

# TORONTO BIENNIAL OF ART

May 18, 2022

\*\*\*LAST CHANCE\*\*\*

## TORONTO BIENNIAL OF ART 2022 EDITION CONCLUDES ON JUNE 5

Toronto, ON... *What Water Knows, The Land Remembers*, the critically acclaimed second edition of the Toronto Biennial of Art (the Biennial/TBA), closes on Sunday, June 5, 2022. *What Water Knows, The Land Remembers* draws from histories sedimented in and around Toronto, revealing entangled narratives and ecologies across time and space. Exhibition and Programming sites move inland from the shoreline of Lake Ontario, following the above ground and hidden tributaries that shape this place. Events and installations are free and take place at nine sites across the Greater Toronto Area. Please see a schedule of highlights below, or visit the [Biennial website](#) for a full list of programs and partner venues.

Biennial participants are from over 18 places of origin including Argentina, Canada, England, Germany, Indonesia, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Lithuania, Norway, Pakistan, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, United States, and Zimbabwe, as well as Indigenous communities in Canada, Colombia, Aotearoa | New Zealand, Norway, and the United States. Since opening on March 26, 2022, the majority of exhibitions and programs have been held at the two main sites—72 Perth Avenue in downtown Toronto and the Small Arms Inspection Building in nearby Mississauga—as well as several locations throughout the city.

### Highlights of events scheduled for the final weeks include:

#### **Storytelling Sessions with Jeffrey Canton, Melissa Davidson, Emily DiCarlo, Iwrds duniam, and Nicole Markland**

Exhibition walkthroughs – In Person | Family Friendly

Date: Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays May 20 – June 5 | Time: see [website](#) for further details

Locations: 72 Perth Avenue | Small Arms Inspection Building | 5 Lower Jarvis | Arsenal Contemporary Art

Join Storytellers at the TBA's main sites for weekly guided sessions, informal conversations, and spot tours. Storytelling sessions combine modes of conventional interpretation with artist-led, narrative, and embodied responses. Sharing personal insights and experiences of the city as well as offering perspectives on the artworks within the exhibitions, Storytellers guide visitors through the research and artist practices represented in *What Water Knows, The Land Remembers*.

Storytelling sessions are free and available on a drop-in basis. Groups can book a session in advance by emailing [programmingandlearning@torontobiennial.org](mailto:programmingandlearning@torontobiennial.org).

## **VIBE Arts Weekend Family Workshops with Jenny Chen, Akshata Naik, and Azadeh Pirazimian**

Workshops | In Person | Family Friendly

Date: Saturdays and Sundays May 7 – 29 | Time: 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Locations: 72 Perth Avenue | Small Arms Inspection Building

Led by artists Jenny Chen, Akshata Naik, and Azadeh Pirazimian, these hands-on workshops focus on a variety of art-making practices including drawing, painting, printmaking, and collage. Through fun, family-friendly activities, participants will experiment with these techniques while reflecting on themes and concepts related to the Biennial's exhibitions and artworks.

This program is presented in partnership with VIBE Arts as part of their Drive The Vibe initiative, a mobile artist-driven arts program that goes wherever children and youth are.

## **Dish Dances Movement Workshop, A Talking Treaties Movement Education Initiative Ange Loft**



Workshops | In Person | Registration required

Date: May 21 and May 28 | Time: 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Location: Fort York National Historic Site, Toronto History Museums

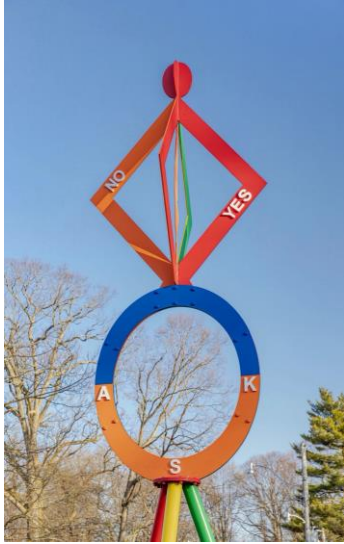
250 Fort York Boulevard, Toronto

In [\*Dish Dances Movement Workshop\*](#), 2022 Biennial artist Ange Loft (Kanien'kehá:ka) and Jumblies Theatre + Arts present a project history and sample movement facilitation. Through a guided, low-stakes, individual movement activity complemented by a presentation, participants will build their

familiarity with the symbols, embodied gestures, and land-based knowledge held in the Dish With One Spoon agreement. The resulting movement outcome will take place across Historic Fort York's Garrison Commons supported by Indigenous Dish Dances performing team.

