

Dear fellow ICOM member,
At your service, I am committed to
defending the cause of our museums with
care and integrity. Here you will find
some information about my actions and
beliefs. Looking forward to
meeting you soon!
Nathalie B.



Nathalie Bondil

Candidate for ICOM presidency

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“Serving the cause of museums, their collections, their public and their professionals, is my life's commitment, locally, nationally and internationally. I am deeply convinced of our civic role, which is more necessary than ever.”

Canadian and French, I am museologist, curator and art historian. Born in Spain, raised in Morocco, I have always evolved in an environment open to the world, forging my love for intercultural dialogues.



Institut du monde arabe, Paris
Director of Museum and Exhibitions
(2021- present)

Since 2021, I've been Head of Museum & Exhibitions at the Arab World Institute, in charge of **redesigning its museum for the 40th anniversary in 2027** of this emblematic international institution, **working for peaceful intercultural and interfaith dialogue**, with an **inclusive and decolonial perspective**.



Montreal Museum of Fine Arts
Curator, Chief Curator, then Director
(1999 - 2020)

As director, I led **museum expansions and intercultural and interdisciplinary exhibitions** (fine arts, fashion, music, cinema...) on an **international scale**. My commitment to **education, inclusion** and **museotherapy** is reflected with flagship initiatives as the Pavilion for Peace, the urban exhibition Walk for Peace, the EducArt platform and the Arts for the One-World wing...



Cité de l'Architecture, Paris
National Heritage Curator
(1996 -1999)

Then known as the national Musée des Monuments français (French Monuments Museum) I worked as curator, overseeing the renovation of the sculpture galleries' museography.

Activity within ICOM

2024

Ethics roundtable, ICOM France / Institut national du patrimoine : « **Heritage and the Memory of Slavery : How to exhibit collections related to this history ?** » (moderator, November 25, 2024)

CECA annual conference, CECA / ICOM Greece
Sensitive topics - Challenging audiences : **"From care to cure: Caring museum and museotherapy for a healthier society"** (speaker, November 18, 2024)

ICOM France 52 *minutes d'ICOM France - Des musées en leur temps* : « **Healing museum, from care to cure : museotherapy** », (speaker, October 31, 2024)

ICOM-IMREC Séoul *Museums and the Sustainable Development Goals - Towards 2030*, IMREC / ICOM Korea :
« **From care to cure : caring museum and museotherapy for a healthier society** », (speaker, July 2, 2024)

MINOM International Conference in collaboration with ICOM in Catania *Rethinking museologies as transformative transdisciplinary alliances for fairer societies; Reflecting on experimental practices*: **"Museotherapy, a tool for public health"** and **"Interfaith dialogue, explaining to appease at the museum"** (speaker, February 22-23, 2024)

2019

25th ICOM General Conference, Kyoto 2019 *City Museums as Cultural Hubs: Past, Present and Future*

- CAMOC / ICOM DEMHIST : **"City and House Museums in the context of revising museum definition : Towards a Humanistic Museum with Inclusion and Wellbeing"** (speaker)
- CECA : **"Museums, Health and Wellbeing : A-Health study. Arts and Health : Adding Museum experience to medical exploratory methodology"** (speaker)

2020

Ethics roundtable, ICOM France / Institut national du patrimoine : « **What does 'museum' stand for ?** » (speaker, November 26, 2020)

Webinar *Museums of Tomorrow*, ICOM / OECD : « **Coronavirus and museums : impact, innovations and planification for post-crisis** » (speaker, April 10, 2020)

ICOM Canada & Canadian Museums Association
International Achievement Award

ICOM Canada Award for the E-Health project in art therapy at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts

2022

Ethics roudtable, ICOM France / Institut national du patrimoine : « **Museums, credible actors of sustainable development ?** » (speaker, February 17, 2022)

Elected member of the Board of ICOM France

2018

ICOM / OECD : **"Culture local development : maximizing the impact. Guide local governments, communities and museums"** (speaker in December 2018, and contributor to the publication, 2019)

