

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

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Art Museum

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Art Museum at the University of Toronto presents *Immaterial Architecture (online)*, a series of newly commissioned projects for the screen-space

Toronto, October 15, 2020—The Art Museum at the University of Toronto presents *Immaterial Architecture (online)*, a series of newly commissioned projects specially conceived for the screen-space. Curated by **Yan Wu**, the series features four new works by five artists: **Oliver Husain, Maïder Fortuné and Annie MacDonell, Jon Sasaki, and Skawennati**. The projects will launch on the Art Museum’s website **every Thursday starting October 29 until November 19, 2020**.

Over the course of the past few months, in the midst of an unprecedented global social experiment, the screen-space has become the controlling facet of our lives, combining domestic and work space into one. Already a mainstay of everyday life, the screen’s function has expanded to become a portal, a lifeline, a primary means to exchange and to connect with others. In the art world, for the first time in its history, the screen has become the almost-exclusive interface for reaching its audience.

The works in *Immaterial Architecture (online)* reflect on this exceptional moment, guiding and luring us into the medium that, for the time being, shapes almost all of our relations.

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“With our social life precariously altered and our bodies still adjusting to mandated, physical distance, the museum's conventional medium of physical space has dematerialized. Media artists have long worked in this sphere, but not under the present conditions,” says Barbara Fischer, Executive Director and Chief Curator at the Art Museum. *“I am excited to be able to share the Art Museum's first, specially commissioned series of screen-space works, in which five artists consider our digital habitat through the lens of their particular interests and attentiveness. The four projects cast a spectral lens, critical and hopeful at once, recovering immaterial traces from history and, amidst the turmoil of a precarious present, send signals from the future.”*

Immaterial Architecture (online) is presented by the Art Museum at the University of Toronto as part of the **Virtual Art Museum**, a series of experiments in the virtual space launched in response to the COVID-19 closure of the museum's physical spaces.

ABOUT THE PROJECTS

Thursday, October 29, 7pm (Live)

Oliver Husain, *Streamy Windows*

A real-time experimental choreography from our garages live to your kitchen. Doors, windows, passages form a set of rules for dancers and performers to move, press, dip and stretch through and against. Reassembling the cast and crew of his film *French*

Exit (2018)—Megumi Kokuba, Charlie Diaz, Anni Spadafora, Iris Ng, Vanessa Magic and Matt Smith—Oliver Husain invites viewers to join a public television style variety show, featuring multiple channels, digital glitches, vertical blinds, and virtual puppets.

Thursday, November 5, 12 noon to 9pm (Live)
Maider Fortuné and Annie MacDonell,
OUTHERE (for Lee Lozano)

In July 1971, Lee Lozano gave a talk at NSCAD called “The Halifax 3 State Experiment.” Stretching over eight hours and across multiple locations, Lozano delivered the lecture in three states—sober, stoned on weed, and high on LSD. On November 5th, the ninetieth anniversary of Lozano’s birth, the artists revisit this event to burn a Lee-sized wormhole in the time/space continuum. The event will happen in three time-states: synchronous, asynchronous, and polysynchronous.

In advance of the livestream of *OUTHERE (for Lee Lozano)*, [sign up](#) to receive a package of reference materials.

Thursday, November 12, 7pm
Jon Sasaki, *Open 24 Hours*

Through Upwork, a virtual platform connecting freelancers and clients, Jon Sasaki commissioned 24 videographers from around the world to produce a one-hour self-portrait, for a fee of \$100 USD. The resulting 24 videos will be uploaded to Vimeo, viewable around the clock. The life of a freelancer can be difficult and precarious at the best of times. Here, freelancers

give us a glimpse into their worlds under COVID-19, showing us the things that are important to them.

Thursday, November 19, 7pm
Skawennati, *Greetings from Skyworld*

In Skawennati's 2017 movie *She Falls For Ages*, a sci-fi retelling of the Haudenosaunee creation story, Skyworld is headed for doom. In the hope of saving their kind, a brave woman journeys through a portal and lands on Earth. In *Greetings from Skyworld*, Skawennati imagines that the planet somehow survived and its citizens—our ancestors—have been looking for us ever since. This short, looping, machinima without dialogue relays their message when they find us.

For more information, visit:
artmuseum.utoronto.ca/exhibition/immaterial-architecture-online/

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About the Art Museum at the University of Toronto:

The Art Museum is one of the largest gallery spaces for visual art exhibitions and programming in Toronto. The Art Museum organizes and presents an intensive year-round program of exhibitions and events that foster—at a local, regional, and international level—innovative research, interdisciplinary scholarship, and knowledge of art and its histories befitting Canada's leading university and the country's largest city.

About Yan Wu:

Born in Shanghai, now based in Toronto, Yan Wu is an independent curator, translator, and Public Art Curator of the City of Markham. She was the Curator-in-Residence (2016-17) at the Art Museum at the University of Toronto and the Assistant Curator of the inaugural Shanghai Urban Space Art Season in 2015. In 2013, she co-curated the Canada Pavilion with Janine Marchessault at the 5th Bi-city Urbanism\Architecture Biennale in Shenzhen China. Since 2015, Wu has co-translated the Chinese translation of Rosalind Krauss's *Passages in Modern Sculpture*, Lucy Lippard's *Six Years*, Dan Graham's *Rock My Religion*, John Cage's *Not Wanting to say anything about Marcel*, and *Formless* by Yves-Alain Bois and Rosalind Krauss.

Our Supporters

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