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The Power Plant wins Ontario Association of Art Galleries' Award for Exhibition of the Year (\$50k+)

The Power Plant is pleased to be awarded the Ontario Association of Art Galleries' (OAAG) Award for Exhibition of the Year, Budget over \$50,000, for the Winter 2014-145 exhibition *The Unfinished Conversation: Encoding/Decoding*.

The Ontario Association of Art Galleries (OAAG) announced the winners of the 38th annual OAAG Awards yesterday on Wednesday, 18 November at a ceremony hosted by the Association at the Gladstone Hotel.

The OAAG Awards are annual, province-wide, juried art gallery awards for artistic merit and excellence. The Awards recognize the new exhibitions, publications, programs and community partnerships that have been commissioned by and produced by Ontario's public art galleries over the previous year, with over 30 public art galleries in 21 cities across Ontario nominated for 2015. *"The OAAG awards have consistently revealed the expanse and richness of art production on the part of Ontario's public art galleries,"* says Shirley Madill, President of the OAAG Board of Directors and Executive Director at Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery. *"Whether one wins an award or not, everyone working in the sector has cause to celebrate excellence on the part of our sector together."*

The Power Plant took home the award for Exhibition of the Year, Budget over \$50,000 for the exhibition *The Unfinished Conversation: Encoding/Decoding*. Presented in partnership with Autograph ABP, the exhibition opened in January 2015 and showcased the work of artists **Terry Adkins, John Akomfrah, Sven Augustijnen, Shelagh Keeley, Steve McQueen, and Zineb Sedira**. The works culled images and audio archives to reflect upon a particular socio-political event and its subsequent historicized narrative, and emphasized the idea that the visual is an assimilatory process, continuously at work in the construction of culture, political, personal, and national identities. The jury noted: *"This was a timely exhibition and the curation was focused. It was a remarkable and compelling choice of artists and works, with relevant programming including an engaging one-day symposium. It considered historical issues and current application, and emphasized a variety of media including large-scale projection works."*

The Power Plant thanks the artists for their trust and the powerful message of their works, the curators Mark Sealy MBE and Gaëtane Verna, Director of The Power Plant, the entire gallery team, **Presenting Sponsors:** BAND Gallery and TD Then &

Now, and **Support Donors:** Lonti Ebers, Yvonne & David Fleck, James & Margaret Fleck, Dr. Kenneth Montague & Ms. Sarah Aranha and the Diversity Art Forum - all of whom were instrumental in bringing the project to fruition. The gallery also thanks BMO for allowing the gallery to keep its doors open with their funding of the ALL YEAR, ALL FREE program. Most of all, The Power Plant is grateful to our audience for visiting the exhibition, for participating in all our education and public programs, for their continuing interest and enthusiasm in our work, and for validating what we do as an institution and the work of the artists we present.

For more information on *The Unfinished Conversation*:
bit.ly/1AMD9ef

For full list of OAAG Award winners:
oaag.org/awards/2015winners.html

About the Ontario Association of Art Galleries (OAAG):

Through network-building, professional development and advocacy, OAAG fosters sustainable, healthy, diverse public art galleries, furthering the visual arts as a key component of the cultural life of Ontario. OAAG serves and represents 102 public art gallery and visual art organization members in 61 municipalities across the province. OAAG is a registered charitable organization.

About The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery:

The Power Plant is Canada's leading public gallery devoted exclusively to contemporary visual art. It is a vital forum for the advanced artistic culture of our time that offers an exceptional facility and professional support to diverse living artists while engaging equally diverse audiences in their work. The Power Plant pursues its activities through exhibitions, publications and public programming that incorporates other areas of culture when they intersect with visual art.

For more information visit:
thepowerplant.org

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