2017

ICOM France professionnall day *Between collections and audiences : the narrative in the exhibition* : **"Music and fine arts : what scene in the museum ?"** (speaker, September 29, 2017)

2011

ICOM France / Musée de la Musique - Philharmonie de Paris : **"Montreal Museum of Fine Arts : new concert hall, new issues, or how to integrate music in a fine arts museum ?"** (speaker)

For a humanist museum

Federate, Restore, Reconcile

*In our fractured world, I'm more convinced than ever that **museums are places to soothe, repair and pacify**. Our heritage (and matrimony!), both tangible and intangible, questions us, unites us, moves us... and fills us with wonder. They are the key to imagining the 'One-World', rich in the diversity of our shared cultures, in order to **build a common future**.*

Art and health, the museum heals

Convinced of the role of **the museum as a public health tool for well-being, wellness and even healing**, I have been working, publishing and promoting "museotherapy" for over ten years, in collaboration with museum and healthcare professionals.

For example, in 2018, I initiated **the first museum medical prescriptions** with the Association des médecins francophones du Canada and the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.

Thanks to intercultural dialogues and sensitive mediations, I am convinced **the "caring museum" does good**.

📖 **"Towards a Humanistic Museum with Inclusion and Wellbeing"**, *Museums of Cities Reviews*, ICOM / CAMOC / ICOM Kyoto 2019, p. 58-65, 2020

"Museum Therapy : Promoting Health, Well-Being and Therapy through Art" avec S. Legari, *The Oxford Handbook of the Positive Humanities* ed. L. Tay & J. O. Pawelski, Oxford University Press, 2022

🎓 Teaches museotherapy at **Université de Montréal** as *sage* (since 2021), **École du Louvre** (since 2022), **Institut national du Patrimoine** (Paris, since 2023), and **Université de Médecine Lyon 1** (since 2024).

Transmission as leverage for the future

Attracting young people, encouraging intergenerational dialogue, arousing curiosity, raising awareness of our collections, passing on our heritage, instilling a taste for openness to others, learning to live together - these are our contemporary challenges, in our societies **where spaces for respectful debate are dwindling**.

These challenges condition the future of our museums, through **their ability to broaden their audiences**, justifying their **mission of general interest**: ICOM anchors us in the present and **must provide a positive response**.

Plural narratives and social justice

Committed to **the recognition of our plural modernities** (Canadian, Quebecois, Cuban, Mexican, Indigenous, African and Arab...), I have been actively engaged in the **decolonization of art-historical discourse**: deconstruction of Orientalism, art residencies, support for Aboriginal art, artists of diversity...

To strengthen the circulation of ideas and worlds, **our museums must include, restore and reconcile**.

Thanks to participative and co-constructed partnerships with associations, communities, academics and educators, **the museum becomes a third place and a safe place for civil society**.

📖 **"Contemporary art and orientalism : deconstruction as an aesthetic modality"**, *Pérystyles*, No 65, 2025 (in French)

Cuba ! Art and History from 1868 to Today, exhibition catalogue editor, Prestel / MMFA, 2008, 422 p.

"A multicoloured palette for a white canvas. Francophone Colour Blindness and Black Studies", *Minorit'Art - Revue de recherches décoloniales*, No 3, p. 43-75, 2019

🔍 **"Which modernities are we talking about ?"**, cocurator for the catalogue exhibition *Modernités arabes : collection du musée de l'Institut du monde arabe*, FNM / IMA, 2023 (in Arabic and French)

🗣️ **Board Member of Fusion Jeunesse**, an international organization founded in Quebec whose mission is to support teenagers at school for perseverance, employment and to become civically involved (2025).

Member of CECA

📖 **"Worlds in a Museum : global / local, a fruitful dialectic"**, *Worlds in a Museum. Exploring Contemporary Museology*, Louvre Abu Dhabi / École du Louvre, 2021

📖 **"The Caring Museum and the challenge of democratic empathy" [Le Caring Museum face au défi de l'empathie démocratique]**, with A. Meunier, *Voir autrement. Nouvelles études sur les publics*, ed. M. Blanc, J. Eidelman & A. Meunier, La Documentation française, 2023

"Manifesto for a Humanistic Art Museum" (published in 2016 for the *MMFA Pavillion for Peace*, Montreal), republished in *Médiation muséale - Nouveaux enjeux, nouvelles formes*, dir. François Mairesse and Fabien Gan geert, L'Harmattan, Paris, 2022.

