

Art Museum
University of Toronto
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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 and the Jackman Humanities Institute present *Birds of a Feather*

Toronto, October 29, 2020—In conjunction with the Jackman Humanities Institute’s 2020-2021 theme of *Collectives*, the Art Museum at the University of Toronto is pleased to announce the exhibition ***Birds of a Feather***. Curated by the Master of Visual Studies Curatorial Studies student **Ameen Ahmed**, the exhibition consists of fourteen works from the Art Museum’s permanent collections selected as direct responses to the research of the 2020-2021 Jackman Humanities Institute (JHI) Fellows. The works represent different forms of commonality and collectivity, incorporation and inclusion, and history and historiography.

The exhibition will remain at the Jackman Humanities Institute until **June 25, 2021**, and we hope to be able to welcome visitors in person as soon as COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

Birds of a Feather addresses the complex and multi-layered nature of collective social forms—from political parties, protests, fan groups, sports teams, and online groups. The works address the JHI Fellows and their work, offering tools, commentary, opinion, context, and hope through visual or conceptual means. The works also address each other, introducing voices and points of view that enrich our understanding of collectivity.

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The exhibition brings together well-known and rarely seen works from the Hart House Collection, the University of Toronto Art Collection, and the University College Collection, by artists such as **Shuvinai Ashoona, Carl Beam, Jean Bridge, Lynn Cohen, Carole Condé and Karl Beveridge, Jérôme Havre, Rita Letendre, Divya Mehra, Shelley Niro, Jessie Oonark, Gordon Peteran, Jaan Poldas, Jeff Thomas, and Joyce Wieland.** Together, the works prompt us to think about group dynamics and agency—of collectives, of individuals, and of individuals in collectives.

For more information, visit
artmuseum.utoronto.ca/exhibition/birds-of-a-feather/

Visiting Information:

Jackman Humanities Institute
170 George Street, 10th floor

Due to COVID-19, there are currently no scheduled public visiting hours to the *Birds of a Feather* exhibition. For updates, please visit artmuseum.utoronto.ca

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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 Master of Visual Studies in Curatorial Studies program. His current research interests 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. Ameen is the recipient of the 2020 Reesa Greenberg Curatorial Studies Award at the University of Toronto.

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 Jackman Humanities Institute

The Jackman Humanities Institute advances humanities scholarship, generates interdisciplinary ways to understand human experience, and provides opportunities for scholars to learn from each other by creating new research and study networks (both virtual and physical) that complement and go beyond the mandates of individual disciplines; providing

funding to faculty members to bring arts and humanities out of the classroom and into the public domain through events and exhibitions; offering scholarships to students and faculty at all career stages from all three University of Toronto campuses and other universities. The JHI enables humanities research to reach outside the university walls and engage with the wider public.

Our Supporters:

The Art Museum gratefully acknowledges the operating support from the Canada Council for the Arts and the Ontario Arts Council, with additional project support from the Jackman Humanities Institute.

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