

Art Museum
University of Toronto
—
Justina M. Barnicke Gallery
University of Toronto Art Centre

7 Hart House Circle
Toronto, Ontario M5S 3H3
artmuseum.utoronto.ca

Art Museum

For Immediate Release

Ameen Ahmed receives the 2020 Reesa Greenberg Curatorial Studies Award



Toronto, May 26, 2020—It is our great pleasure to announce the 6th Annual Recipient of the Reesa Greenberg Curatorial Studies Award, **Ameen Ahmed**. The \$5,000 Award recognizes exceptional work by a student in the first semester of Graduate Studies in the Master of Visual Studies (MVS) Curatorial Studies program. Adjudicated annually by visual arts and curatorial faculty at the Daniels Faculty at the University of Toronto, past recipients include cheyanne

turions (2015), Jenn Goodwin (2016), Christophe Barbeau (2017), Kathleen Whiteway (2018), and Yuluo Wei (2019).

About Ameen Ahmed

Ameen Ahmed grew up in Bangalore, India, and moved to Toronto in 2012 to study architecture and visual studies in the undergraduate program at the Daniels Faculty. After graduating, he entered the Masters of Visual Studies in Curatorial Studies program. His current research interests

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revolve around "magic", which he describes as the use of the rhetoric and methods of religion and myth by corporate agents of "progress" and "development". This is part of his larger interest in storytelling tools that metaphorically and literally transform reality, whether these stories are disseminated through visual, museological, or architectural means.

About the Award

The Reesa Greenberg Curatorial Studies Award was created by internationally renowned scholar on museums and exhibition studies, Reesa Greenberg, for the benefit of the students in the MVS Curatorial Studies Program and for the benefit of the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery at Hart House, which is today part of the Art Museum at the University of Toronto. Greenberg's donation provides an annual monetary award of \$5,000 as well as an additional biannual award of \$10,000 in support of international travel or a paid-internship position of students in the MVS Curatorial Studies Program in the Daniels Faculty at UofT.

About Reesa Greenberg

Reesa Greenberg is an art historian, independent scholar and museum consultant whose research focuses on exhibitions and display. She has consulted on exhibitions and installations for the Art Gallery of Ontario, the Edmonton Art Gallery, the Jewish Museum in Amsterdam and *Mirroring Evil* at the Jewish Museum in New York. She is best known as co-editor (with Bruce Ferguson and Sandy Nairne) of *Thinking About Exhibitions*, Routledge (1996) and the author of numerous

articles on exhibition presentation and politics. Her recent research examines the web as an exhibition space. An alumnus of the University of Toronto Art History program, she is an Adjunct Professor at both Carleton University, Ottawa, and York University, Toronto.

About the Master of Visual Studies Curatorial Studies Program

Initiated in 2008, the Curatorial Studies stream is part of the Master of Visual Studies program at the Daniels Faculty at the University of Toronto. Critically sustained by the wide-ranging offerings of the Faculty and the University, students immerse in recent developments in the visual arts, theory, and critical writing in an interdisciplinary context to support their research interests and curatorial engagement. In particular, the course of study focuses on the presentational paradigm shifts arising from the diverse and complex modes of contemporary art – its engagement with material and historical artefacts to installation, from image, text, and sound art to performance and digital media – within the broader context of contemporary global culture.

The internationally distinguished program benefits from its direct relation to the Art Museum at the University of Toronto. Mentored by its curatorial and professional team, students engage with multiple facets of the operations of the museum throughout their academic work, including career-enhancing experiential learning opportunities such as work-study

positions, internships, and curatorial residencies. Most significantly, students produce their own final project with the full support of the Art Museum's resources and in the context of its public programming in the downtown core of Canada's most diverse and largest city.

With an outstanding history of accomplishments of Graduating students' exhibitions, graduates of the program continually achieve successful curatorial careers and institutional positions in Canada and internationally. They include directorial, curatorial and related positions at the Art Gallery of Ontario, the Vancouver Art Gallery, the Power Plant, the Art Gallery of York University, the Art Gallery of Southwestern Manitoba, the Esker Foundation and many others art institutions across Canada and around the world.

Recent examples of MVS Curatorial Studies Exhibitions:

- <http://artmuseum.utoronto.ca/exhibition/rehearsal-objects-lie-table/>
- <http://artmuseum.utoronto.ca/exhibition/talking-back-otherwise/>
- <http://artmuseum.utoronto.ca/exhibition/morning-star/>
- <http://artmuseum.utoronto.ca/exhibition/far-near-distances-us/>
- <http://artmuseum.utoronto.ca/exhibition/2017-university-toronto-mvs-curatorial-program-graduating-exhibition/>

- <https://artmuseum.utoronto.ca/exhibition/sovereign-acts/>
- <https://artmuseum.utoronto.ca/exhibition/why-cant-minimal/>
- <https://artmuseum.utoronto.ca/exhibition/common-place-common-place/>
- <https://artmuseum.utoronto.ca/program/what-do-we-mean-when-we-say-content-moderation/>

More information about the program can be found here:
<https://www.daniels.utoronto.ca/programs/graduate/master-visual-studies-curatorial-studies>

Application information can be found here:
<https://www.daniels.utoronto.ca/admissions/graduate/master-visual-studies-admission-requirements>

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