



Educator Resource

GTAS

March 22, 2024 — July 28, 2024

Museum
Of
**Contemporary
Art**
Toronto Canada



Exhibition Overview

Greater Toronto Art 2024 (GTA24) is the second edition of MOCA Toronto's recurring triennial exhibition, which was conceived in 2021 to look more closely and consistently at artistic practices with a connection to the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). Featuring twenty-five intergenerational artists, duos, and collectives, the exhibition presents work made between the 1960s and the present, including fifteen newly commissioned presentations, performances, and events, furthering MOCA's commitment to supporting artists in the development of new work and ideas. Mediums include installation, photography, painting, moving image, sculpture, drawing, sound, food, and performance.

GTA24 presents the amalgamation of Toronto art practices created in different decades to provide new ways of understanding the current moment and imagining the future. For *GTA24*, through a partly-fictionalized narrative, Lisa Myers surveys the realities of Toronto's economies of real estate, gentrification, and carbon offsetting, and how this complicates relations to the land in the GTA. Lisa Myers' work, *Overture for Sterling Road*, issues Toronto's complexities with urban development and planning. Myers' work questions current predatory real estate practices and consumerism as symptoms of ongoing colonialism and encourages those engaging with her work to imagine alternate relationships with the land. For the Ontario Curriculum, Lisa Myers' work aptly reflects, responds and analyzes the conditions of Toronto's urban development. This Educational Resource Guide appropriately considers the Ontario Curriculum for Grades 6 – 12 Visual Art, Grades 7 – 9 Geography, and Grades 7 – 8 History.

Glossary of key terms

GTA (Greater Toronto Area) a metropolitan area in the province of Ontario, Canada, that includes the City of Toronto and the surrounding regions of Peel, York, Halton, and Durham.

Intergenerational relating to, involving, or affecting several generations.

Multidisciplinary combining or involving several academic disciplines or professional specializations in an approach to a topic or problem.

Installation art applied to a range of arts practices which involves the installation or configuration of objects in a space.

Amalgamation the action, process, or result of combining or uniting.

Peripheries the outer limits or edge of an area.

Migration movement of people to a new area or country in order to find work or better living conditions.

Assemblage a collection or gathering of things or people

GTA24 Discussion Grades 7-12

How does *GTA24* reflect the tensions between urban growth and the preservation of local identities with the Greater Toronto Area?

In what ways does *GTA24* engage with the themes of mobility, displacement, and constant redefinition of place within the evolving urban fabric of Toronto?

What sorts of non-traditional art materials (things that you might not find in your art classroom, unlike paint) can you identify? Why do you think the artist chose these materials? How do the mediums relate to the themes of the artworks?

Explore images of this exhibition on the [exhibition website](#).

Themes in Greater Toronto Art 2024

- Urbanization and Growth
- Social Inequalities and Access to Resources
- Collective Memory and History
- Gentrification and Displacement
- Intersectionality and Identity





Lisa Myers

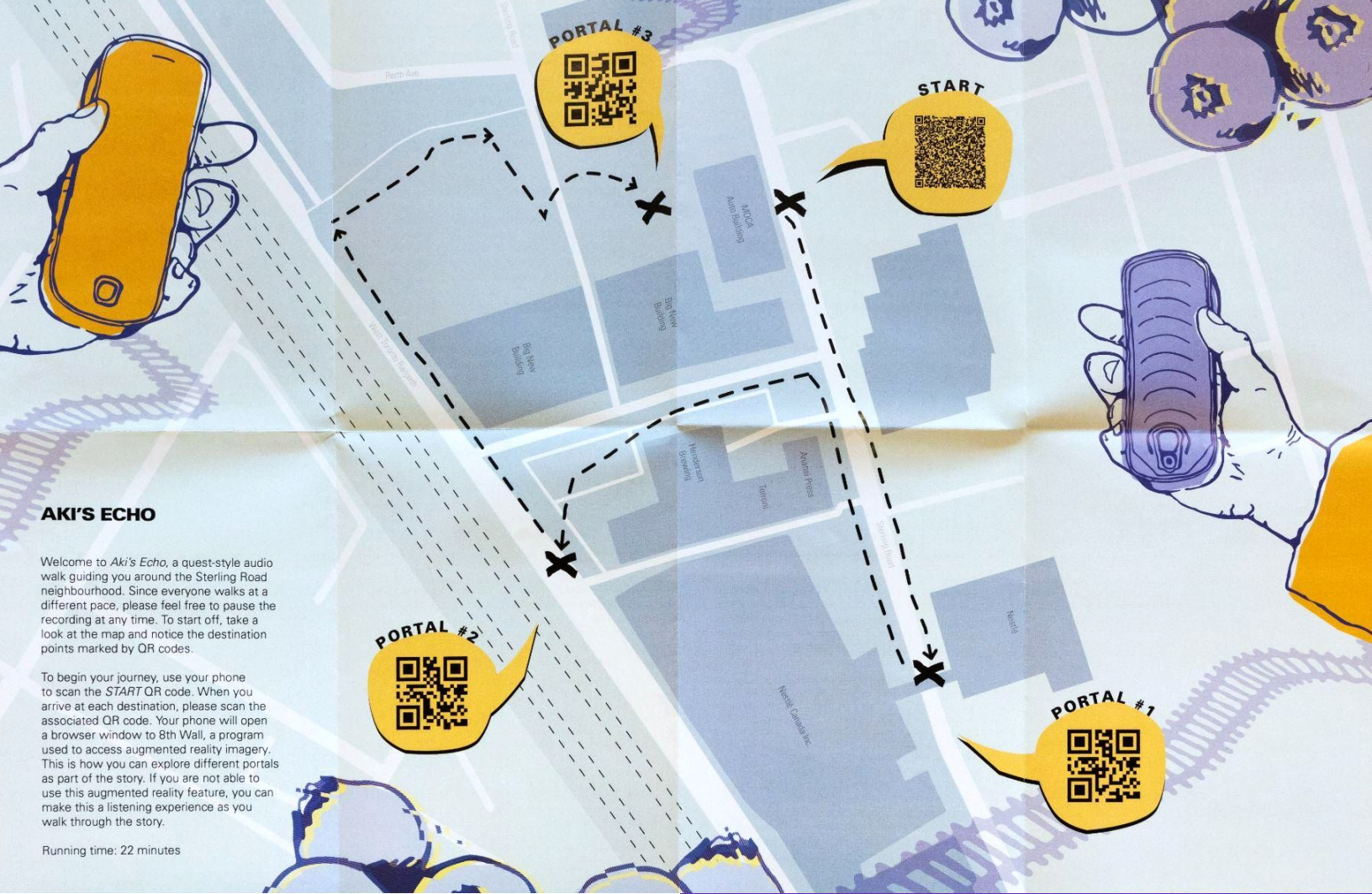
Lisa Myers (b. Oakville, Ontario) is a curator and artist with a keen interest in interdisciplinary collaboration. Her research focuses on contemporary Indigenous art and considers the varied values and functions of elements such as medicine plants and language, sound, and knowledge. Through many media and materials, and by incorporating socially engaged art approaches, her practice examines place, underrepresented histories and futures, and collective forms of knowledge exchange. An associate professor in the Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change at York University, Myers holds a research chair in Indigenous art and curatorial practice. Part of her practice as a curator includes artist advocacy; she is co-chair of CARFAC Ontario and is passionate about navigating institutional barriers and limitations. Myers is a member of Beausoleil First Nation and is based in both Toronto and Port Severn, Ontario.

