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Press Release | For immediate release | Montreal, May 4, 2017

Machinimagraphique!

Skawennati

May 20 - June 24, 2017

Opening Saturday May 20, 2 - 6 pm
Artist in attendance



Birth of an Avatar (Homage to Mariko Mori), 2017
Machinimagraph, inkjet print
178cm x 114cm (70" x 45")

I fear that if Indigenous people cannot envision ourselves in The Future, we will not be there. We need to visualize ourselves as full participants in the multi-mediatized world of today and tomorrow to help ourselves become active agents in the shaping of new mediums and new societies.
– Skawennati

ELLEPHANT is pleased to present Machinimagraphique! The exhibition features Skawennati's bold, bright machinimagraphs – images captured in the virtual scenarios she has been creating since 2010. Alongside scenes from her movies *Time Traveller™*, *She Falls For Ages*, and *Words Before All Else Part 1* are several portraits of her own avatar.

Skawennati's stunning imagery presents a positive and empowering vision that explores culture, time and self. Since the late 1990's Skawennati has used cyberspace—websites, apps, video games and virtual environments—as a metaphor for the future and a tool to create representations of Indigenous people in a revised history, a contemporary present and an anticipated tomorrow.

Tuscarora thinker Jolene Rickard writes that Skawennati's work "activates the symbolism of an ancient, yet contemporary culture through hints of recognizable signs, materials and metaphor while piercing a linear... acceptance of time. By reimagining key Haudenosaunee philosophies: the Creation Story and the Ohen:ton Karihwaterkwén (Thanksgiving Address), the artist playfully reclaims the super-human powers of the Ancient Beings as avatars in cyberspace."¹

¹ From the opusculé Tomorrow People: Skawennati, by Jolene Rickard, Oboro 2017

SKAWENNATI's work has been widely presented across North America and in major exhibitions around the world. Currently featured in Lab NT2's *Uchronia / What if ?* in the HyperPavilion, Venice Biennial, previous highlights include "Now? Now!" at the Biennale of the Americas; "Looking Forward/L'Avenir" at the Montreal Biennale and "Changing Hands: Art Without Reservation 3" at the Museum of Art and Design in New York City. Born in Kahnawake Mohawk Territory, Skawennati holds a BFA from Concordia University in Montreal, where she is Co-Director of Aboriginal Territories in Cyberspace (AbTeC), a research network of artists, academics and technologists investigating, creating and critiquing Indigenous virtual environments.

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