

## SAW VIDEO MEDIA ART CENTRE ANNOUNCES THE START OF SPARK LAB

Ottawa, June 8th, 2016 —SAW Video Media Art Centre is excited to launch Spark Lab, a six-month part-time mentorship program for Deaf and disabled artists running from June – December, 2016.

Through the Spark Lab, eight Deaf and disabled emerging artists will be offered training in video production and editing as well as free memberships, workshops, mentorship, technical support, and equipment access to complete their projects. The program launches June 8<sup>th</sup> at SAW Video with the first cohort of 5 Deaf participants.

Following the training period, participants will be given 3 months to complete their projects, accessing their mentors throughout the process. Additional technical support will be available as required for participants requiring production or editing support. Completed projects will see public screenings at Club SAW.

Spark Lab is funded with a grant from the Ontario Arts Council through the Media Arts Projects Access Initiative and will support the program and SAW Video in its commitment to increasing accessibility to the means of making independent video. The community partner for the first cohort of X Deaf artists is SPiLL/Propagation (<http://spill-propagation.ca>). SPiLL works to ignite an explosion of Deaf cultural presence rooted in signed language, within the Canadian arts and cultural landscape.

Confirmed mentors and instructors include Catherine MacKinnon (Toronto), Jason Theriault (Montreal), David Bobier (London, ON), and Izabel Barsive and Caroline Lecorre of Ottawa.

SAW Video is a not-for-profit, artist-run media art centre that fosters the growth and development of artists through access to equipment, training, mentorship, and programming. Our mission is to support a diverse community of media artists empowered by technology, programming and the exchange of ideas.

SAW Video's core principles are independence of expression, affordable access to all, and paying artists for their work. SAW Video values diversity and actively promotes equity for all artists regardless of race, age, class, gender, sexual orientation, language, or ability. SAW Video is supported by its membership, Canada Council for the Arts, the City of Ottawa, and the Ontario Arts Council.

[sawvideo.com](http://sawvideo.com)

-30-

For additional information please see [sawvideo.com](http://sawvideo.com) or email our workshop coordinator Howard Adler at [workshops@sawvideo.com](mailto:workshops@sawvideo.com)

For all media inquiries please contact Annette Hegel at [communications@sawvideo.com](mailto:communications@sawvideo.com) or call 613-238-7648