Loft is lead artist of the Talking Treaties Collective, a multidisciplinary group of Indigenous and settler artists/researchers whose projects artfully share Indigenous history and awareness of the place now called Toronto.

Registration for May 21st [HERE](#) | Registration for May 28th [HERE](#).



### **Asking the *Wind Oracle***

**Sara Constant and Naomi McCarroll-Butler**

Performance | In Person

Date: May 26 | Time: 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Location: Colborne Lodge, 11 Colborne Lodge Drive, Toronto

In this site-and environmentally-responsive performance, experimental musicians Sara Constant and Naomi McCarroll-Butler greet *Wind Oracle*. Presented as a new sculptural work by Eduardo Navarro, *Wind Oracle* stands outside Colborne Lodge, an entity with a commanding presence but whimsical intention: an invitation to interact with the wind and consider the animacy of air and deeply entangled relations between humans and the natural world. Engaging with instruments and materials (hand-made and otherwise) Sara and Naomi activate the site-grounding and improvising with the audience—and use the wind as a medium for questions asked and answered.

This program will take place at Eduardo Navarro's *Wind Oracle*, situated on the lawn of Colborne Lodge. We encourage participants to bring a blanket and to wear yellow!

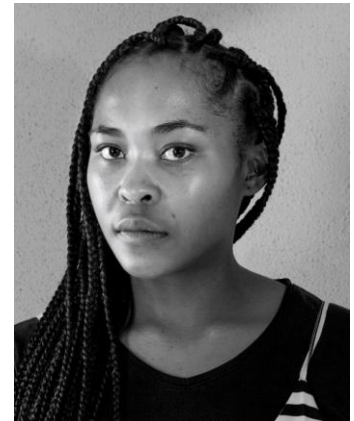
### **In Conversation: Dr. George Mahashe and Buhlebezwe Siwani, with Dr. Moyo Rainos Mutamba**

Talks | Virtual

Date: June 3 | Time: 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

2022 Biennial artist Buhlebezwe Siwani is joined by Dr. George Mahashe for an intimate conversation that brings together Mahashe's ongoing research at the intersection of artistic practice, archives, and anthropology with Siwani's work, which interrogates the patriarchal framing of the Black female body and experience within the South African context. Moderated by curator Emilie Croning, this discussion will explore Siwani's artistic practice on ritual, their collaborations on works such as Siwani's *Sinje Ngamajuba*, and the relationship between Christianity and African spirituality with a focus on khelobedu culture.

The program will open with a Chivanhhu-centred ceremony led by musician, storyteller, and lecturer Dr. Moyo Rainos Mutamba.



This program is part of *We Might Listen for the Shimmerings*, a curatorial project organized by Chiedza Pasipanodya, as part of the 2022 Toronto Biennial of Art Curatorial Fellowship program, made possible by the generous support of TD Bank Group, through the TD Ready Commitment, and presented in partnership with Wedge Curatorial Projects and the Toronto Arts Council.

Register [HERE](#).

## **Judy Chicago: *A Tribute to Toronto***

Performance | In Person

Date: June 4 | Time: 8:00 PM – 8:45 PM

Location: Sugar Beach, 11 Dockside Drive, Toronto



Marking the closing of the 2022 Biennial, TBA presents a newly commissioned site-specific work by artist Judy Chicago. This one-of-a-kind Smoke Sculpture™ will be visible from Sugar Beach Park on Lake Ontario and incorporates a series of environmentally safe, non-toxic coloured smoke released from a barge. For this one-time performance, the public is invited to gather at the waterfront to see the lake and sky temporarily transformed. Harkening back to Chicago's *Atmospheres* photo series of the late 1960s and early 1970s, which sought to soften and "feminize" harsh, man-made environments, *A Tribute to Toronto, 2022* works

against the tradition of male Land Art artists whose work imposed itself on the earth. Instead, Chicago's performance offers an alternative and impermanent approach that merges colour with landscape to increase awareness of the beauty of our natural environment.

For additional information on Judy Chicago's performance, please [click here](#).

*A Tribute to Toronto* is commissioned by the Toronto Biennial of Art and made possible with the generous support of the City of Toronto, ArtworxTO, the Delaney Family Foundation, Menkes Developments, Waterfront Toronto, the Waterfront BIA, and the Women Leading Initiative.

## **Performance: *MBL: Freedom***

**Syrus Marcus Ware, Dainty Smith, Ravyn Wngz**

Performance | In Person

Date: June 4 | Time: 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Location: Small Arms Inspection Building, 1352 Lakeshore Road East, Mississauga



Join 2022 Biennial artist Syrus Marcus Ware and actors Dainty Smith and Ravyn Wngz for a staged reading of the complete performance of *MBL: Freedom* (2022), an interactive film experience reflecting on climate change, white supremacy, abolition, and disability justice, currently on view at the Small Arms Inspection Building.

