

The Performance
of Shadows
September 6—
November 25, 2023

Art
Museum

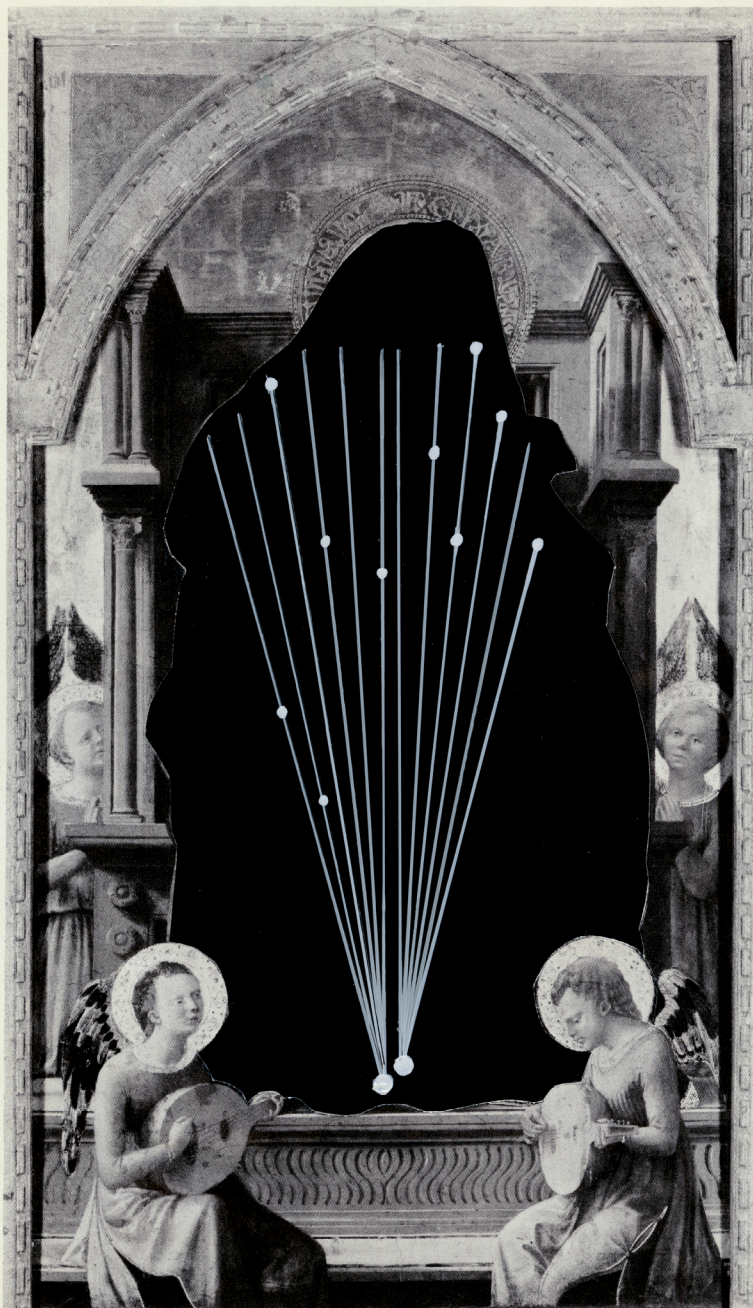
Works by

Betye Saar, Tim Whiten, Erika DeFreitas

Curated by Lillian O'Brien Davis

Presented in partnership with the
School of Art Gallery, University of
Manitoba with the generous support
of Michael F. B. Nesbitt.

[642]



The Performance of Shadows

Cover: Erika DeFreitas,
scores on a colourless blue
no. 24 (after Scotch Blue),
2021/2023, inkjet print on
Hahnemühle, 24" x 36".
Courtesy of the artist.

Right: Betye Saar,
The Messiah, 1993,
mixed media assemblage.
Courtesy of the artist
and Roberts Projects,
Los Angeles, California.



In *The Performance of Shadows*, artists embrace intuitive intelligence, working to connect with what lies beyond our immediate experience of reality and expanding our perception of the world.

The Performance of Shadows explores intuition as a condition of consciousness. This exhibition considers three artists' various approaches involving phenomenology, spirituality and political engagement presenting expansive understandings of existence.

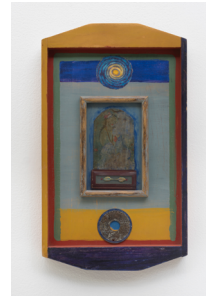
Betye Saar's assemblage work, which has been increasingly influenced by her rising political consciousness since the 1960s, consists of objects carrying their own history and meaning, selected for their "ancestral, ritual, autobiographical, nostalgic and historical" aura. In Saar's work, time is cyclical, linking the artist and viewers of her work with generations of people who came before them. Saar uses assemblage and found materials to link history and experiences, emotion and knowledge, travelling across time and back again.

