Heures d'ouverture: mardi, mercredi, vendredi 11h–17h30
jeudi 11h–20h samedi 11h–16h

Depuis 2019, l'artiste Anne-Marie Ouellet enquête sur nos manières de faire groupe. Qu'est-ce qui nous incite à fonder ou à rejoindre un collectif, une association, un comité? Qu'est-ce qui nous tient dans un groupe? Poursuivant l'enquête à Saint-Boniface, elle aborde l'amitié non seulement comme lien affectif, mais aussi comme forme d'engagement, mode d'organisation et éthique des relations.

Since 2019, artist Anne-Marie Ouellet has been exploring the ways in which we form groups. What motivates us to start or join a collective, an association, or a committee? What keeps us in a group? Continuing her exploration in Saint-Boniface, she approaches friendship not only as an emotional bond but also as a form of commitment, a mode of organization, and an ethic of relationships.

LA MAISON DES ARTISTES VISUELS FRANCOPHONES

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from September 26 to November 22, 2026

COHÉSION

amitié _ friendship

Anne-Marie Ouellet
curator: Véronique Leblanc

Solo Exhibition

ANNE-MARIE OUELLET
COHESION – An Inquiry on friendship
Curator: Véronique Leblanc

> "An inquiry isn't so much about describing an experience as it about making
> it exist. As such, any inquiry is first and foremost an experiment."
> – Vinciane Despret

Cohesion is a project of inquiry and artistic experimentation that explores the need to gather, our sense of belonging in groups and collective dynamics. Born from a personal reflection of artist Anne-Marie Ouellet about her collective involvements (housing coop, parents' committee, community garden, activist group for the conservation of a building), the project started in 2019 to explore the motivations and challenges of living together. This project has been presented in various forms, notably in an exhibition at the Musée d'art de Joliette (QC, 2023), an artwork created for the Écomusée du fier monde (Montreal, QC, 2026) and two zines, *Cohésion* (Cohesion) and *Appartenir* (Belonging), which present stories of inquiry associated with these two research contexts.

Now presented at La Maison des artistes visuels francophones, the installation *Cohesion* adopts the form of a temporary gathering space. It presents traces of experimentation led through small groups, knowledge sharing activities (basketry, foraging, ceramics) and a series of interviews with individuals involved in various groups. *Cohesion* addresses what makes us relate to one another, beyond shared interests or formal structures we invest ourselves in: trust, camaraderie, care, attentiveness, reciprocity; but also what is harder to hold or to keep up with in our relations. All of these dimensions define, in a certain way, the experience of friendship. The exhibition presented at La Maison allows us to pursue the questions raised by this project through the particular lens of friendship, addressed not only as an affective link, but also as a form of involvement,

The artist and the curator

Anne-Marie Ouellet is an interdisciplinary artist. She lives and works in Montreal/Tiohtià:ke, Quebec. Through her projects, she questions the place of the individual and collective within diverse social realities. Supported by a practice of investigation, drawing and the creation of uniforms, her projects take the form of performative actions in public space of installation based on collaborative processes. She is especially interested in the standardization of lifestyles, the idea of the communal and the exchange of knowledge.

Véronique Leblanc is an independent curator, writer, teacher and cultural worker. She lives in the Îles-de-la-Madeleine, Quebec, on the ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq. In her curatorial practice, she is especially interested in the development of a communal imagination through a collection of artistic practices that combine collaborative and performative approaches. She envisions the exhibition projects and writing she initiates and the pedagogical and administrative adventures in which she takes part as opportunities for shared learning.

Anne-Marie and Véronique have been collaborating since 2015. Over time and throughout their exchanges in professional and personal contexts, they have become friends.

Acknowledgements
The artist and the curator wish to thank everyone who participated in our gatherings in St. Boniface in September 2026, and each person who will contribute by leaving answers to their questions in the exhibition. They wish to acknowledge the support of the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec.

Anne-Marie Ouellet
Cohésion – amitié [Cohesion - friendship], 2023-2026

Installation: table, shelter, counter, ceramic dishes, posters, prints on linen and paper, various objects , zines. and video-performance (18:36).
Variable dimensions

In a space reminiscent of an outdoor site, *Cohesion* brings together images and objects that bear witness to knowledge sharing activities and small group experiments initiated by the artist. The installation also hosts a zine and a video-performance which includes stories assembled from interview excerpts that were conducted in the first chapter of the project from 2020 to 2023, that addressed the sense of belonging in collectives. In this new chapter, visitors are invited to contribute to the project by sharing their experience of friendship. The answers collected will constitute the materials for a new narrative.This video is an excerpt of the performance that was presented at the Musée d'art de Joliette in 2023. The artist activates, with collaborators, the collective narrative that we can also find in the zine.