*MBL: Freedom* presents the newest chapter of Ware's expansive, interdisciplinary, multi-year project that predicts a near-future taking place between the years 2025 and 2027, wherein Antarctica has become the only habitable place on the planet. In it, three Black, Indigenous, and POC Antarcticans abandon their mission to colonize Antarctica, swimming in icy waters toward the only part of the continent not claimed by a country, "Mary Bird Land," or MBL. The three set out to create a territory for all activists and abolitionists to be free in, but when they land on the shores of MBL, they make an unexpected discovery that changes their trajectory.

## **Closing Community BBQ**

In Person

Date: June 5 | Time: 12:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Location: Small Arms Inspection Building, 1352 Lakeshore Road East, Mississauga

The Toronto Biennial of Art will celebrate the closing of the 2022 edition with a family- and youth-friendly BBQ for neighbours and those further afield. Enjoy great food and an array of participatory activities including Storytelling tours of the exhibition at the Small Arms Inspection Building, interactive walks focusing on the building's history and the Indigenous history of its grounds, as well as pop-up stations with hands-on, intergenerational art-making workshops. This event also marks the official launch of [A Treaty Guide for Torontonians](#)—an activity-based publication by the Talking Treaties Collective examining the complex intercultural roots of treaty relationships in the place we now call Toronto. Lakeview Farmers' Market will also be on site with stalls featuring sustainable and organic products, which provide an important source of income for local farmers, growers, producers, and artisans.

This event is co-presented in partnership with Art Metropole, Creative Hub 1352, Eagle Spirits of the Great Waters, Jumblies Theatre + Arts, Lakeview Ratepayers, and Small Arms Inspection Building, with the generous support of FRAM + Slokker, and the City of Mississauga.

### **WHAT**

### **Toronto Biennial of Art Programs in Closing Weeks**

[Click here for event details](#)

### **WHEN**

Friday, May 20, 2022 through Sunday, June 5, 2022

### **WHERE**

- 5 Lower Jarvis Street, Toronto
- 72 Perth Avenue, Toronto
- Arsenal Contemporary Art, 45 Ernest Avenue, Toronto
- Colborne Lodge, 11 Colborne Lodge Drive, Toronto
- Fort York National Historic Site, Toronto History Museums, 250 Fort York Boulevard, Toronto
- Small Arms Inspection Building, 1352 Lakeshore Road East, Mississauga
- Sugar Beach, 11 Dockside Drive, Toronto

Exhibitions at Mercer Union, Museum of Contemporary Art Toronto (MOCA), and Textile Museum of Canada remain open through June 5.

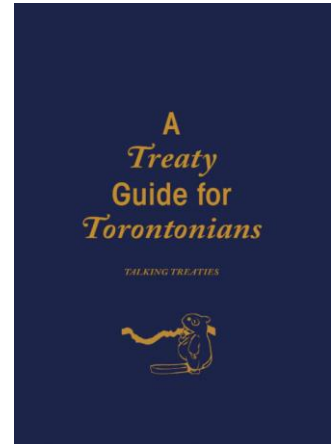
## **Toronto Biennial of Art Publications**

### ***A Treaty Guide for Torontonians***

Created by the Talking Treaties Collective: Ange Loft, Victoria Freeman, Martha Stiegman, and Jill Carter  
Published by Jumblies Press and Toronto Biennial of Art in partnership with Art Metropole  
Publication date: May 2022. Available for pre-order now at this [link](#).

What does it mean to be a treaty person in Toronto?

[\*A Treaty Guide for Torontonians\*](#) is an artful examination of the complex intercultural roots of treaty relationships in the place we now call Toronto. From the Two Row Wampum and Dish with One Spoon, to the Treaty of Niagara and the Toronto Purchase, we trace the history of treaty making between Indigenous nations, and between Indigenous nations and the Crown. Part of Jumbies Theatre + Arts' multi-year Talking Treaties project, *A Treaty Guide* inspires an active approach to treaty awareness through embodied learning tools. Land-based activities, theatrical exercises, drawing and writing prompts help readers find their own relationship to this history, and to take up their treaty responsibilities in the present.



This publication has been generously supported by the Canada Council for the Arts, the City of Toronto, the Ontario Arts Council, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, and York University.

### ***Water, Kinship, Belief***

Edited by Tairone Bastien, Candice Hopkins, and Katie Lawson



Co-published by the Toronto Biennial of Art and Art Metropole  
Available to purchase at: 72 Perth Avenue - Art Metropole bookshop; Small Arms Inspection Building; 5 Lower Jarvis Street; Arsenal Contemporary Art; Mercer Union and Textile Museum of Canada.

