

Adrian Blackwell born and lives in Toronto,
Canada

Works :

Isonomia in Toronto? (harbour), 2019, Lumber,
steel, fabric

Isonomia in Toronto? (creek), 2019, Lumber,
steel, fabric

Toronto Biennial of Art
Tools for Learning
torontobiennial.org



Adrian Blackwell, *Isonomia in a Settler State (harbour)*, 2019. Model and model photo courtesy the artist.
Production assistance by Daniel Abad



Project description:

"The ancient Greek term *isonomia* implies political equality. Adrian Blackwell's two site-responsive, non-hierarchical structures at the Biennial are spaces to gather for weekly programs, and also to contemplate *isonomia* in the face of colonial governance structures that have overtaken those of Indigenous peoples.

At 259 Lake Shore, *Isonomia in Toronto? (harbour)* is modelled after Toronto's changing shoreline, illustrating the effects of encroaching privatization of the land. At the Small Arms Inspection Building, *Isonomia in Toronto? (creek)* is Blackwell's folding and knotting 300 foot-long cushion. An image of the shoreline of Etobicoke Creek—also known as wadoopikaang in Anishinaabemowin ("the place where the alders grow")—stretches along its length, connecting land- and human-based pedagogies.

Visitors are welcome to sit within both structures where weekly performances and readings are hosted throughout the Biennial.



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Keywords and Connections

social formations, landscape, shoreline,
organizing structures, power relations, regimes
of the body, embodied pedagogies

Location:

259 Lake Shore Boulevard East & Small Arms
Inspection Building





Tool: Learning Bodies

Take note of where you are. Breathe. If you are able, stretch out your body and try to imagine the particular muscles you feel working. Or, if you prefer, remain as you are and focus on your breath. Relax.

Take another deep breath. Become aware of how your body is positioned. As you sit, stand, or lie, take another deep breath and try to visualize your posture. Continue to breathe as you think about the following questions: How did you learn this posture? Who taught you? How do our bodies learn to do things? How do we use our bodies to learn?

Take one last deep breath in this position and remember what you are doing with your body. Relax. Share with your neighbour what you noticed during the exercise and how you feel your body learns best. Together, imagine a space in which everybody could learn in their own way.



Questions and Conversation Starters

How do we use our bodies when we learn?

What does our learning space look like?

Why is it designed this way?

What other formats could we imagine for listening and sharing together?



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