Collaborators:
Furniture design: Louis-Philippe Côté
Ceramics production technical support: Marianne Chemla, Annie-Cécile Tremblay
Photographs: Marc Heckmann, Diana Le Nézet, Anne-Marie Ouellet, Antonin Monmart
Performers: Maïa Djambazian, Ariane Dubé-Lavigne, Joanni Grenier, Amélie Murdock, Lili-Rose Vaillancourt
Artistic advisor for the inquiry narrative and performance: Mathilde Benignus
Video recording and editing: Isabelle Darveau, Geneviève Philippon

With contributions by:
Louise Alain, Mathilde Benignus, Sylvie Berthaud, Suzanne Beth, Caroline Blais, Vincent Blouin, Marjolaine Bourdua, Brigitte Bournival, Claude Bourque, Mélodie Caron, João Catalão, Joceline Chabot, André Pierre Contandriopoulos, Christina Contandriopoulos, Colette Daudelin, Laetitia de Coninck, Sylvie Desrosiers, Clovis Dionne, Morgane Duchêne Ramsay, Agatha Evans, Ipatia Evans, Nadège Fiot, Karine Gaulin, Joanni Grenier, Emmanuelle Jacques, Laurène Janowsky, Alphiya Joncas, Natalie Lafortune, Anne Lardeux, Catherine Lavoie-Marcus, Véronique Leblanc, Claudette Lemay, Sophie Lepage, Katia Marchand, Andréanne Martin, Géraldine Morel, Annie Morin, Hermine Ortega, Josianne Poirier, Christine Richard, Adeline Rognon, Alex Rowan, Isabelle Sentenne, Monique Solomon, Anick St-Louis, Véronique Thériault, Ariane Turmel-Chénard, Lili-Rose Vaillancourt, Maélys Vaillancourt, members of the Cercle des fermières de Havre-aux-Maisons, and the many people who took part in informal discussions and collective experiments

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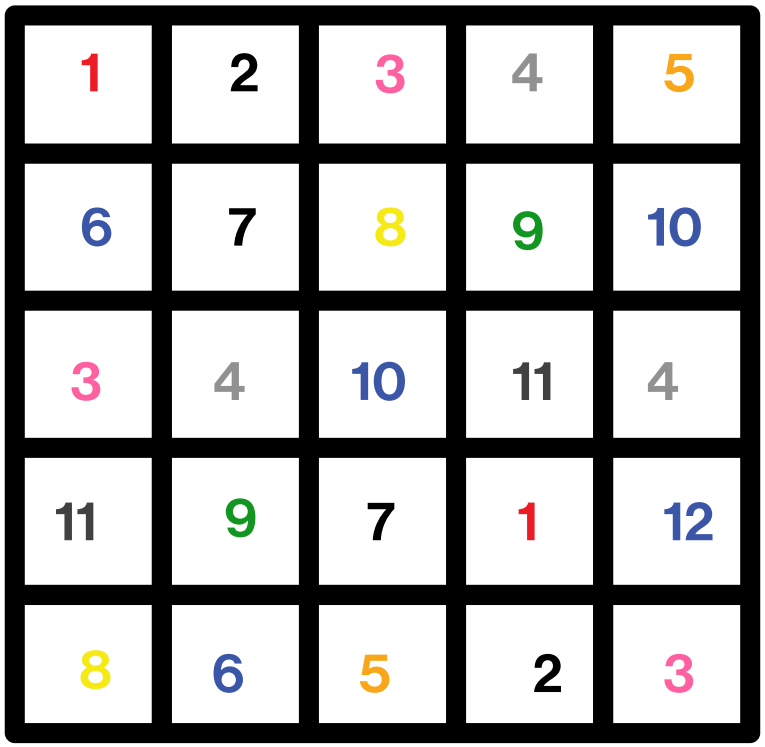
organizational mode and relational ethics. In this way, it proposes to members of the community and to visitors of La Maison to contribute to a new chapter of this inquiry.

What is the place of friendship in your collective projects? What defines a relationship as friendship? How are your friendships holding up to your commitments or alternative modes or organization? What differences do you observe between your friendships in various groups? What importance do you give to friendship compared to other relationships? What are the most difficult or challenging aspects of friendship?

People who feel strongly about these questions can sign-up for a workshop on Tuesday, September 29th at 6:30pm, participate in an interview with the artist and curator, or share their experience by leaving answers to the questions in the exhibition space. Your contributions will be used for the creation of a third zine.

Please add your answers here to the questions of our investigation! If you wish to be kept informed of the next zine about our friendship inquiry, we invite you to leave your contact information at the front desk.



1- Si on a besoin de faire basculer les choses, on va être là
If we need to make things shift, we will be there

2- Appartenir peut devenir être exclu
Belonging can become being excluded

3- L'amitié et l'amour, c'est souvent lié
Friendship and love is often related

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4- Je continue d'espérer qu'autre chose est possible
I continue to hope that something else is possible

5- C'est beau parce qu'on vieillit ensemble
It's beautiful because we grow old together

6- C'est devenu une famille choisie
It has become a chosen family

7- Le temps est long en groupe, mais c'est nécessaire
Time is long in a group, but it is necessary

8- Un mouvement collectif, c'est difficile
Moving collectively is hard

9- J'avais besoin d'inclusion, de faire partie, un nous à plusieurs
I needed inclusion, to be a part of, an "us" with many

10- J'aime le risque de la rencontre de l'autre
I like the risk of meeting the other

11- L'abri doit rester ouvert, pas trop solide
The shelter must stay open, not too solid

12- C'est pas nécessaire qu'on devienne des ami·e·s
We don't have to become friends

COHÉSION: amitié_friendship

Anne-Marie Ouellet
curator: Véronique Leblanc