

TORONTO BIENNIAL OF ART

September 16, 2019

TORONTO BIENNIAL OF ART OPENS INAUGURAL EDITION ON SEPTEMBER 21 WITH AN ARRAY OF WEEKEND PROGRAMS

**September 21–22 Opening Weekend Exhibition and Programs showcase range of work by artists from
Canada and around the globe at the Biennial
on view through December 1**

Toronto, ON...*The Shoreline Dilemma*, the inaugural edition of the Toronto Biennial of Art (the Biennial), opens on Saturday, September 21, 2019, with special opening weekend programming. The Biennial Exhibition, presented across several sites throughout the 72-day event, remains on view until December 1, 2019. Curated by Candice Hopkins and Tairone Bastien, *The Shoreline Dilemma*, explores the implications of Toronto's ever-changing shoreline—evidence of an increasingly anthropocentric world—in the context of a central question: What does it mean to be in relation? More than 90 local and international participants will be featured responding to and expanding on this question through artworks and programming. Opening weekend events are free to the public and take place September 21–22, 2019. Please see schedule below.



AA Bronson and Adrian Stimson, Siksika Nation reserve, March, 2017. Photo: Ben Miller

Biennial participants are from over 40 places of origin, including Brazil, France, Germany, Guatemala, Iran, Thailand, Turkey, and the United States as well as Nunavut and Indigenous communities in Canada, Colombia, Mexico, and Aotearoa | New Zealand. The Exhibition and Programs will take place at more than 15 sites across Toronto, the majority of which will be held at the two main Exhibition sites—259 Lake Shore Boulevard East in downtown Toronto and the Small Arms Inspection Building in nearby Mississauga—and will also occur at locations throughout the city as well as online.

Opening events on Saturday, September 21, include:

***A Public Apology to Siksika Nation*, AA Bronson and Adrian Stimson**

Program: Currents

Time: 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Location: 259 Lake Shore Boulevard East

Bronson's *A Public Apology to Siksika Nation* responds to European genocide, including his great-grandfather's role as the first missionary at Siksika Nation, while Stimson's response, generated in close dialogue with residential school survivors and leaders, reveals the layers of colonization and Indigenous resistance in his community.

Food will be shared following the performance.

***The Drowned World*, curated by Charles Stankieveh**

Film screening

Time: 11:00 am – 4:00 pm

Location: Ontario Place Cinesphere, 955 Lake Shore Boulevard West

From cosmological origin stories to a future in which civilization is extinct, *The Drowned World* reveals this brave new world, where the artificial boundaries of modernity's civilizations have evaporated, and life in all its forms continues to shift. The project's title refers to J.G. Ballard's 1962 archaeopsychic cli-fi novel in which the ice caps have melted and submerged the world, forcing the migration of a dwindling and devolving human species into the Canadian Arctic.

This Biennial site was made possible through a partnership with [Ontario Place Corporation](#).

Caecilia Tripp: *Interstellar Sleep*

Program: Currents

Time: September 21, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm; September 22, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Location: 259 Lake Shore Boulevard East

Interstellar Sleep is an immersive installation produced in collaboration with astrophysicists from York University Observatory, cosmologist Renée Hložek, and composer Mani Mazinani. It comprises a celestial film scape, a surround soundscape, and a series of performances.

Commissioned by the Toronto Biennial of Art. *Going Space and Other Worlding*, a related exhibition of Tripp's work, is presented at the [Art Gallery of York University \(AGYU\)](#) and curated by Emelie Chhangur.

Conversation: Hajra Waheed, Nabila Abdel Nabi, and Jayne Wilkinson

Program: Currents

Time: 1:30 – 3:00 pm

Location: The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery, 231 Queen's Quay West

On the occasion of Hajra Waheed's solo exhibition *Hold Everything Dear* at The Power Plant, her installation at the Biennial, and *Canadian Art's* fall 2019 issue launch, the artist will discuss the evolution of her multidisciplinary practice with The Power Plant's guest curator Nabila Abdel Nabi and *Canadian Art* editor-in-chief Jayne Wilkinson.

Presented in partnership with [The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery](#) and [Canadian Art](#)

Althea Thauberger and Kite: Call to Arms

Programs: Currents

Time: 5:30 – 7:30 pm

Location: HMCS York, 659 Lake Shore Boulevard West

Althea Thauberger facilitates public access to Her Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) York, an active naval site, for the performance of a musical score by Kite and the HMCS York band. Boasting the country's only conch shell sextet, the band will perform in the Navy's drill hall, known as a "stone ship." Free registration is required for this event [here](#).



Quviaana Parade, 2018. Created and performed in Kinngait, Nunavut. An Embassy of Imagination project led by Alexa Hatanaka and Leah Mersky.

Sinaaqpagiaqtuut/The Long-Cut (Procession Performance) – Embassy of Imagination

Program: Currents

Time: 4:00 – 9:00 pm

Location: Starting at The Bentway, 250 Fort York Boulevard, and following the waterfront to 259 Lake Shore Boulevard East

Presented in conjunction with Embassy of Imagination + PA System's installation at 259 Lake Shore Boulevard East, *Sinaaqpagiaqtuut/The Long-Cut* is a procession that began in Kinngait (Cape Dorset, Nunavut) this summer and continues in Toronto. The procession features work by Kinngait youth from the Peter Pitseolak High School made in

collaboration with the Oasis Skateboard Factory School in Toronto. Members of the public are invited to respectfully follow the procession along the way, while reflecting on their own relationship to place. Co-commissioned and presented in partnership with [The Bentway](#). Produced by [PA System](#).

