

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

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artmuseum.utoronto.ca

Art Museum

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Art Museum at the University of Toronto presents the 2020 University of Toronto MVS Curatorial Studies Graduating Projects

Toronto, October 29, 2020—The Art Museum at the University of Toronto is proud to present the graduating projects of the **2020 Master of Visual Studies Curatorial Studies program students, Xenia Benivolski, Fatma Yehia, and Yuluo Wei.** The three distinct curatorial projects explore a range of concerns, from what it means to create art outside the canon, artists' consideration of the “militarization” of everyday life, to the re-interpretation of the mythical in a contemporary context.

The projects will be on view in the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery and in the University of Toronto Art Centre from **October 28 to November 21, 2020.**

The exhaustive thought is the first Canadian solo exhibition of the work of outsider artist **Zanis Waldheims.** Born in Latvia in 1909, Waldheims immigrated to Montreal, Canada in 1952, where he lived his life in relative isolation. There he created a world of diagrams: a series of 604 meticulously rendered pencil drawings illustrating a “map for human orientation.” By presenting disparate sciences and humanities as facets of one massive intellectual prism, Waldheims understood art as a tool for reflecting on conceptual structures. His graphic works illustrate how different systems of knowledge are relative to

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each other, and the very idea of what it means to be making art outside the canon. Curated by Xenia Benivolski, *The exhaustive thought* presents a selection of Waldheims' drawings and writings.

Overt: Militarization as Ideology examines the ways in which artists have engaged aesthetically with the concept and condition of militarization. Through video, film, drawings, and installation-based works by **Harun Farocki, Hajra Waheed, Hiwa K, James Bridle, Lawrence Abu Hamdan, and Lamis Haggag**, *Overt* highlights the human-technological relationships that have been amplified due to the ever-intensifying intrusion of military research in everyday life. Curated by Fatma Yehia, the exhibition interweaves two worlds—the Middle East and the West—and urges visitors to think of militarization as an ideology shaping our lives in different parts of the world.

If a Turtle Could Talk features large-scale installations and video works by **Ed Pien, An'Xiong Qiu, and Xiaojing Yan**—three artists who share an interest in mythical creatures as a way of understanding ourselves and the world we live in today, differently. The exhibition is accompanied by curator Yuluo Wei's story of Papa Turtle; together, the works and the story create a confluence of narratives that blur the distinction between reality and fiction. *If a Turtle Could Talk* produces a spellbinding environment and invites visitors to delve into the richness of imaginary worlds across diverse worldviews.

These projects are produced as part of the requirements for the MVS degree in Curatorial Studies at the John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design, University of Toronto.

Zanis Waldheims: The exhaustive thought

October 28 – November 21, 2020

University of Toronto Art Centre

Curated by Xenia Benivolski

artmuseum.utoronto.ca/exhibition/zanis-waldheims-the-exhaustive-thought/

If a Turtle Could Talk

October 28 – November 21, 2020

Justina M. Barnicke Gallery

Curated by Yuluo Wei

artmuseum.utoronto.ca/exhibition/if-a-turtle-could-talk/

This exhibition supported by Penglai Guo.

Overt: Militarization as Ideology

October 28 – November 21, 2020

University of Toronto Art Centre

Curated by Fatma Yehia

artmuseum.utoronto.ca/exhibition/overt-militarization-as-ideology/

This exhibition is supported by the Goethe-Institut Toronto, the Ontario Arts Council, the Germanic Languages and Literatures

Department, and the Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations
Department at the University of Toronto.

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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 the Master of Visual Studies Curatorial Studies Program:

Initiated in 2008, the Curatorial Studies stream in the MVS program at the University of Toronto is currently in its 13th year. Embedded within a rich environment of study, teaching assistantships, internships and mentorship within the internationally renowned Daniels Faculty and the Art Museum at the University of Toronto, 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 program focuses on the presentational challenges arising from the diverse and complex modes of contemporary art—from material and historical artefacts to installation, from performance to image,

text, sound, and digital media—within the broader context of contemporary global culture. Significantly, the program offers students the opportunity to produce their own Graduating Exhibition for public presentation within the professional context and support of the Art Museum on the downtown campus of the University of Toronto, and at the centre of Canada’s largest city.

The highly respected degree affords students access to a sustained professional network and mentorships. With an outstanding history of accomplishments of Graduating students’ exhibitions, graduates of our 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 MacKenzie Art Gallery, the Toronto Biennial of Art, the Esker Foundation and many other art institutions across Canada and around the world.

Our Supporters

The MVS Curatorial Studies Program gratefully acknowledges the generous support of Reesa Greenberg through the Reesa Greenberg Curatorial Studies Awards. The Art Museum gratefully acknowledges operating support from the Canada Council for the Arts and the Ontario Arts Council, with additional project support from TD Insurance.

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