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CEPA names Véronique Côté as new Executive Director & Chief Curator

Côté follows in the footsteps of Gail Nicholson and Kathy High as women in leadership for the organization

Buffalo, Erie – March 1st, 2021 – [The Center for Exploratory & Perceptual Arts](#) is pleased to introduce Véronique Côté as its new Executive Director. In her new role, Côté will be focused on creating financial stability and capacity building for CEPA, as well as creating more paying opportunities and inclusive placemaking for artists in Buffalo. Côté is only the second woman to hold the executive director role at CEPA following Gail Nicholson's tenure from 1988 to 1992.

"I couldn't be happier to be in Buffalo, and contributing to the continued growth of the local arts community" Côté said. "My first serious show outside of academia was at Big Orbit (recently merged to CEPA) and I've always wanted to get back to Buffalo, my first American love."

A Quebec native, Côté completed her MFA at SUNY Buffalo in 2006, and already has had an affinity for Western New York and the local art scene. She also holds an MA in Museum Studies from Harvard University, and a BIA from the University of Quebec in Chicoutimi. Most recently, Côté held a position at the prestigious Pérez Art Museum leading the Museum Management Internship & Leadership program.

Côté's hiring continues an essential tradition at CEPA – to put working artists at the helm of the organization. Her work is best described as interdisciplinary, combining alternative textiles, sculpture, and photography to create visual narratives that highlight the paradox of contemporary American culture.

The announcement of Côté's hiring comes after a nearly 4-month national search to fill the vacancy created by Executive Director, Lawrence Brose's retirement at the end of 2020. Lauren Tent, Education Director and Acting Interim Executive Director, reported that the search committee, comprised of board members, former directors, and staff, was extremely impressed with the quality and diversity of applicants.

"The search committee had a wonderfully talented group to choose from, but we were confident that Véronique was going to bring the right energy to CEPA. We're thrilled to have her join us," said Tent.

CEPA is positioned for a bright future under Côté's direction, where she's overseeing three show openings in her first weeks with the organization, and looking towards a 50th anniversary celebration in 2024, and spearheading back to back fundraising auctions in 2021 and 2022 to compensate for a missed 2020 art auction due to COVID-19 restrictions.

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