

# TORONTO BIENNIAL OF ART

For Immediate Release

## TORONTO BIENNIAL OF ART ANNOUNCES TITLE, FULL LIST OF ARTISTS AND LOCATIONS FOR ITS 2024 EDITION

Toronto, Canada (May 13, 2024) — Today, the [Toronto Biennial of Art \(the Biennial/TBA\)](#) and its curatorial team of [Dominique Fontaine](#) and [Miquel A. López](#) announced the title, full artist list, and venues for its third edition. TBA is a ten-week free event presented every two years. It will be presented from September 21 to December 1, 2024 at 12 locations throughout Toronto. TBA 2024 will also host a number of public and learning programs as part of its event, to be announced in July.

### **Title of the 3rd Edition of the Toronto Biennial of Art**

The 2024 Toronto Biennial, titled *Precarious Joys*, explores the emotional climate of our times, acknowledging our vulnerability and grief while emphasizing the importance of passion and beauty in driving social change. The Biennial is organized around open dialogues and poetic connections. It explores artists' responses to colonialism's impact and the multiple ways representation contributes to collective survival and the regeneration of our social fabric.

The curators have been deeply immersed in dialogues and active listening, a crucial element in their curatorial journey traversing national and international landscapes, numerous artist studios, and professional art encounters in Toronto, Canada, and beyond. The 37 artists, including one collective, selected for this year's exhibition hail from Canada and various regions of the world.

When speaking about the curatorial process, Fontaine and López said, "Our interactions have traced connections between artistic creations reflecting societal and ecological imperatives, resulting in us identifying key directives drawn from artists' creative endeavours: "Joy," "Precarious," "Home," "Polyphony," "Solace," and "Coded". Two of these directives, "Joy" and "Precarious," encapsulate how TBA artists' practices amplify political consciousnesses and reassert the power of aesthetics in shaping collective existence. The artists and their practices are at the heart of our process, inspiring and directing the structure of this Biennial edition. In these complex times, we hope that this edition of the Biennial can serve as a moment of introspection, offering a lens through which to navigate the flux of our world and contemplate the myriad challenges and opportunities it presents."

Visit our [website](#) to learn more about the 2024 curatorial process.

### **2024 List of Participating Artists**

The 2024 TBA has commissioned and invited artists from Canada and diverse corners of the globe. The artists participating in this year's Biennial exhibition are:

- Abraham O. Oghobase (b. 1979, Nigeria; he/him) – co-presented with Gallery TPW
- Ahmed Umar (b. 1988, Sudan; he/she/they)
- Angélica Serech (b. 1982, Guatemala; she/her)
- Cecilia Vicuña (b. 1948, Chile; she/her)



“precarious art” in the mid-1960s in Chile to name what vanishes. Her work bridges art and poetry as a way of “hearing an ancient silence waiting to be heard.” For TBA, Vicuña will present a large-scale Quipu sculpture, a series of Precarious objects, and an installation that connects her activism against the military dictatorship in Chile (1973-1990) and the current struggles against fake news and media manipulations.

**Citra Sasmita** (TBA 2024 commission, installation and painting). Her work revisits Asian traditional languages, such as the Kamasan style painting, to reframe traditional stories and critique the vivid legacies of patriarchy and colonialism. TBA is presenting a new iteration of her long-term project Timur Merah (“The East is Red” in English), an installation composed of paintings on a Kamasan traditional canvas, Python Reticulatus snakeskin, and neon lamps. The work addresses the encounter and coexistence of Balinese mythology and spirituality along with Western ideas of technological advancement.

**IKUMAGIALIIT ᐃᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ** (**those that need fire**) (Film). Performance art quartet made of multidisciplinary artists: Laakkuluk Williamson Bathory, Cris Derksen, Jamie Griffiths, and Christine Tootoo. TBA will present their film *Aatoq* (2021), whose title means “full of blood”. The film is narrated in Kalaallisut (Greenlandic) and is a visio-sonic poem about the gifts of blood.

**Manuel Mathieu** (TBA 2024 commission, film, installation). TBA 2024 will premiere *Pendulum*, multidisciplinary artist Manuel Mathieu’s first film. It depicts the search for an equilibrium between the past and an uncertain future. A woman knowledge keeper carries on her shoulders her most precious legacy: the liberation of her soul. This legacy sets in motion a spiritual choreography in which a group of men master their own freedom as they confront the complexities of their humanity. Amid this perpetual exorcism, they assimilate their liberation under a shower of white comets. What will remain of their essence? A new day begins.

**Rajni Perera** (TBA 2024 commission, sculpture and painting). Rajni Perera is an artist whose practice explores themes of hybridity, futurity, ancestral connections, and migrant and marginalized identities, as well as the realms of monsters and dreamscapes through the lens of science fiction. Her sculptural installation for the 2024 Toronto Biennial, *'Vimana (N1 Starfighter)'* is the latest in a series of spacecraft lanterns, which draw inspiration from both mainstream science fiction and traditional Buddhist Vesak kūdu. TBA will also present her painting *Joyous Procession / Infinite Serpent* (2024), a work that depicts mythological figures dancing in line.

