

Kitty Scott
Curator, Contemporary Art
National Gallery of Canada

January 27, 2006

Dear Kitty,

I am writing on behalf of the Independent Media Arts Alliance, a national association of 80 independent film, video, and new media organizations (representing over 12,000 artists) working in the fields of production, distribution and presentation of works. The IMAA works to promote the means and access for media artists at every stage of funding, production, distribution and exhibition.

At our last annual general meeting this past September, a motion was presented by the membership calling for the IMAA to make public the lack of Canadian media art programming at the NGC and to simultaneously lobby the NGC to increase the presentation and acquisition of Canadian media art works.

I understand that the NGC does collect, exhibit and program media art works. In fact I grew up in Ottawa and can attribute my interest in contemporary media art to visiting the NGC as a child and working there during my undergraduate years in the mid-nineties. This was during the time that Jean Gagnon was Associate Curator of Media Arts at the NGC. The decline in acquisitions of media art works appears to coincide with Jean Gagnon's departure in 1998.

I would be interested in meeting with you to discuss the areas in which we feel that there is a serious lack within the collecting and exhibiting of film, video and new media at the NGC. My goal is to gain a better understanding of what some of the obstacles are that the NGC faces so that we can help you to develop this area. For example a major part of what the IMAA does is lobby the department of Canadian Heritage to increase funds to various media arts related organizations.

I will be in Ottawa on Monday, February 20th and would like to know if you would be available to meet with me that afternoon. Or if this is not possible for you, I would like to know if we could schedule another time.

I would like to thank you for taking this time, and I look forward to future discussions with you.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Dorner, National Director

Cc: Pierre Théberge (Director), Josée Drouin-Brisebois (Assistant Curator), Jonathon Shaughnessy (Curatorial Assistant)