



## PRESS RELEASE

### **Porteurs de lumière A Ronald Mevs Exhibition with Spoken Word by Webster**

**Montreal, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016** – As part of TD's Black History Month series, the *Porteurs de lumière* ("Light Bearers") exhibition, at the Arsenal as of February 23<sup>rd</sup>, showcases the work of painter and sculptor Ronald Mevs and slam artist / rapper Webster.

Subtitled "L'art de résister" ("The art of resisting"), through images and words, the exhibition deals with the artist's role in countering oppression.

Visitors to the *Porteurs de lumière* exhibition will discover two visions of resistance – two artistic interpretations of the struggle – through these marvelous works rooted in the reality of each artist. On the one hand, Ronald Mevs represents resistance through his totems — that are the guardians of a history marked by oppression — and through his vibrant paintings, which are free of any taboos. On the other, Webster, who's also a historian and expert on the history of Black people in Quebec, will present vibrant pieces inspired by the work of Paul Fehmiu-Brown.

"It was important for us to support this exhibition that brings together several artists around a theme that's particularly poignant during Black History Month," pointed out Sylvie Demers, Head, Branch Banking, and President, Quebec Management, TD Bank Group. "We are truly lucky that painter and sculptor Ronald Mevs was able to put on this exhibition as part of such a key *TD Black History Month series* event."

Ronald Mevs grew up in a family of artists and creators. It's natural then that art would occupy such a central place in his life. Very early on, he found himself steeped in the artistic worlds of Roland Dorcelly, Lucien Price, and Hector Hyppolite. 40 years on, Ronald Mevs's path has been anything but typical. True living poetry, his numerous works have been marked by transformations, changes, and a unique, luminous vision.

Aly Ndiaye, also known as Webster, was born and raised in the Quebec City neighbourhood of Limoilou. The child of a Senegalese father and a Quebecois mother, he introduces himself as a biracial *pure laine* "SénéQueb". A hip-hop and anti-racism activist, Webster is socially involved. He is a speaker and teaches others how to use French creatively through rap. As a founding member of Limoilou Starz, he is among the pioneers of the Quebec hip-hop movement.

Carla Beauvais, the woman behind the *Porteurs de lumière* exhibition, brought together these two artists in Montreal for the occasion.

“Black History Month is the time to better understand and to discover facets of our history. Through this exhibition – and through the arts – I wanted to explore the notion of resistance. Art has always been a powerful way to stake claims, and assert or express one’s self in the face of oppression,” noted Carla Beauvais. She was supported, in the creation of this exhibition, by the Executive Director of the Arsenal, Jean-François Bélisle.

The *Porteurs de lumière* vernissage will take place on Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> as part of TD Cultural Tuesdays at the Arsenal. The opening will be followed by a lively talk by Philippe and Myriam Fehmiu on the role of the artist faced with oppression, and the important role they play in passing on our history. This occasion will also be an opportunity to honour historian Paul Fehmiu-Brown who suffers from Alzheimer’s, and who inspired a generation of artists and creators through his sharing of the history of slavery in Canada.

### **About the Arsenal**

Located in the Griffintown district of Montreal and with a smaller space in Toronto’s Junction neighborhood, Arsenal Contemporary is a private foundation dedicated to the promulgation, promotion and development of contemporary art. With two industrial buildings of voluminous size, the Arsenal has showcased extensive exhibitions of local and international artists.

To find out all about the complete schedule for Black History Month, visit our website: [www.moishistoiredesnoirs.com](http://www.moishistoiredesnoirs.com)

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### **Source: The Round Table on Black History Month**

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