**Santiago Yahuarcani** (Painting), is a self-taught painter who belongs to the Aimeni clan (the White Heron clan) of the Uitoto Nation of northern Amazonia. In Yahuarcani’s paintings, the territory and its inhabitants show consciousness, affection, memory, and intelligence. TBA will present recent paintings by Yahuarcani made with natural dyes on tree bark that reclaim the force of the spirits guardians of the plants, trees, and animals, largely ignored in the modern era, stressing how climate catastrophe is not a recent event but part of a long history of colonial dispossession.

**Sonia Boyce, DBE RA** (Video installation) With an emphasis on collaborative work, Boyce has been working closely with other artists since 1990, often involving improvisation and spontaneous performative actions on the part of her collaborators. A site-specific version of *Feeling Her Way* (2022) will be presented in collaboration with the Art Gallery of Ontario and PHI Foundation for Contemporary Art, Montréal, on display now through September 8, 2024. Awarded the Golden Lion for Best National Participation at the 59th Venice Biennale, the installation combines video, collage, music, and

sculpture to present a body of work that centres around the vocal experimentation of five female musicians and marks the Canadian debut of her work.

### **Exhibition Hubs and Venues**

The Toronto Biennial of Art will have a central exhibition and programs hub at 32 Lisgar Street, in the heart of West Queen Street West. TBA will operate two additional hubs on the 9th floor of 158 Sterling Road and at Collision Gallery.

TBA 2024 exhibitions and programs will take place at the following venues:

- 32 Lisgar Street
- The Auto Bldg, 158 Sterling Road
  - 9th Floor
- Collision Gallery, 30 Wellington Street West
- Art Gallery of Ontario, 317 Dundas Street West
- Gallery TPW, 170 St Helens Ave
- TIFF Lightbox, Reitman Square, 350 King St W, TIFF Gallery
- Toronto Sculpture Garden, 115 King Street East
- Toronto Union Station, 55 Front Street
- The Image Centre (TMU), 33 Gould St, Toronto, University Gallery
- The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery, 231 Queens Quay West

### **New Publication**

To highlight the dialogical component that shapes the *Precarious Joys* exhibition, the Biennial is co-publishing a publication of the same name with Goose Lane Editions and Art Metropole. The book is structured as conversations between participating artists, guest curators, activists, educators, and TBA staff members, embracing the many voices that contributed to this year's edition. The *Precarious Joys* publication will be distributed locally, nationally, internationally, and online starting September 21st, and available to purchase at an Art Metropole pop-up shop at the Biennial's main 32 Lisgar Street hub.

### **TBA Founders and Funders**

The Toronto Biennial of Art is grateful to all contributing donors for their generous support. Major funders to date include Chromatic Developments, Max Mara, TD Bank Group, Castlepoint Numa, Michelle Koerner Family Foundation, Alfredo & Moira Romano, The Rossy Foundation, Cadillac Fairview, Hatch, Power Corporation of Canada, QuadReal, Sabourin Family Foundation, Woodbridge Investments Corporation, Women Leading Initiative, the Zeidler family, Laurie Hay and Doug Kellar, and our many generous individual donors, including our Founding supporters. TBA is also grateful for our government supporters: the Government of Canada, Canada Council for the Arts, City of Toronto, Government of Ontario, Ontario Arts Council, and Waterfront Toronto.

### **Media Partners**

The Toronto Biennial of Art would like to thank the following media partners for their commitment to this year's exhibition. Media partners include Billy Bishop Airport, blogTO, Cadillac Fairview, Ciel Variable, Esse, Globacore, Pattison Outdoor Advertising, The Walrus, Toronto Star, TTC, UB Media, and Yonge-Dundas.

## **For Media**

Toronto Biennial of Art runs from September 21 to December 1, 2024.

The exhibition hub is located at 32 Lisgar Street. TBA will operate two additional hubs on the 9th floor of 158 Sterling Road and Collision Gallery.

The free public art exhibition runs for 10 weeks.

Media Preview: Thursday, September 19, 2024 at 32 Lisgar Street.

To register email [deanne@dmpublic.com](mailto:deanne@dmpublic.com) with credentials.

Public Opening Block Party: Saturday, September 21, 2024 at 32 Lisgar Street.

For images and image credits, visit [HERE](#).

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

The Toronto Biennial of Art's mission is to make contemporary art accessible to everyone. A ten-week event every two years, the Biennial commissions artists to create new works for a city-wide exhibition in dialogue with Toronto's diverse local contexts. Year-round public and learning programs bridge Biennials and invite intergenerational audiences to explore the ideas that inspire our events. Building upon past editions and offering new ways of seeing and listening, each Biennial connects people to spark meaningful dialogues and imagine new futures.

**For more information, visit: [torontobiennial.org](http://torontobiennial.org), and on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#)**

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