



# TORONTO BIENNIAL OF ART



## WOMEN LEADING

SUPPORTING WOMEN AND NON-BINARY  
ARTISTS TO TAKE THE LEAD



2022

# TORONTO BIENNIAL OF ART

The Toronto Biennial of Art is an international contemporary visual arts event that is as culturally connected and diverse as Toronto itself. For 10 weeks every two years, the city and its partner regions are transformed by exhibitions, talks, and performances that reflect the local context while engaging with today's most urgent issues.

With the objective to make contemporary art available to everyone, the Biennial's free, city-wide programs aim to remove barriers, bridge communities, inspire learning, contribute to global conversations, and amplify calls to action.

The inaugural Toronto Biennial of Art in 2019 was a huge success—it created myriad opportunities for Torontonians to access free contemporary arts exhibitions and programming; featured the work of artists that represented the diversity of our city; and, brought significant economic benefits to the development, tourism, hospitality, arts and other sectors.

In addition, TBA prize winners have also been recognized internationally since their participation in the Biennial. Artist Prize recipient Abel Rodriguez has since received his first institutional solo show at the BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Arts in Gateshead, England. Emerging Artist Prize recipient Hera Büyüktaşçıyan also recently had her piece, *Reveries of an Underground Forest*, commissioned by TBA in 2019, acquired by the Tate Modern and was recently featured in the New Museum's 2021 Triennial.

## \$29M

**economic impact**

## 296k

**unique visitors**

## 1,000s

**of student &  
school group  
visits**

## 161

**artists, participants  
& performers**

## 58%

**of artists identified  
as women or non-  
binary**

## 42%

**of artist identified as  
Black, Indigenous or  
people of colour**

# WOMEN LEADING

TBA was founded by a group of women who believed that art should be central to our communities. Historically, women have been underrepresented as artists as well as in leadership roles in the arts. Moreover, women and girls that face additional barriers to equity, including those who are racialized, low-income or identify as LGBTQIA+, face even greater challenges in establishing themselves in the arts. TBA's goal is to make art accessible to everyone and to showcase artists that speak to the most vital issues of our time.

**Women Leading** will rally leaders in our community to support women and non-binary artists creating important work and engaging in public and educational programming in the Biennial. This group is also an opportunity for arts and community advocates in our city to connect with each other about what is most meaningful to them.



TBA 2022 artists: top left: Nadia Belerique; top right: Camille Turner.  
Bottom left: Judy Chicago; bottom right: Ange Loft.



# TBA 2022 WOMEN ARTISTS

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Some of the incredible women-identifying artists that Women Leading will support in 2022 include:

**Camille Turner** is an explorer of race, space, home, and belonging. Born in Jamaica and currently based in Toronto, her work combines Afrofuturism and historical research. For the TBA 2022, Turner will create a multifaceted new project exploring Canada's significant yet often concealed role in the Trans-Atlantic slave trade. Turner's project will be presented across multiple forms including an immersive site-specific multi-channel media work; a series of public programs building upon her projects; and an artist publication of Turner's research unearthing the hidden Black histories of Toronto.



Left: Camille Turner. Right: Nadia Belerique, *HOLDINGS*,

**Nadia Belerique** constructs installations that engage with the poetics of perception and asks how images perform in contemporary culture. She works with diverse media, including glass, photographs, fabric, found objects, and steel. For the 2022 Toronto Biennial of Art, Nadia will produce a new commission *HOLDINGS*, rooted in her participation in the residency program of the Walk and Talk Festival on the island of San Miguel in the Azores. The Azores carry a personal connection for Nadia through her family, and have drawn her to barrels as vessels that were traditionally used by those that have left the islands for North America in order to send goods back home cheaply (by volume rather than weight). These barrels are a point of departure for ongoing explorations as sculptural objects.

# TBA 2022 WOMEN ARTISTS

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**Tanya Lukin Linklater** is an Alutiiq artist-choreographer who is a member of the Native Villages of Afognak and Port Lions in southwestern Alaska and currently resides in North Bay, Ontario, Canada. Her practice encompasses dance, performance, video, photography, installation, and writing. For its 2022 edition, TBA has commissioned Linklater to create a work that reflects her childhood, a nomadic experience as an Indigenous person separated from her kin and land, moving locations frequently, shifting between rural and urban settings. The project will include performances and movements, presented both in video form and during live performances, that explore dimensions of Indigenous geometries, drawing on Alutiiq ways of life, architecture, and material culture. Two customized circular performance platforms and sculptures constructed from floral kohkom scarves will be activated in a series of outdoor performances.



Left: Tanya Lukin Linklater, *This moment an endurance to the end forever*, 2020.

Right: Judy Chicago, *A Tribute to Toronto smoke test*, 2021.

**Judy Chicago** remains a key figure in early feminist art, having worked as an artist, author, educator and intellectual whose illustrious career now spans five decades—she has been deemed the ‘Godmother’ of Feminist Art as an art historical movement. A centrepiece of the upcoming 2022 Biennial will be a newly commissioned work by the Chicago, which will close the Biennial on June 5, 2022 with a dazzling spectacle and community gathering. This new, site-specific Atmosphere work, entitled *A Tribute to Toronto*, will take place along the shoreline of Lake Ontario. This one-of-a-kind pyrotechnic event, Chicago’s first in Canada, will be visible from the shore, as a series of smokes are released from a barge. Coinciding with the City of Toronto’s Year of Public Art, this fantastic one-time performance will allow the public to gather at the waterfront to see the Lake transformed.

# TAKE THE LEAD

We want to build a network of supporters that are passionate about gender equality in the arts. In 2022, Women Leading will offer members access to an exclusive program of events providing unique access to women artists of the 2022 Biennial and an opportunity to be a part of a community of like-minded arts advocates from across the Greater Toronto Area.

**Participation in Women Leading is a philanthropic commitment of \$5,000 for each Biennial edition.** As part of your involvement, you will have access to an exclusive series of events including artist talks, curator-led tours, and artist meet-and-greets. For the 2022 Biennial, this will include access to:

- **Exclusive preview tour** of the 2022 Biennial exhibition's three main sites in March 2022
- **Curator-led tour of *Double Vision***, an exhibition in collaboration with the Textile Museum of Canada of three groundbreaking Inuit artists from the Baker Lake community: Jessie Oonark and her daughters, Janet Kigusiuq and Victoria Mamnguqsualuk
- **Dance performances and artist meet-and-greet** with Tanya Lukin Linklater
- **Walk led by Toronto artist Camille Turner** focusing on Black histories of Toronto
- Invite-only **TBA Closing Event with legendary artist Judy Chicago** in June 2022

In addition to access to this special event series, the founding members of Women Leading will receive:

- Recognition of Women Leading as a supporter on female and non-binary identifying artist works in the 2022 Biennial
- Recognition of Women Leading at select public events and exhibition openings, including Director and/or Curator Speeches
- Name recognition of each founding member of Women Leading on the Biennial's website and other online platforms
- First Access to Artist Limited Editions commissioned exclusively for the Biennial
- Personal complimentary copy of TBA's double 2019 + 2022 Catalogue publication
- Charitable Tax Receipt for the Full Amount of Donation