

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Textile Museum of Canada's *Greater Toronto* launches fabric designs by 10 Canadian artists at NYCxDESIGN 2016

Featuring Kim Adams, Abbas Akhavan, Bill Burns, Lyn Carter, Bonnie Devine, Ed Pien, Tazeen Qayyum, Anu Raina, Seth, Gary Taxali

TORONTO – Presented by the Textile Museum of Canada, *Greater Toronto: New Artist Textiles* is a landmark project showcasing a new generation of printed textiles by Toronto artists. Commissioned to produce new textile designs, ten contemporary artists extend their interdisciplinary explorations in the form of printed fabrics on view at New York City's Textile Arts Center from May 6-8, 2016 in conjunction with NYCxDESIGN, New York's city-wide design fair. Printable on demand, these printed fabrics will be available to the public here for the first time.

"Artist textiles" are experiencing a resurgence buoyed by interest in mid-century modern as well as textile designs of renowned artists from Pablo Picasso and Marc Chagall to Andy Warhol and Louise Bourgeois. Infusing commercial production with individual style, textile production facilitates creative investigation at the boundaries of art, craft, fashion and design. Highlighting the spirit of design in everyday life, *Greater Toronto* brings together highly visual works with critical appeal, each exploring global conversations about contemporary culture and our collective landscapes.

Greater Toronto is made possible with the financial assistance of the Toronto Arts Council. The Textile Museum of Canada is also grateful for the support of Emerson Design, Entcounsel and the Textile Arts Center.

Opening reception Friday May 6, 6-8:30 pm

Exhibition on view from Saturday May 7 – Sunday May 8, 2016, 12-6 pm

Textile Arts Center, 26 W 8th Street, New York, NY 10011



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Media inquiries:

Paul Henderson, Communications & Marketing Associate, 416-599-5321 x2239 or marketing@textilemuseum.ca

High Res Images:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/x91piu7ibuxk7m7/TMC-Greater-Toronto-PressKit.zip?dl=0>

About the Textile Museum of Canada

The Textile Museum of Canada has a 40-year history of exploring ideas and building cultural understanding. Connecting contemporary art and design to international textile traditions, this national museum is one of Canada's most engaging arts institutions welcoming thousands of visitors from across the country and around the world each year. The Museum's permanent collection spans 2,000 years and consists of over 13,000 artifacts from virtually every country and region, uniquely positioning the Museum to speak to global culture as well as our increasingly global communities. A leader in the digitization of collections and interactive environments, the TMC is as "high tech" as "high touch" – recognized for its innovation in the development of landmark educational, research and creative initiatives.

Greater Toronto – Artist Biographies

Kim Adams (b. 1951 in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada)

Kim Adams creates sculptures that explore social structures, the implications of technology and mobility, and the divide between life and art. He has exhibited at major Canadian museums and galleries and internationally, most recently at *Beyond/In Western New York 2010* (Buffalo, NY), *Insiders* at the Musée d'art contemporain (Bordeaux, France), and in *Oh, Canada* at Mass MOCCA. Adams is the subject of numerous books and catalogues, and his work is included in many major public collections. He is the recipient of the Gershon Iskowitz Award (2012) a Simon Guggenheim Fellowship (2013), and the Governor General's Award for Visual Arts and Media Award (2014). Kim Adams is represented by Diaz Contemporary in Toronto.

Abbas Akhavan (b. 1977 in Theran, Iran)

Abbas Akhavan's practice ranges from site-specific ephemeral installations to drawing, video, sculpture and performance. His research has been deeply influenced by the sites where he works: the architectures that house them, the economies that surround them, and the people that frequent them. The domestic sphere, as a forked space between hospitality and hostility, has been an ongoing area of research in his practice. Recent works have shifted focus, wandering onto spaces and species just outside the home – the garden, the backyard, and other domesticated landscapes. Akhavan is the recipient of Kunstpreis Berlin (2012), the Abraaj Group Art Prize (2014) and the Sobey Art Award (2015).

Bill Burns (b. 1957 in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada)

Bill Burns grew up in a bookseller's family in Saskatchewan. His work about art, animals and advanced industrialism has been shown at the Institute of Contemporary Arts in London; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin; Mendes Wood Gallery, Sao Paulo, Brazil; the Seoul Museum of Art; and the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam. Burns has published nine books, with artist's editions that are in collections at Tate Britain in London, the Museum of Modern Art in New York, and the Getty Center in Los Angeles. Burns is also the artistic director of the Dogs and Boats and Airplanes Children's Choir, which has produced live performances and audio works in Canada, Australia and Argentina and will be featured at Toronto's Royal Ontario Museum this fall.

Lyn Carter (b. 1954 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada)

Lyn Carter combines her expertise in textile design and sculpture to create intricate, architectural installations and drawings. She has exhibited across North America, Australia, Britain, Spain, Mexico and China, and recently presented a major solo exhibition at the Textile Museum of Canada. Her work is represented in a number of public collections, among them the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo, New York; the AstraZeneca Collection in Mississauga, Ontario; Cambridge Galleries in Cambridge, Ontario; and Dalhousie Art Gallery in Halifax, Nova Scotia. In 2008, Lyn Carter was commissioned to create a site-specific work for the Third Guangzhou Triennial in Guangzhou, China, and she is currently preparing for her participation in the Hangzhou Triennial of Fiber Art (2016) in Hangzhou, China.