For GTA24, Lisa Myers created a new audio and augmented reality walk titled *Overture for Sterling Road*, that invites audiences to engage in a quest in and around the neighbourhood surrounding MOCA. Through a partly-fictionalized narrative, the walk invites listeners to engage with the economies of real estate, gentrification, and carbon offsetting, and how that complicates relations to land in the GTA. Presented in tandem with Myers' audio walk is a graphic work in the museum's lightbox.

Guiding Questions

How do the forces of gentrification and carbon offsetting reshape the relationship between communities and land in Toronto, and what does this reveal about the intersection of environmental and socio-economic justice?

In what ways do the processes of gentrification and carbon offsetting in Toronto commodify the land, and how do they disrupt and reinforce the social and environmental connections people have to their neighbourhood?



AKI'S ECHO

Welcome to *Aki's Echo*, a quest-style audio walk guiding you around the Sterling Road neighbourhood. Since everyone walks at a different pace, please feel free to pause the recording at any time. To start off, take a look at the map and notice the destination points marked by QR codes.

To begin your journey, use your phone to scan the *START* QR code. When you arrive at each destination, please scan the associated QR code. Your phone will open a browser window to 8th Wall, a program used to access augmented reality imagery. This is how you can explore different portals as part of the story. If you are not able to use this augmented reality feature, you can make this a listening experience as you walk through the story.

Running time: 22 minutes

Activity | Grade 7-12

Overture for Sterling Road was exhibited March 22, 2024 – July 28, 2024 and the works in this exhibition are no longer available for viewing. *Overture for Sterling Road* was installed as an outdoor lightbox installation. The work was presented in parallel with *Aki's Echo*, an augmented reality walk around the Junction neighbourhood. Lisa Myers' tour was presented as a form of a pamphlet with a map, written instructions, and QR codes that could be scanned to experience VR elements.

With this in mind, in the classroom, students will brainstorm, research, draw and present their own maps and walking tours.

Materials: paper, drawing tools. Internet access, QR code generator, recording software and phone are optional.

Brainstorming. Choose a location for your walking tour. This could be your school grounds, the students neighborhood or even an area with importance to the student.

Map making. Consult tools like printed maps, Google Maps and your own Geography textbooks for how to draw a map. What will your students include? Buildings, roads and train tracks like Lisa Myers, or other cartography symbolism?

Research. Lisa Myers discusses land, housing, native plants, and the industrial histories of this area. What will you include in your tour? What histories will you explore? What will your theme be? Creating your tour. Students can write or draw your tour on paper, record an audio tour or create digital elements using scannable QR codes like Lisa Myers. This should be an opportunity to push the creativity to create a multi-media work of art.

Presenting your tour. Trading tours with peers can test their effectiveness.

Ontario Curriculum Connections

Visual Art

Grade 6 – 8

- D1. Creating and Presenting
- D2. Reflecting, Responding and Analysing
- D3. Exploring Forms and Cultural Contexts

Grade 9 – 12

- A. Creating and Presenting
- B. Reflecting, Responding and Analysing
- C. Foundations

Geography

Grade 7 – 8

- A1. Application: Interrelationships between People and the Physical Environment
- A2. Inquiry: Investigating Physical Features and Processes

Grade 9

- A1. Geographic Inquiry
- B1. The Physical Environment and Human Activities
- B3. The Characteristics of Canada's Natural Environment
- D. Changing Populations
- E2. Impacts of Urban Growth

History

Grade 7 – 8

- A2. Inquiry: Perspectives in the New Nation
- A3. Understanding Historical Context: Events and Their Consequences





Online Resources

EXPLORE

GTA24 Publication (available for purchase [online](#) and at MOCA)

LISTEN

Aki's Echo audio walking tour on the [artist's website](#)

READ

Read more about each *GTA24* artist and view more images on the [exhibition website](#)

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