



PRESS RELEASE

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Rendez-vous with the artists of the exhibition *Absence et Présence*

Montreal, March 4th, 2013 – Sunday, May 12th, at 3:00pm, the maison de la culture du Plateau-Mont-Royal will welcome, within its walls, the two artists from the exhibition ***Absence et présence***, **Verona Sorensen** and **Kakim Goh**, to engage in an open discussion with the public. The vernissage of *Absence et Présence* will take place on May 3rd until June, 2nd. Discussions, exchanges, questions and answers will be at the *Rendez-vous*.

Absence et présence is an exhibition of recent paintings by **Kakim Goh** and **Verona Sorensen**. Drawing on the concepts of “absence and presence”, the artists reflect on the dance of life and death, tackling form and formlessness, overlapping the boundaries between abstraction and figuration and articulating memory and experience.



Photo : Aksel Stasny

Verona Sorensen (<http://www.veronasorensen.ca>) was born in Montreal to a Filipino nurse and a West Coast Nordic painter. Her earlier years were spent between the Eastern Townships and Mexico. After successfully completing a BFA at Concordia University with a specialization in Theatre Performance, **Verona** embarked on her painting career when she was invited to apprentice with the ‘Dormice’ art collective in Florence, Italy. After 2 years of training in Italy, she moved to Ajijic, Mexico to study encaustic painting.

Verona’s works can be found in the major corporate collections of Loto-Quebec, Bankers Hall and Jameson Development Corp. and is a part of important private collections in Canada, Europe, Mexico and the United States. After her father passed away, she embarked on a journey to India and Philippines, in the hopes of coming to terms with her grief and the absence of the presence of her father.

Her paintings are inspired by material and surfaces such as weathered doors and walls that serve as testimony to the passing of time. Imprinted by the beauty of experience, these

surfaces parallel the depth and layers of the human existence. Her technique consists of building multiple layers of heavily textured oil paint mixed with encaustic wax and sand onto canvas or wood panel then scraping away through the thick coats in order to reveal the rich surfaces and colors below. **Verona** wants to reveal the beauty lingering below surfaces. Her paintings communicate strength and vulnerability. Like a lotus flower emerging from the mud, her works act as analogies of the human condition: the hardships and triumphs, the darkness and luminosity.



Kakim Goh (<http://www.kakimgoh.com>) is a Singaporean-born Montreal-based visual and performance artist working primarily in painting and drawing.

Born into a family of artists, Kakim's father was a poet, doctor and nightclub owner whose wanderlust spread Kakim's youth across Singapore, Malaysia, Vancouver and Cowhead, Newfoundland. At the age of 19, **Kakim** left

Photo : Xian Goh

Vancouver for Mexico where he studied oil painting, drawing and printmaking processes for 5 years in the artist colony of San Miguel de Allende, in Mexico. Upon his return to Canada, he complemented his training with a BFA (Major in Painting and Drawing with distinction) from Concordia University in Montreal.

His Artworks can be found in private collections in Canada, the United States, Singapore, Mexico, and Chile.

Globalization is a process of expanding hybridization. Within the phenomenon of cultural globalization, previously held notions of biological, racial, linguistic and theological purity are being challenged by the mishmash cross-cultural exchanges of love, lust, values and commodities. In this struggle to adapt to a world that is constantly in flux are we truly present ?

Kakim conceived the series of paintings in "Absence et présence" as improvisations on memory, place, ancestry and the evolution of culture in response to change. The compositions are portrayals of imagined spaces inhabited by family and friends, tone poems to the dead and the living; spaces where ideological battles are waged; the epicenters of pain and desire. Odes to what is loved, lost, gained and sacrificed to the network of ever-changing winds.

You are warmly invited to attend this *Rendez-vous* which will certainly be rich in exchanges and emotions!

Date : Sunday, May 12th, 2013 **Time** : 3:00 pm **Admission** : Free

Venue : **Maison de la culture du Plateau-Mont-Royal**, 465, Mont-Royal East ave, Montreal (Mont-Royal Metro)

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