

# TORONTO BIENNIAL OF ART

For Immediate Release

## **TORONTO BIENNIAL OF ART ANNOUNCES FREE PUBLIC PROGRAMS FOR ITS THIRD EDITION OPENING SEPTEMBER 21, 2024**

### **Gatherings, performances, workshops, movement sessions, artist talks, and Storytelling sessions among featured programs**

Toronto, Canada (July 23) — The Toronto Biennial of Art (the Biennial/TBA) has announced an expansive selection of free arts events and learning programs for its third edition, taking place from September 21 to December 1, 2024. Created for participants of all ages, TBA programs include performances, spaces for exchanges and conversations, hands-on workshops, and learning experiences. Connected to this year's Biennial exhibition, titled *Precarious Joys*, programs are led by and will feature local, national, and international artists and collaborators.

"I am inspired by the generosity and depth of thought reflected in our public and learning programs this year," said Ilana Shamoan, Deputy Director & Director of Programs. "Working closely with artists and partners, TBA offers intergenerational visitors, as well as school and community groups, moments of relation and reflection. These programs invite visitors to consider artists' unique perspectives on our turbulent and complex times while also acknowledging joy, connection, and vulnerability. Through projects ranging from collective singing and poetry readings, to family-centred weekend art-making activities, to lively artist talks, TBA's programs animate its venues across the city throughout the Biennial's 10 weeks."

#### **Public Programs and Learning**

With a focus on performance and movement, 2024 Biennial programs branch out from the exhibition to address the inherent wisdom and knowledge we all carry within us, as we collectively contemplate, sense, and experience the body as a container of time and attention.

As part of these programs, a performance series will see artists investigate the body as a living archive, exploring its extraordinary strength and resilience, as well as its tenderness, fragility, and limitations. A related workshop series will centre embodied learning by inviting audiences of all abilities to consider time, space, and movement through somatic learning and unlearning.

In parallel, learning programs offer educators and learners of all ages a meaningful collection of six newly commissioned resources, known as Mobile Arts Curriculum tools, co-created with programs and exhibitions artists. Also new this year, TBA's school programs will be led by R.I.S.E. (Reaching Intelligent Souls Everywhere) Edutainment Storytellers who will engage with students through facilitated sessions and workshops that incorporate their artistic practices including spoken word, poetry, and movement. Finally, TBA's beloved Storytelling Program returns for all audiences, led by a new roster of artists who combine conventional interpretation with narrative responses to the artworks.

The growing list of [programs artists](#) and [calendar of events](#) are now available on the TBA website. More events and details, including opening weekend and registration information, will be made available in the weeks to come.

## **2024 Public Programs Highlights**

### ***Fresh Arts, Visual Arts: histories and legacies***

Talk

d'bi.young anitafrika, Pamila Matharu, and Winsom Winsom

Date: September 21 | Time: To Be Announced | Location: 32 Lisgar

2024 Biennial artists Pamila Matharu and Winsom Winsom are joined by artist, activist, and academic d'bi.young anitafrika to discuss aspects of the histories and legacies of Fresh Arts, an artist-led mentorship program that was pivotal to the ecology of Toronto arts and culture in the 1990s.

This program is part of *andbothwith\_lively adjacencies + proximal intimacies*, a series of Public Programs taking place in and around Pamila Martharu's installation, *tere naal | with you*.

### ***Book Launch: Precarious Joys***

Talk

Dominique Fontaine and Miguel A. López

Date: September 27 | Time: 5pm | Location: 32 Lisgar

Join us for the official launch of the 2024 Biennial catalogue, *Precarious Joys*, co-published by the Toronto Biennial of Art, Art Metropole, and Goose Lane Editions and edited by TBA exhibition curators Dominique Fontaine and Miguel A. López. In conversation with artists and guests, Dominique and Miguel will delve into the catalogue's focus on dialogue and the impact of active listening on the development of TBA's third edition.

This program is co-presented with Art Metropole and Goose Lane Editions.

### ***Andbothwith a Gift: A Ceramic Workshop***

Workshop

Misbah Ahmed

Date: October 5 | Time: 1pm | Location: 32 Lisgar Street

In this workshop, led by local visual artist and designer Misbah Ahmed, visitors will explore ceramic hand-building and surface design techniques inspired by 2024 Biennial artist Pamila Matharu. Through this creative process, we will witness how art fosters connections and creates shared moments.

This program is part of *andbothwith\_lively adjacencies + proximal intimacies*, a series of Public Programs taking place in and around Pamila Martharu's installation, *tere naal | with you*.

### ***Notes on Belonging: An Adaptation***

Performance

Jaye Austin Williams

Date: October 12 | Time: To Be Announced | Location: 32 Lisgar Street

Critically acclaimed director, playwright, and scholar Jaye Austin Williams will stage an excerpt of the forthcoming live stage adaptation of "A Map to the Door of No Return" by renowned Toronto-based poet Dionne Brand. Held within 2024 Biennial artist Charles Campbell's installation, this program is presented as a "concert recitation": an intimate performance and rendition that will showcase a dramatized reading with three actors, adapted and directed by Williams with excerpts from Brand's book.

*Notes on Belonging: An Adaptation* is curated by TBA Programs Curatorial Fellow, Sarah Edo.

