

Montreal, May 8, 2017 - For immediate release

**ATSA, When Art Takes Action
invites the media and the general public to the
opening ceremony of
*Cuisine ta ville***

FRIDAY, MAY 12 at 5 p.m.
on the Esplanade of Montreal's Place des Arts



As part of the activities to mark the 350th anniversary of the founding of Montreal, ATSA, When Art Takes Action invites all Montrealers and media representatives to the opening of *CUISINE TA VILLE*, a big, free event designed to build ties with refugees, both former and current, and those who welcome them.

5 p.m | Official speeches

- > Annie Roy, co-founder of ATSA, When Art Takes Action
- > Kanahsohon Kevin Deer from the Kahnawá:ke Mohawk Nation will perform the sacred *Thanksgiving Address*
- > Denis Coderre, Mayor of Montreal
- > Stephan Reichhold, Executive Director of the Table de Concertation des organismes au service des personnes réfugiées et immigrantes (TCRI)
- > Anne Sainte-Marie, Communications Officer, Amnesty International Canada's Francophone Branch
- > Poetic performance

Also in attendance:

- > Amir Khadir, MNA for Mercier (who will prepare a soup at 6 p.m. under shelter 9)
- > Connie Placido, deputy cabinet director for Westmount MNA Jacques Chagnon
- > Hélène Laverdière, MP for Laurier–Sainte-Marie
- > Manon Gauthier, member of the Executive Committee of the Ville de Montréal, responsible for culture, heritage and design, Space for Life, and the status of women

5:30 p.m. | Activities begin under the 10 shelters installed on the Esplanade of the Place des Arts

A row of car shelters (think “Tempo”) that evoke UN refugee camps, “kitchen parties,” testimonials, seminars, exhibits, film screenings, and live arts performances will provide opportunities for people to meet in a spirit of coming closer together.

Visitors will also be invited, in small groups, to help cook and enjoy a soup of their choice. As well, they can participate in the *Le Temps d'une soupe* installation, where perfect strangers are paired up and each is provided a “three-course” topic menu to break the ice and stimulate a conversation; the duo's encounter will be captured for posterity through a poetic portrait, which will later be included in a slide show in the public space.

A new, *in situ* installation by ATSA, When Art Takes Action, *Allée simple*, comprised of suitcases and clothes forming an extended trail, like a procession up the steps of the Place des Arts, evoking the flight and journey of refugees.

A large historical frieze will depict the major waves of refugee arrivals on these unceded lands, so each group can see where their story here in Québec began.

Testimonials, seminars, kitchen parties, exhibits, installations, movies and performances are all a part of *Cuisine ta ville*, a relational art event held on the Esplanade of Montreal's Place de Arts, on Friday, May 12 from 5–11 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, May 13 and 14, from 11 a.m.–11 p.m. Free.

Activities schedule: <http://www.atsa.qc.ca/cuisine-ta-ville-horaire>
www.atsa.qc.ca | <https://www.facebook.com/atsa97/> | [@ATSAmontreal](https://twitter.com/ATSAmontreal) | #CuisineTaVille

"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

ATSA, When Art Takes Action

The first intervention produced by artists 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* (State of Emergency).

**QUAND
L'ART
PASSE À
L' ACTION**

Note that artists Annie Roy and Pierre Allard 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."

Cuisine ta ville is made possible in part by the Government of Canada, and is produced in collaboration with the Table de concertation des organismes au service des personnes réfugiées et immigrantes (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.