Bonnie Devine (b. 1952 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada)

Bonnie Devine is a sculptor, painter, video maker, curator, writer and educator whose most enduring learning came from her grandparents, who were trappers on the Canadian Shield in northern Ontario. A member of Serpent River First Nation, Genaabaajing, an Anishinaabe Ojibwa territory on the north shore of Lake Huron, Devine's work emerges from the storytelling and image-making traditions that are central to Anishinaabe culture, and explores issues of land, environment, treaty, history, and narrative. Devine has exhibited across Canada and in

the USA, South America, Russia, Europe and China, including the Art Gallery of Ontario, the Berlin Film Festival, the National Museum of the American Indian and Today Art Museum in Beijing.

Ed Pien (b. 1958 in Taipei, Taiwan)

Ed Pien immigrated to Canada with his family at age 11, and has worked as an artist for nearly 30 years, creating enchanting drawings, paper-cuts, and installations. His influences range from Asian ghost stories and hell scrolls to calligraphic traditions and the works of Hieronymus Bosch and Francisco Goya. Pien has exhibited nationally and internationally, including the Victoria and Albert Museum, London; The Goethe Institute, Berlin; The Drawing Center, NYC; the Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto; The Bluecoat, Liverpool; the Musée des beaux arts and Musée d'Art Contemporain, Montreal; Songzhuang Art Centre, Beijing; and the National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa. He recently participated in *Oh Canada*, MASS MoCA, and the Sydney, Moscow and Beijing Biennales. Pien is represented by Birch Contemporary, Toronto; Pierre-François Ouellette Art Contemporain, Montreal; and Galerie Maurits van de Laar, The Hague.

Tazeen Qayyum (b. 1973 in Karachi, Pakistan)

Tazeen Qayyum is a contemporary miniature painter based in Canada and Pakistan. She has shown nationally and internationally at the Textile Museum of Canada, Toronto; the Mohatta Palace Museum, Pakistan; the University of Sydney, Australia; the Musée des Beaux-Arts, Rouen, France; the Tokyo Metropolitan Museum, Japan; and the National Gallery of Pakistan, Islamabad. Qayyum's work was included in the 10th Asian Biennale, Dhaka, Bangladesh; 2nd Painting Biennale, Tehran, Iran; and has been featured at Sotheby's and Christie's South Asian Modern & Contemporary Art auction in New York. She was nominated for the Jameel Prize (2013) and the K. M. Hunter Award (2014).

Anu Raina (b. 1969 in Kashmir, India)

Anu Raina's textile designs are celebrated for her subtle references to her Kashmir heritage and adopted home of Toronto. Raina debuted her ready-to-wear clothing and accessories collection at Toronto Fashion week in 2010 and has designed exclusive prints as part of collaborations with organizations such as eBay Canada, the Law Society of Upper Canada, Keilhauer, and the Art Gallery of Ontario. She has been featured in *The Globe and Mail*, *National Post*, *CBC Radio*, *CTV*, *Omni* and several mainstream fashion publications.

Seth (b. 1962 in Clinton, Ontario, Canada)

Seth is the pen name of cartoonist Gregory Gallant, hailed as one of the best narrative cartoonists in the world. He is the cartoonist behind the long running comic book series *Palookaville*, and has written and illustrated several graphic novels including *Wimbledon Green*, *George Sprott* and *It's a Good Life if you Don't Weaken*. As a book designer he has worked on the 25 volume series *The Complete Peanuts*, *The Portable Dorothy Parker*, *The John Stanley Library* and *The Collected Doug Wright*. He is the illustrator for the Young Readers series, *All the Wrong Questions*, written by Lemony Snicket, and is the subject of the recent award winning NFB documentary *Seth's Dominion*. He has been included in the University Press of Mississippi Press Comic Artists Series alongside Charles Schulz, Walt Disney and Art Spiegelman. Seth's work has appeared in art galleries across the country, and on the cover of *The New Yorker*. He won Toronto's prestigious Harbourfront Festival Prize in 2010, and is the recipient of several major American comic and cartooning awards, including the Eisner, the Harvey, and the Ignatz.

Gary Taxali (b. 1968 in Chandigarh, India)

Gary Taxali is an award-winning illustrator whose artwork has been exhibited in galleries in Canada, the United States and Europe as well as museums such as the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, the Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh and the Contemporary Art Museum in Rome. Taxali founded his own toy company, *Chump Toys*, in 2005 and has released four books including *Mono Taxali*, published by 279 Editions, and *I Love You, OK?*, published by teNeues. His design clients include Rolling Stone, Esquire, Fortune, New York Times, GQ, Warner Brothers, Converse and Nintendo. In 2012, the Royal Canadian Mint released a special edition of six 25¢ coins which feature Taxali's artwork and typography. In 2015, *Gary Taxali: The Art of Whimsy*, a short film documenting the artist in his studio, premiered at the Canadian Art Film Festival. Taxali has won hundreds of illustration and design awards including a Grammy nomination for his album cover artwork for Aimee Mann's "Smilers." He has given lectures at the National Institute of Design in Bangalore, India; Design Exchange, Toronto; The Art Director's Club of Houston, Texas; Dankmarks Designskole, Copenhagen, Denmark; and Istituto Europeo Di Design, Rome, Italy.