## **MOSSBELLY**

Performance

Angela Vitovec

Dates: October 17, 20, 22 | Time: To Be Announced | Location: Music Gallery

*MOSSBELLY* is an intergenerational performance and choreographic meditation on our human connection to land, plant life, nature, and time. Through the lens and in the spirit of the moss plant, dancers move, share, connect, and support each other as moss supports the ecosystems of a forest. This choreography of rhythms embraces us and develops a new and entirely sensual poetry of bodies and their presence.

This program is co-presented with The Music Gallery and Dancemakers.

## **Words echo and gather strength**

Workshops

C Magazine with Aisha Sasha John, Ivetta Sunyoung Kang and Kii Kang, and Pardis Pahlavanlu

Dates: November 8, 15, 22 | Time: To Be Announced | Location: 32 Lisgar Street

In this series of artist-led workshops, language and ideas lift “off the page” and consider how the voice is aligned with the body, ever expanding into the broader world and its interactions. Participants will work with artist facilitators to develop approaches to expressions of voice in multiple mediums (poetry, zine-making, and more) that explore the influence of language, media, and art on how stories and knowledge are acted upon, shaped, and recorded.

This program is co-produced with C Magazine.

## **One Hundred More**

Performance

Justine Chambers and Laurie Young

Dates: November 28 and 29 | Time: 8pm | Location: The Theatre Centre

*One Hundred More* is urgently informed by our current socio-political climate which has produced an ever-greater groundswell of bodies resisting, moving in collective anger, revolt, and counter-resistance, captured and replayed in an endless torrent of images. In response to the “hands up, don’t shoot” gesture, the work is an incremental choreography of personal physical strategies the artists deploy as women of colour and mothers. Set to a pulsating score, this performance is a physical declaration of resistance and friendship.

This program is co-presented with The Theatre Centre and Dancemakers.

## **Love Songs to End Colonization**

Performance/Community Gathering

Jimmie Kilpatrick and Peter Morin

Date: November 30 | Time: 8pm | Location: The Theatre Centre

*Love Songs to End Colonization* is a karaoke project founded on joy, futurity, and collective voice that repurposes popular love songs to critique and confront settler colonialism. Listeners are invited to perform a song, sing along, clap, dance, or simply witness and soak in love and music to dismantle colonialism, one love song at a time.

This program is co-presented with The Theatre Centre.

## **Public Storytelling Sessions**

Jingshu Yao, Laura Carvalho, and Siki Soberetonari

Date: Fridays – Sundays | Locations: 32 Lisgar and the Auto Bldg. (158 Sterling Road, 9th floor)

Each week, join TBA Storytellers at 32 Lisgar and The Auto Building for drop-in Storytelling sessions. Storytellers are practising artists and educators who will lead the public through conversational and participatory tours. Each session is unique and responsive to the interests and needs of the participating public. Group tours can be arranged by emailing [learning@torontobiennial.org](mailto:learning@torontobiennial.org).

TBA's 2024 Programs are conceived by Jenn Goodwin, Curator of Public Programs, and Mary Kim, Senior Manager of Learning and Mediation, with Ilana Shamoon, Kesang Nanglu, and Roxanne Fernandes, with contributions from exhibition curators Dominique Fontaine and Miguel A. López.

### **Public Programs Hubs and Sites**

Most public and learning programs will be held in person at the Biennial's central exhibition and programs hub at 32 Lisgar Street, in the heart of the vibrant West Queen Street neighbourhood. In addition to weekly Storytelling sessions, school visits, and regular programming, this space will be home to local artist-run publisher Art Metropole's pop-up shop.

Other active programming sites include TBA's exhibition locations at the Auto BLDG. (158 Sterling Road, 9th Floor), the Art Gallery of Ontario, Collision Gallery, Gallery TPW, The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery, and Toronto Sculpture Garden, as well as partner sites including Colborne Lodge at High Park, Hart House, The Theatre Centre, The Music Gallery and the Toronto Public Library - North York Central.

### **TBA Donors and Supporters**

The Toronto Biennial of Art is grateful to all contributing donors and supporters for their generous support. Major supporters to date include Michael & Sonja Koerner Charitable Foundation, Alfredo & Moira Romano, Castlepoint Numa, Chromatic Developments, Max Mara, Michelle Koerner Family Foundation, TD Bank Group, QuadReal, Sabourin Family Foundation, Woodbridge Investments Corporation, Rossy Foundation, Cadillac Fairview, Hatch, Power Corporation of Canada, the Women Leading Initiative, Jane Zeidler, 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 Akimbo, Billy Bishop Airport, blogTO, Cadillac Fairview, Ciel Variable, Esse, Frieze, Globacore, Pattison Outdoor Advertising, The Walrus, Toronto Star, TTC, UB Media, and Yonge-Dundas Square (soon to be Sankofa Square).

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

### **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](#)**

**About Max Mara**

For the 2024 edition, Max Mara has generously supported TBA's Women Leading Initiative, which funds projects by women and non-binary artists in the Biennial. We thank Max Mara for making this series of Programs possible through their generosity, enabling a diverse array of women and non-binary artists and collaborators to reach new audiences.

Founded in 1951 by the late visionary Achille Maramotti, Max Mara is one of the highest expressions of Italian luxury and style. A contemporary collection of ready-to-wear and accessories for today's powerful women. Recognized for its timeless designs and luxurious fabrics, Max Mara is revered for the classification of the absolute coat, sharp suiting, and modern accessories. Max Mara is distributed in 2,500 locations in more than 100 countries worldwide. The Max Mara Fashion Group counts nine different brands. The company remains privately held and managed by the Maramotti family.

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