

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 announces the book launch of *Form Follows Fiction: Art and Artists in Toronto*, by Luis Jacob

Toronto, November 24, 2020—The Art Museum is excited to share the book launch and release of our long-awaited book, *Form Follows Fiction: Art and Artists in Toronto*. The launch will take place on Saturday, November 28 and will be hosted by Art Metropole online, with a talk by Luis Jacob, followed by a conversation with Emelie Chhangur, Katie Lawson, and Wanda Nanibush, which will be moderated by Parker Kay.

In *Form Follows Fiction: Art and Artists in Toronto*, internationally renowned Toronto-based artist, writer, and curator Luis Jacob considers the ways in which artists visualize Toronto throughout a period of fifty years.

How do artists in Toronto visualize their sense of place? Are there particular ‘made-in-Toronto’ ways of thinking about the city?

Presenting a thematic clustering of works by 86 artists, the richly illustrated book is premised on the tendency of artists in the city to favour performative and allegorical procedures to articulate their sense of place.

Four gestures—mapping, modelling, performing and congregating—serve as guideposts to a diverse array of artistic

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practices. The book is a constellation of symbolic forms, or memes, that repeatedly appear in the work of artists of different generations; it presents a panorama of the blueprints that artists have drafted over many decades to give form to life in one of North America's largest cities.

The book features work by artists such as Deanna Bowen, General Idea, Suzy Lake, Kent Monkman, Ed Pien, Roula Partheniou and Michael Snow, among many others. It includes historical documents gathered from local archives, as well as contemporary ephemera.

**Book Launch: Form Follows Fiction: Art and Artists in Toronto, by Luis Jacob**  
Saturday, November 28, 3pm

Luis Jacob  
In conversation with Emelie Chhangur, Katie Lawson, and Wanda Nanibush  
Moderated by Parker Kay.  
[Register here.](#)

~~\$64.95~~ \$50 Special Launch Price  
28 × 23 cm | 11 × 9 in  
227 ills | 240 pages  
978-1-912165-27-8  
Hardback  
Contributor: Luis Jacob  
With a foreword by Barbara Fischer  
Published by Black Dog Press

Signed copies of the book are available at Art Metropole for the limited time of the Launch, at a special book launch price (20% off).

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**Luis Jacob** is a Peruvian-born Toronto-based artist and curator whose work destabilizes conventions of viewing and invites a collision of meanings. He studied semiotics and philosophy at the University of Toronto. Since his participation in documenta 12, Kassel, 2007, he has achieved an international reputation with exhibitions at venues such as: Museum der Moderne Salzburg, 2019; Württembergischer Kunstverein Stuttgart, 2019; Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, 2018; Museion Bolzano, 2017; La Biennale de Montréal, 2016; Tanya Bonakdar Gallery, New York City, 2015; Taipei Biennial, 2012; Generali Foundation, Vienna, 2011; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York City, 2010; Kunstverein in Hamburg, 2008; and Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery, 2008.

**Emelie Chhangur** is a curator, writer, and an artist. She is the newly appointed Director and Curator of the Agnes Etherington Art Centre. This appointment follows a significant curatorial career at the Art Gallery of York University (AGYU). At AGYU, she led the reorientation of the gallery to become a civic, community-facing, ethical space driven by social process and intersectional collaboration and received 25 OAAG awards for her contributions in writing, publishing, exhibition-making, and public and education programming. In 2019, she won the

Ontario Association of Art Galleries' inaugural BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Colour) Changemaker Award and in 2020, she won the prestigious Hnatyshyn Foundation Award for Curatorial Excellence. She holds a Master of Visual Studies from the Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design, University of Toronto.

**Katie Lawson** is the Assistant Curator at the Toronto Biennial of Art. She is a graduate of the Master of Visual Studies Curatorial program at the University of Toronto, where she previously completed her Master of Arts in Art History. She has held curatorial and programming positions at the Art Gallery of Ontario, Doris McCarthy Gallery, the Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery, bodega (NYC), and the University of Toronto. She maintains a practice as an independent curator, arts educator, and writer working within the tradition of eco- and material feminism(s). She has curated aqueous exhibitions at Y+ Contemporary, Scarborough; RYMD, Reykjavik; the Art Museum, Toronto; and the Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto. She was the Art Editor for the Hart House Review from 2016-2019.

**Wanda Nanibush** is an Anishinaabe-kwe image and word warrior, curator, and community organizer from Beausoleil First Nation. Currently Nanibush is the inaugural curator of Indigenous art and co-head of the Indigenous + Canadian Art department at the Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO). Nanibush's recent, touring exhibitions include *Rebecca Belmore: Facing the Monumental* (AGO), *Sovereign Acts* (Art Museum at the University of Toronto), and *Nanabozho's Sisters* (Dalhousie Art Gallery). Nanibush has a Master of Visual Studies from

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University of Toronto where she has taught graduate courses. On top of many catalogue essays, Nanibush has published widely on Indigenous art, politics, history, and feminism and sexuality.

**Parker Kay** is an artist and writer living in Toronto. He is also sometimes known as Pumice Raft.

**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.

**Our Supporters**



*Form Follows Fiction: Art and Artists in Toronto* is the Recipient of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Award from the Toronto Friends of the Visual Arts.

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The [Toronto Friends of the Visual Arts](#) is an independent, non-profit organization, founded in 1998, by a small group of energetic, like-minded Toronto residents dedicated to the flourishing visual arts scene in Toronto.



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