Tim Whiten bridges material and spiritual experiences that encourage "sensing" over "reading." Whiten investigates consciousness and its role in the constitution of meaning. Informed by a deep generosity, his work seeks to connect to others through its experience.

Erika DeFreitas's practice emphasizes process, the body and paranormal phenomena, using primarily lens-based media to reflect on feelings of love and loss. DeFreitas explores the miraculous as a way of considering that which is beyond our comprehension; through simple gestures, she seeks to make perceptible the intangible and invisible. The divine feminine is a consistent presence in DeFreitas's work, understood by the artist as a connective energy passing through space and time.

Process is key to the works in the exhibition. All three artists embrace various manifestations of intuitive intelligence, working to connect with what lies beyond our immediate experience of reality. Objects and materiality function as transmitters for memory, experience, and consciousness. Meaning and significance cannot be fully experienced through objectivity alone. The artists in *The Performance of Shadows* nurture intuitive practices that expand our perception of the world.

Artworks



Betye Saar
The Messiah, 1993
mixed-media assemblage
Courtesy of the artist and
Roberts Projects, Los Angeles,
California.



Tim Whiten
Respite, 2019
crushed resourced glass, wood,
gel medium, Aqua-Resin, and
acrylic paint, 10" x 30" x 12"
Photo: Toni Hafkenscheid.
Courtesy of the artist.



Tim Whiten
Hallelujah I, 2014
lilac branches, umbrella handle,
58" x 72" x 12"
Photo: Toni Hafkenscheid.
Courtesy of the artist.



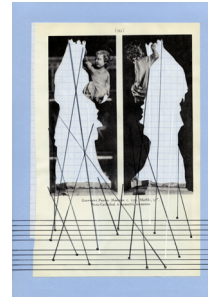
Tim Whiten
*Book of Light: Containing Poetry
from the Heart of God*, 2015-2019
handcrafted crystal clear glass,
fragments of drawings, and oak,
46.5" x 28" x 15"
Photo: Toni Hafkenscheid.
Courtesy of Olga Kolper Gallery.



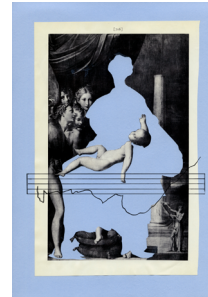
Erika DeFreitas
*as it is, or even, perhaps a
recitation and emigration*, 2020
single-channel video, colour,
sound, 06:11 minutes
Courtesy of the artist.



Erika DeFreitas
*she looms in the resemblance
 should it be so anxious*, 2020
 single-channel video, colour,
 no sound, 03:05 minutes
 Courtesy of the artist.



Erika DeFreitas
*scores on a colourless blue no.
 28 (after Azure Blue)*, 2021/2023
 inkjet print on Hahnemühle,
 24" x 36"
 Courtesy of the artist.



Erika DeFreitas
*scores on a colourless blue no. 29
 (after Ultramarine Blue)*, 2021/2023
 inkjet print on Hahnemühle,
 24" x 36"
 Courtesy of the artist.



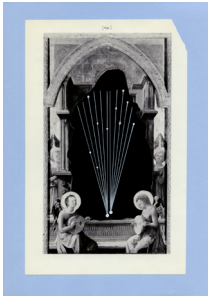
Erika DeFreitas
*scores on a colourless blue no. 32
 (after Verditter Blue)*, 2021/2023
 inkjet print on Hahnemühle,
 24" x 36"
 Courtesy of the artist.



Erika DeFreitas
*scores on a colourless blue no. 34
 (after Greyish Blue)*, 2021/2023
 inkjet print on Hahnemühle,
 24" x 36"
 Courtesy of the artist.



Suzanne Bauman
*Spirit Catcher: The Art of
 Betye Saar* (still), 1977
 film
 Courtesy of Suzanne Bauman
 Films.



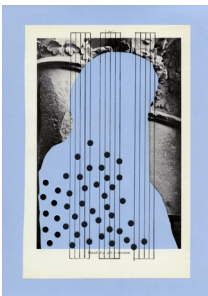
Erika DeFreitas
*scores on a colourless blue no. 24
 (after Scotch Blue)*, 2021/2023
 inkjet print on Hahnemühle,
 24" x 36"
 Courtesy of the artist.



Erika DeFreitas
*scores on a colourless blue no. 25
 (after Prussian Blue)*, 2021/2023
 inkjet print on Hahnemühle,
 24" x 36"
 Courtesy of the artist.



Erika DeFreitas
*scores on a colourless blue no. 26
 (after Indigo Blue)*, 2021/2023
 inkjet print on Hahnemühle,
 24" x 36"
 Courtesy of the artist.