In relation to the 2019 and 2022 Biennial exhibitions, this publication is a place where the continuities, resonances, and dissonances between editions are made evident. [\*Water, Kinship, Belief\*](#) is a means to bring the artists, artworks, collaborators, and ideas that have informed the exhibitions together, irrespective of chronology or as part of a greater whole. Through its content and unique design, this publication is both a generative guide to the exhibitions and a Biennial site of its own that creates new artistic relations through text and images that course through the book like tributaries.

### **TBA Donors and Supporters**

The Toronto Biennial of Art is grateful to all 2022 contributing donors for their generous support. Major funders to date include: The Pierre Lassonde Family Foundation; Scotia Wealth Management; The Michael and Sonja Koerner Charitable Foundation; RBC Foundation; Polar Foundation; Menkes Developments; Castlepoint Numa; Michelle Koerner & Kevin Doyle; Woodbridge Investments Corporation; Kilmer Mattamy Tricon; Newpoint Developments Inc.; the Delaney Family Foundation; The Rossy Foundation; Age of Union Alliance; The Jack Weinbaum Family Foundation; TD Bank Group; Partners in Art; CIBC; The Donald R. Sobey Family Foundation; Ron Kimel and Family; Eleanor and Francis Shen; Power Corporation of Canada; The Hal Jackman Foundation; Miranda Hubbs; Nutrien; Yamana Gold Inc.; Waterfront BIA; Waterfront Toronto; Stratus Vineyards; Teknion Corporation; Cadillac Fairview Corporation; and the Daniels Corporation with W.J. Properties. Much gratitude and thanks to our many other generous donors, including our [Founding Supporters](#).

TBA is also grateful for our government supporters: Government of Canada; Government of Ontario; City of Toronto; Canada Council for the Arts; Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund of the Government of

Ontario through the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries, administered by the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund Corporation; ArtworxTO: Toronto's Year of Public Art 2021-2022; Ontario Arts Council; Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council; the Toronto Arts Council; City of Mississauga; the Institut Français, French Consulate in Toronto, with the support of the Consulate General of France in Toronto; Japan Foundation; SAHA Association; and the Council for Canadian American Relations.

TBA acknowledges the support of our media partners to-date: Akimbo; blogTO, Cineplex Media; NOW Magazine; Pattison Outdoor Advertising; St. Joseph Communications; Toronto Star; West End Phoenix; the Toronto Transit Commission; and Yonge-Dundas Square.

### **About the Toronto Biennial of Art**

The Toronto Biennial of Art is Canada's leading visual arts event focused exclusively on contemporary art from around the world. For 10 weeks every two years, local, national, and international Biennial artists transform Toronto and its partner regions with free exhibitions, performances, and learning opportunities. Grounded in diverse local contexts, the Biennial's city-wide programming aims to inspire individuals, engage communities, and contribute to global conversations.

The Toronto Biennial of Art launched in 2019 and was a popular and critical success. The Biennial provides expanded understandings of contemporary art practices and is building a legacy of free, inclusive, and accessible contemporary arts programming in Toronto, Mississauga, and their surrounding communities.

For more information, visit: [torontobiennial.org](http://torontobiennial.org), [@torontobiennial](https://twitter.com/torontobiennial), and [#TOBiennial22](https://www.facebook.com/torontobiennial22) on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

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## **Image Captions**

From top to bottom:

1. Ange Loft with Jumblies Theatre & Arts, *DISH DANCES*, 2021, film still.
2. Eduardo Navarro, *Wind Oracle*, 2022. Steel and mixed-media, 560 × 170 cm. On view at Colborne Lodge as part of the Toronto Biennial of Art (2022). Photo: Toni Hafkenscheid. Co-commissioned and co-presented by the Toronto Biennial of Art and the City of Toronto.
3. Buhlebezwe Siwani, 2020. Photo by Lauren Theunissen.
4. Judy Chicago in collaboration with Pyro Spectaculars by Souza, *Diamonds in the Sky*, 2021. Fireworks performance, Belen, NM. © Judy Chicago/Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York; © Donald Woodman/ARS, New York.
5. Syrus Marcus Ware, *MBL Freedom*, 2022. Featuring Ravyn Wngz and Dainty Smith. Photo by Roxanne Fernandes. Courtesy of the artist.
6. *A Treaty Guide for Torontonians*, book cover, 2022. Co-published by Jumblies Press and Toronto Biennial of Art, in partnership with Art Metropole.
7. *Water, Kinship, Belief*, book cover, 2022. Co-published by Art Metropole and Toronto Biennial of Art.