ICOM as a response to challenges and daily realities

A presidency to listen and support you

*I am deeply convinced that museums and ICOM have **an essential civic role to play in driving change in our societies**. It is this conviction that motivates me to commit myself to working alongside you, by **providing concrete answers adapted to the day-to-day realities** of each member. Let's listen, protect, innovate and inspire together to consolidate our role and collective responsibility on the world stage.*

Governing efficiently

*I am committed to **ensuring transparent, attentive and accessible governance of ICOM** to better serve the entire network in line with the 2022-2028 strategic plan, as well as prepare the next one.*

- **Outcome of the strategic plan:** Ensure that all players take ownership of and act on ICOM's strategic plan ending in 2028, for a shared vision and maximum impact. Ensure the completion of a new Code of Ethics built by all and for all, the important conclusion of several years' work.
- **Clarity of bodies and effective decision-making:** Ensure a clear definition of ICOM bodies and roles for effective and representative decision-making. Work closely with General Management and its teams to support their missions and foster an environment conducive to efficiency and innovation.

Benefit from the collective

*My wish is that ICOM's voice should **reflect as much as possible the rich diversity of its members**. I am therefore committed to **strengthening collaboration and connectivity** within the organization to ensure the best framework for the realization of our actions.*

- **Consultation and inclusion:** Working in close consultation with all committees, both international, national, and members, to ensure that every voice is heard, valued and taken into account. In this way, we guarantee the multilingual nature of our exchanges, to preserve the richness of our reflections and the involvement of each member.
- **Enhanced digital accessibility:** Pursue the development of a digital ICOM as well as reinforce the accessibility of its resources and platforms for all members, whatever their location or abilities.
- **Increased support for committees and alliances:** Strengthen the support and resources dedicated to International Committees and Regional Alliances, in order to facilitate their essential work of transmitting knowledge and sharing professional expertise within their networks: this is at the heart of ICOM's action.

Driving change

*As a strong and influential voice, ICOM is committed to **tackling the major societal issues** that are shaking up both our societies and our museums. Through the work of its various bodies and members, **ICOM is a driving force for innovation in our institutions, encouraging change for the better**.*

- **Continuing the work of decolonization:** Continue and deepen the essential work of decolonizing museums, their collections and their narratives, in line with ICOM's strategy and the expectations of the international community.
- **Support for museums at risk:** Strengthen ICOM's commitment to the protection and support of museums and cultural heritage at risk, particularly in conflict or disaster zones, by mobilizing the voice, expertise and solidarity of our network wherever possible.
- **Sustainable development:** Persevere in implementing the resolutions set out in the Agenda 2030, using the tools already created and drawing inspiration from the initiatives taken by our members.

 **30 years' experience in museum governance** (1996 - present)

 I have had the honor to collaborate on joint projects with museums in Argentina , Australia , Belgium , Canada , China , Cuba , France , Germany , Greece , Italy , Japan , Jordan , Lebanon , Morocco , Mexico , Netherlands , Peru , Russia , Saudi Arabia , South Korea , Spain , Sweden , Switzerland , United Arab Emirates , United Kingdom , USA  and Uzbekistan 

 **Vice-Chair of the Canada Council for the Arts** (2014 - 2021)

 **Honorary doctorates** from **McGill University** (2013), **Université de Montréal** (2015), and **Université de Québec - UQTRP** (2020 - 2023)

 **The art of designing and managing a museum** [*L'art de concevoir et gérer un musée*], by Claude MOLLARD, Laurent LE BON and Nathalie BONDIL, Groupe Moniteur, 2023

And you ?

What are your priorities and concerns ?

*Thank you very much in advance for your time and availability !
I invite you to share with me your questions and expectations for ICOM*

If you agree, click here to plan our exchange



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