



TORONTO BIENNIAL OF ART

Sept 21 –
Dec 1, 2024



WOMEN LEADING INITIATIVE

ENABLING WOMEN AND NON-BINARY
ARTISTS TO TAKE THE LEAD



What will it take to close the gender gap in the arts?

Women and non-binary artists continue to be drastically underrepresented in the Canadian and global arts landscape.

- Women make up only **5% of artists in the auction market**
- Of over 3,000 surveyed galleries, **10% represent not a single woman artist and half represent 25% or fewer women**
- Only **24%** of the over 27,000 artists shown in art fairs in 2018 were women.
- Just **11% of acquisitions** and 14.9% of exhibitions at 31 major US museums from 2008–2020 were women
- In Canada, women visual artists earn on average just **65% of the annual income of their male peers**

Racialized, low-income and 2SLGBTQ+ women and non-binary artists face even greater challenges in establishing themselves in the arts.

- Black women artists represent just **0.1% of auction sales**
- Work by Black American women comprises just **0.5% of acquisitions** at the leading 31 US art museums
- Of the **top 20 female artists** sold at auction, **17 are white**

TBA 2024 artists Cecilia Vicuña, Dineo Seshee Bopape, Sonia Boyce & Naomi Rincón-Gallardo.





TBA was founded by a group of women and mothers who believe that art should not only be central to our communities, but reflect their diversity.

From its outset, TBA has committed to showcasing artists that have for too long been marginalized and underrepresented.

Of the 37 exhibition artists that TBA will feature in 2024, 29 (78%) identify as women or non-binary. Further, all of the artists featured in the Biennial identify as Black, Indigenous, or People of Colour.

TBA believes firmly in the need for equitable representation of artists in contemporary art and is committed to creating opportunities for marginalized artists to thrive and reach new audiences.

Women and non-binary artists from diverse backgrounds need our support to create and exhibit work that speaks to the moment, challenges us, fosters dialogue and helps us to imagine a more equitable future.

Women Leading brings together advocates for gender equity in the arts to create and exhibit new, innovative contemporary artworks, public programming, and learning experiences led by women and non-binary artists.

The passionate champions of Women Leading enable TBA to provide direct support to women and non-binary artists to create and showcase the work they dream of making and sharing with audiences. Projects supported to date include:

Judy Chicago, often called the 'Godmother' of Feminist Art, drew over 22,000 people to Toronto's waterfront to experience a newly commissioned Smoke Sculpture™ entitled ***A Tribute to Toronto***. Working on water for the first time, Chicago and collaborators released a series of pigmented smokes from a massive barge structure that mixed with wind and light to create myriad colour effects (pictured below).

Camille Turner combined Afrofuturism and historical research to create ***Nave***, an immersive multimedia installation that explores the entanglement of colonial Canada in the transatlantic trade of enslaved Africans (pictured above). The work was awarded TBA's 2022 Artist Prize and has since been **acquired by the National Gallery of Canada**.



For the upcoming 2024 Biennial edition, Women Leading will support a diverse group of women and non-binary artists to create new works and showcase work yet to be seen by audiences in Canada and Toronto. These projects will include:

TBA will bring a site-specific version of UK artist **Sonia Boyce's *Feeling Her Way*** (2022) to Canada, presented in collaboration with the Art Gallery of Ontario and PHI Foundation for Contemporary Art. 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 (pictured below).

Cecilia Vicuña (Chile) is a visual artist, poet, filmmaker, and activist who was recently awarded the **Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement at the 59th Venice Biennale**. She created the autonomous concept of "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 2024, Vicuña is developing a project that connects her fight against the military dictatorship in Chile (1973-1990) and the current struggles against fake news and other forms of manipulations that undermine democratic legitimacy.



TAKE THE LEAD

Help us create a gender equitable contemporary arts sector.

Women Leading is a community of contemporary art supporters that believe passionately in advancing gender equity in the arts. By joining this community, members contribute directly to supporting projects by women and non-binary artists. Members also gain access to exclusive, year-round programming featuring TBA artists, curators, and partners.

Women Leading is a collective philanthropic initiative that enables our community to work together to make change. **Together, we aim to raise \$150,000 to support the work of women and non-binary artists to be featured in the 2024 Biennial.** Priority will be placed on supporting the work of artists facing multiple barriers including those identifying as Black, Indigenous, People of Colour, and 2SLGBTQ+.

Your support will be invested directly in women and non-binary artists to create new, innovative work and reach broader audiences.

Tanya Lukin Linklater, *The sky held me (rainfall on hands hair lips)*. Open rehearsals at High Park Nature Centre, June 2023. Commissioned by the Toronto Biennial of Art and supported by the Women Leading Initiative, Ontario Arts Council, Dickinson Wright LLP and Ontario Culture Day.



Women Leading involves a minimum philanthropic commitment of \$5,000 over two years.

MEMBER BENEFITS:

Charitable tax receipt for the full amount of donation
Access to a series of exclusive program series during TBA 2024 featuring TBA artists, curators and partners focused on women and non-binary artists, including artist meet-and-greets and receptions
Personal complimentary copy of TBA's 2024 publication
Women Leading recognized in materials related to commissioned projects including on-site signage, website and publications
Recognition of Women Leading at select public events and openings, including Director and/or Curator Speeches
Tickets to TBA's 2024 Opening Celebration
First Access to Artist Limited Editions commissioned exclusively for the Biennial
Employee engagement opportunities such as Storytelling tours, artist talks and more for corporate partners
Complimentary copy of TBA's 2024 publication signed by curators

Contributor - \$5,000

Advocate - \$10,000

Contemporary - \$25,000

YOUR IMPACT:

- **Project funding and curatorial support** for women and/or non-binary artists to create new artworks
- Support engaging **public programs and learning experiences** to further expand the impact of the artworks
- **Creation and exhibition** of artworks and/or programs from groundbreaking women and non-binary artists in the 2024 Biennial
- International **marketing and promotion** to spotlight the artwork and artists in the lead up to and throughout the Biennial
- **Free access for 300,000+ visitors** over 10 weeks to exhibitions and programs centring perspectives of diverse women and non-binary artists

Contact us today to become a member of Women Leading!

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