Harbour Symphony (Performance) – Delf Maria Hohmann and Raven Chacon with Allison Cameron

Program: Currents

Time: 7:00–7:30 pm

Location: Harbourfront Centre and Toronto Harbour

Composers Delf Maria Hohmann and Raven Chacon with Allison Cameron bring the *Harbour Symphony* to Toronto. This project originated in 1983 in St. John's, Newfoundland, transforming boats berthed near the city's shoreline into an orchestra on the water. Featuring music written for boat horns, Toronto's rendition includes newly commissioned compositions as well as scores from the project's musical archive. Presented in partnership with [Harbourfront Centre](#).

Opening events on Sunday, September 22, at Small Arms Inspection Building, 1352 Lakeshore Road East in Mississauga, include:

Opening BBQ – Remarks, Sawmill Sid, Embassy of Imagination and PA System

Time: 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Celebrate the opening weekend of the Toronto Biennial of Art with a family- and youth-friendly BBQ for neighbours and those further afield. After sharing a meal, participants can engage in a number of collaborative activities ranging from "drawing with the sun" – a cyanotype workshop led by Embassy of Imagination and PA System – to learning about capturing carbon with the Sawmill Sid initiative, and connecting with neighbouring Long Branch Tree Fest at Marie Curtis Park.

Other opening events at various locations on Sunday, September 22, include:

Syrus Marcus Ware: *Antarctica*

Program: Currents

Time: 2:00 – 3:00 pm

Location: 259 Lake Shore Boulevard East

Antarctica is half of a two-part installation at 259 Lake Shore Boulevard East and Ryerson Image Centre (RIC) that draws on the shared language of speculative fiction and political activism to create an imagined time portal through which the next generation of racialized activists offers insights into a future radically altered by climate change.



Syrus Marcus Ware, *Antarctica*, 2019, mixed-media installation.

***Decolonizing Astrophysics* with Elder Duke Redbird and Renee Hlozek**

Program: Currents

Time: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Location: Marie Curtis Park, 2 Forty Second St., Etobicoke

Artist and poet Elder Dr. Duke Redbird and astrophysicist Dr. Renée Hložek discuss the human relationship to the cosmos from a multiplicity of perspectives, considering their intersections as a potential path toward indigenizing astronomy curricula.

Presented in partnership with [Art Gallery of York University \(AGYU\)](#).

WHAT

Toronto Biennial of Art Opening Weekend

[Click here for event details](#)

WHEN

Saturday, September 21, 10:00 am – 9:00 pm

Sunday, September 22, 10:00 am – 6:00 pm

WHERE

Toronto Biennial of Art – main sites

259 Lake Shore Boulevard East, Toronto

Small Arms Inspection Building, 1352 Lakeshore Road East, Mississauga

[Click here for additional participating sites](#)

About the Toronto Biennial of Art

Launching in fall 2019, the Toronto Biennial of Art (the Biennial/TBA) is a new international contemporary visual arts event that is as culturally connected and diverse as Toronto itself. For 10 weeks every two years, the city will be transformed by exhibitions, talks, and performances that reflect the local context while engaging with the world’s most pressing issues of our time. In an effort to make contemporary art available to everyone, the Biennial’s free, citywide programming aims to inspire people, bridge communities, and contribute to global conversations from a variety of perspectives.

For more information, visit: torontobiennial.org, @torontobiennial, and #TObiennial19 on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

TBA Founders and Funders

The Toronto Biennial of Art is grateful to all contributing donors for their generous support. Major funders include: Founding Signature Patron - The Pierre Lassonde Family Foundation; Founding Premiere Patron - TD Bank Group; Founding Innovators - Canadian Malartic, Castlepoint Numa, CIBC, The Michael and Sonja Koerner Charitable Foundation, Polar Foundation, RBC Foundation, Scotiabank, St. Joseph Communications, Teknion, Waterfront Toronto; Founding Visionaries - Miranda Hubbs, Michelle Koerner & Kevin Doyle, Lisa & Mathew Melchior, Menkes Developments, Theresa & Seth Mersky, Newpoint Developments, and Partners in Art. PARTISANS, in collaboration with LMDG, is the architectural team and exhibition designers that helped transform an old Volvo dealership at 259 Lake Shore Boulevard East into the galleries and headquarters for the Biennial.

View the full list of donors at torontobiennial.org.

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Media Contacts

For additional information, Libby Mark or Heather Meltzer at Bow Bridge Communications, LLC, Toronto: +1 647-544-8441, New York City, +1 347-460-5566; info@bow-bridge.com.

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Image captionsw

AA Bronson and Adrian Stimson visit the Old Sun Residential School, now a community college, on Siksika Nation reserve, March, 2017. Photo: Ben Miller.

Quviana Parade, 2018. Created and performed in Kinngait, Nunavut. An Embassy of Imagination project led by Alexa Hatanaka and Leah Mersky, with 70+ youth artists and community performers, pictured collaborators: Moe Kelly, Taqialuk Nuna, Shelton Nipisar and Joe Hopiqueluk. With support from Cape Dorset District Education Authority, Government of Nunavut, Canada Council's New Chapter Grant. Photo: Alexa Hatanaka

Syrus Marcus Ware, *Antarctica*, 2019. Photo courtesy the artist