allard, formerly known as ATSA, now go by the name *ATSA, When Art Takes Action*. "Global conflicts, barbaric acts of inhumanity that attack our fundamental freedoms, and their hypermediatization giving rise to a turning inward and a racism fueled by stereotypes, have made us shy away from the acronym and recontextualize it by adding to it our slogan that conveys our identity as pacifists. And so: **ATSA, When Art Takes Action**. This is the new name of our artistic collective. It in no way shrinks from our past, but aligns itself with the present."

This project is made possible in part by the Government of Canada, and is produced in collaboration with TCRI — council of organizations serving refugees and immigrants and Amnesty International Canada's Francophone Branch, with help from a multitude of such organizations, including CSAI, PRAIDA, La Maison de la Syrie, CARI St-Laurent, ARM, and more.