Erika DeFreitas
*scores on a colourless blue no. 27
 (after China Blue)*, 2021/2023
 inkjet print on Hahnemühle,
 24" x 36"
 Courtesy of the artist.

Public Programs

Opening Reception

Wednesday, September 6, 6pm–8pm
Justina M. Barnicke Gallery

Curatorial Tour with
Lillian O'Brien Davis

Saturday, October 7, 2pm–3pm
Justina M. Barnicke Gallery

All programs are free and open to all.
For more information and to register,
visit artmuseum.utoronto.ca/programs/

Exhibition Tours

The Art Museum offers in-person guided
exhibition tours for classes and groups.
For more information or to book a tour,
email artmuseum@utoronto.ca.

Staff

Barbara Fischer, Executive Director/
Chief Curator
Mikinaak Migwans, Curator, Indigenous Art
Mona Filip, Curator
Liz Ikiriko, Curator, Collections and Art in
Public Spaces
Marianne Rellin, Communications Coordinator
Jessica Ho, Collections Coordinator
Micah Donovan, Exhibitions and Projects
Coordinator
Daniel Hunt, Assistant Coordinator,
Exhibitions and Projects
Melody Lu, Operations Assistant
Nicole Cartier Barrera, Digital
Communications Assistant
Fatma Yehia, Assistant Archivist

Brand Design: Underline Studio
Copy Editor: Hana Nikčević
Printing: Andora Graphics

Visiting the Art Museum

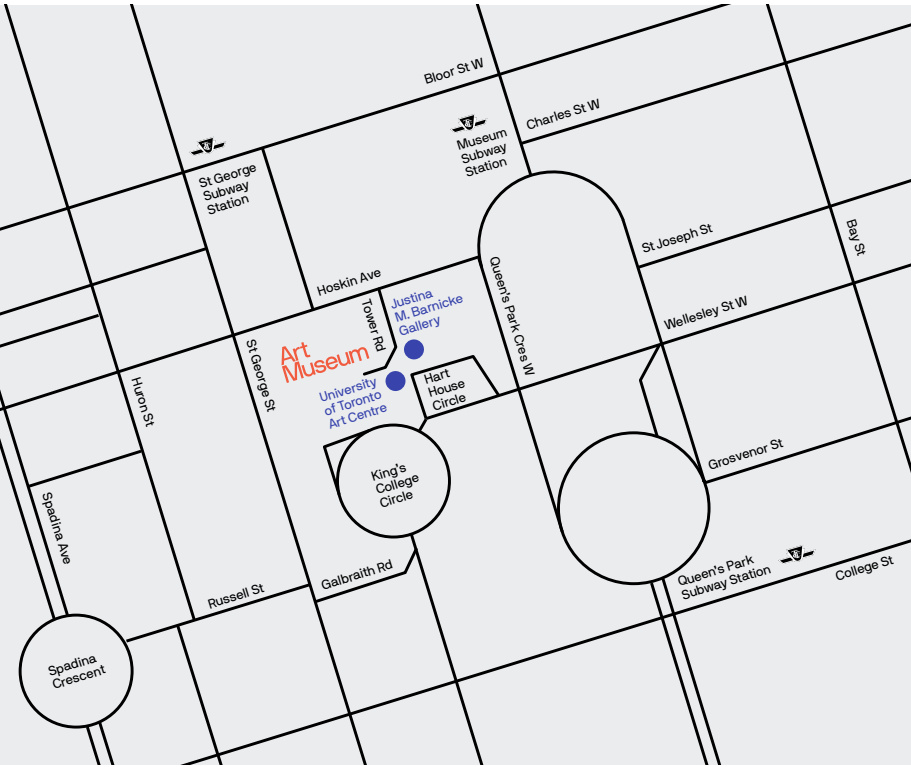
Justina M. Barnicke Gallery
7 Hart House Circle
Toronto, Ontario M5S 3H3

University of Toronto Art Centre
15 King's College Circle
Toronto, Ontario M5S 3H7

artmuseum@utoronto.ca
artmuseum.utoronto.ca
[@artmuseumuoft](https://www.instagram.com/artmuseumuoft)
416-978-8398

| | |
|-----------|-------------|
| Tuesday | 12 noon–5pm |
| Wednesday | 12 noon–8pm |
| Thursday | 12 noon–5pm |
| Friday | 12 noon–5pm |
| Saturday | 12 noon–5pm |
| Sunday | Closed |
| Monday | Closed |

Closed on statutory holidays.
Admission is FREE.



Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des Arts
du Canada



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO
an Ontario government agency
un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario



TORONTO
ARTS
COUNCIL
FUNDED BY
THE CITY OF
TORONTO



University of
Manitoba | School of Art
Gallery

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



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO

HartHouse



UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE