

Greater Toronto Art 2021

Exhibition Overview and List of Works

Greater Toronto Art 2021 (GTA21) brings together 21 of some of the most energizing artists and art collectives working in Toronto or who have deep connections with the city. This large-scale exhibition is the inaugural edition of a new triennial survey, defined by MOCA's pledge to Toronto artists and the commissioning of new projects that add to local and global discourse.

Each contributor was asked to consider: What feels most urgent to you today? The exhibition is organized around three themes: ambivalence, inheritance, and mutation.

Curators: Guest Curator Daisy Desroisiers, MOCA Adjunct Curator Rui Mateus Amaral, and MOCA Artistic Director November Paynter

FLOOR 1

Ambivalence

Torn, anxious, fluctuating, and pulled in different directions—these works are alternative expressions of ambivalence. For the artists on this floor, these terms communicate what it feels like to create artwork when the world seems off-kilter. Although materially and conceptually distinct, each piece is intentionally unstable. They evade any single interpretation, tugging, instead, at a number of possible readings.

Ambivalence can often be perceived as a compromised or weakened position. However, some psychologists and cultural theorists associate it with critical thinking, compassion, resistance, and the ability to adapt to shifting circumstances. These artists embrace this two-sided, or dual-powered disposition, producing artworks that find their meaning in being not one thing or another, but both or more at the same time.

Floor 1 Artists

Common Accounts

Ghazaleh Avarzamani

Tom Chung

Julia Dault

Aaron Jones

Walter Scott

Common Accounts (Igor Bragado, b.1985, Gernika, Spain and Miles Gertler, b.1990, Toronto, Canada)

Parade of All the Feels, 2021

Wood, plexiglass, paint, miniature screens, electrical cords

Ghazaleh Avarzamani (b. 1979, Tehran, Iran)

Mashrabiya, 2021

Painted steel

Courtesy Galerie Nicolas Robert, Montreal and Toronto

Avarzamani's projects are part of ArtworxTO: Toronto's Year of Public Art 2021–2022.

Broken Circle, 2021

Wood, paint

Courtesy Galerie Nicolas Robert, Montreal and Toronto

Avarzamani's projects are part of ArtworxTO: Toronto's Year of Public Art 2021–2022.

Tom Chung (b.1990, Vancouver, Canada)

50 Shelves (Study for MOCA), 2021

Aluminum

Julia Dault (b.1977, Toronto, Canada)

Final Call, 2021

Dye-sublimated blackback polyester, galvanized steel, enamel

Courtesy Bradley Ertaskiran, Montreal; Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York and Aspen, CO; and China Art Objects, Mérida, Mexico

Guided by Voices, 2019–21

Acrylic and oil on canvas in painted wood frame

Courtesy Bradley Ertaskiran, Montreal; Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York and Aspen, CO; and China Art Objects, Mérida, Mexico

Aaron Jones (b.1993, Toronto, Canada)

Conscious Energy on the Sea, 2021

Collage

Courtesy Zalucky Contemporary, Toronto

Walter Scott (b.1985, Kahnawà:ke, Canada)

Read the Room, 2021

Fabric, cardboard, metal wire, paper, painted steel, neon, wood

Courtesy Cooper Cole, Toronto

FLOOR 2

Inheritance

A straightforward reading of the term Inheritance involves what is passed on from one generation to another: genes, property, goods. For *GTA21*, Inheritance is interpreted as a framework from which to understand art and possibility. These artworks are about remembering and yet, more speculatively, they are about making meaning by combining history with material traces, imagination, and hope.

Invested in making sense of hidden, layered, and shared histories, some of the artists toy with legacies implicit to art—from figuration to abstraction, from objects to virtual realities—or by referencing gaps within disciplines such as post-colonial theories and museum studies. Together their works embody the hard work of asking: how do we know what we know? What hasn't been said or seen (yet)? What information—material or immaterial—do we leave behind or bring forward?

Floor 2 Artists

Parastoo Anoushahpour, Faraz Anoushahpour, and Ryan Ferko

Nour Bishouty

Jesse Chun

Julia Dault

Azza El Siddique

Kareem-Anthony Ferreira

Alexa Hatanaka & Ashoona Ashoona

Pamila Matharu

Tony Romano

Pamela Phatsimo Sunstrum

Parastoo Anoushahpour (b. 1986, Tehran, Iran), **Faraz Anoushahpour** (b. 1987, Tehran, Iran), and **Ryan Ferko** (b. 1987, Mississauga, Canada)

Surface Rites, 2021

Single-channel video, 16MM

Nour Bishouty

Adrā' Samar, 2017

HD video sound colour, 14 hours: 13 minutes

Permanent Collection, 2021

Wood, plexiglass, foam, clay, 3D printing, paint

Jesse Chun (b. 1984, Seoul, South Korea)

O (for various skies), 2021

Projections, mirrors, sound

score (for unlanguageing) no.0705, no.0720, no.0807, 2021

Graphite, pigment, layered vellum paper, pins, aluminum frame, UV plexiglass, graphite on wall

Julia Dault (b.1977, Toronto, Canada)

Through the Looking-Glass, 2021

Acrylic and oil on canvas in painted wood frame

Courtesy Bradley Ertaskiran, Montreal; Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York and Aspen, CO;
and China Art Objects, Mérida, Mexico

Azza El Siddique (b. 1984, Khartoum, Sudan)

Fade into the Sun, 2021

Steel, bukhour, sandaliya, slip cast ceramic, water

Kareem-Anthony Ferreira (b.1989, Hamilton, Canada)

Untitled, 2021

Oil, mixed media, canvas

Courtesy Nino Mier Gallery, Los Angeles and Towards Gallery, Toronto

Untitled, 2021

Oil, mixed media, canvas

Courtesy Nino Mier Gallery, Los Angeles and Towards Gallery, Toronto

Ashoona Ashoona (b.1974, Iqaluit, Nunavut, Canada) and **Alexa Hatanaka** (b.1988, Toronto, Canada)

Ummatima tillirninga, I can feel my heart beat, 2021

Washi paper and sumi ink

Courtesy Patel Brown Gallery, Toronto.

Pamila Matharu (b. 1973, Birmingham, England)

the heart is the origin of your worldview, 2021

Collage, text engraved acrylic frame, map, two solid oak school desks c. 1940s

Tony Romano (b. 1978, Toronto, Canada)

Between the Lilies and the Birds, 2021 (detail)

Found objects, wood, steel, ceramic tile

Courtesy of the artist.

Between the Lilies and the Birds, 2021 (detail)
wood and metal, 80"x 24" x 74"
Courtesy of the artist.

Self Portrait, 2020
watercolours on paper, 6 x 10 in. each
Courtesy of the artist.

Pamela Phatsimo Sunstrum (b. 1980, Mochudi, Botswana)
Dynasty, 2021
Pencil, acrylic and oil on wood, linen and canvas.
Courtesy Goodman Gallery Johannesburg, Cape Town, and London

FLOOR 3

Mutation

These artists look to the world around us and our relationships with power, authority, community, the earth, and geographical specificities. They have researched key historical events and manifestations that would normally be practiced outdoors, often citing humanity's complex relationship with nature and our impact on the environment.

Apparent within the artworks are multiple tactics of coupling and twinning and references to symbiosis, whereby objects and ideas are set in dialogue. In some cases, the artists merge what could be opposing positions, in others, repetition furthers the artworks' intent.

The idea of mutation as a spark of change that unleashes creativity hints at the forward-thinking nature of the artistic practices represented. Read together, the artworks provide a set of projections and calls for more productive ways to coexist.

Floor 3 Artists

Native Art Department International
Oluseye
Jagdeep Raina
Jennifer Rose Sciarrino
Kara Springer
Sahar Te

Native Art Department International

Maria Hupfield (b.1975, Parry Sound, Canada and Jason Lujan, b.1971, Marfa, U.S.A.)

Double Gazebo (MOCA), 2021
Painted steel and wood

Oluseye (b. 1986, London, England)
Ploughing Liberty, 2021
Found farm tools, hockey sticks, brass dowels
Courtesy Patel Brown Gallery, Toronto

Jagdeep Raina (b. 1991, Guelph, Canada)
Bodies became robust with love and sangat, 2021
Mixed media on paper
Courtesy Cooper Cole, Toronto

Remember Harsha, 2021
Embroidered poem sewn into muslin with phulkari
Courtesy Cooper Cole, Toronto

Where the tree kisses them with broken luck, 2021
Mixed media on paper
Courtesy Cooper Cole, Toronto

Gorgeous Farmer, 2021
Video
Courtesy Cooper Cole, Toronto

Jennifer Rose Sciarrino (b. 1983, Toronto, Canada)
Huddled Sigh, 2021
Steel, limestone, marble
Courtesy Daniel Faria Gallery, Toronto

Kara Springer (b.1980, Bridgetown, Barbados)
Do I have to build you a fucking pyramid?, 2021
Photographic prints, wood

The Earth & All Its Inhabitants, 2019
Wood, primer, c-print, light box, found materials

Sahar Te (b. 1990, Tehran, Iran)
Listening Attends, 2021
2003 Toyota Tacoma, speakers, black satin cover