

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

# Art Museum

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## The Art Museum at the University of Toronto presents the 2021 MVS Studio Program Graduating Exhibition

Toronto, May 18, 2021—The Art Museum at the University of Toronto is pleased to exhibit the 2021 University of Toronto Master of Visual Studies (MVS) Studio Program Graduating Exhibition, featuring new works by graduate students **Oscar Alfonso, Simon Fuh, Matt Nish-Lapidus, and Sophia Oppel**. The virtual exhibition of their graduating projects documents the work by Fuh, Nish-Lapidus, and Oppel presented in the Daniels Building and its Architecture and Design Gallery, and acts as a portal to Alfonso's reading-performances and digital publication.

The virtual exhibition launches at [visualstudies.net](http://visualstudies.net) on **Thursday, May 20, 2021**, and will be on view through **Thursday, July 1**.

This exhibition is produced as part of the requirements for the MVS degree in Visual Studies at the John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design, University of Toronto.

### ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**Oscar Alfonso** works with text, digital media, and installations. His writing, *No estoy seguro en nuestros nombres / I'm not sure I*

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*remember all of our names* involves the collection of stories from their relations—family, friends, mentors, colleagues, adopted aunts, and the occasional hook-up—all are brought together to share and inherit knowledge to a cluster of avocado trees. Born *en La Ciudad de México* and raised in Vancouver, Alfonso's practice focuses on reconstructing a relationship to home. He is currently reflecting on what it means to 'be away' and on who is not *here*.

**Simon Fuh** is an artist and writer that frequently makes temporary installations and collaborative projects that prod at both the potential and banality of being and thinking together. His research for the past year has focused on social memory and parties—in particular, how remembering together can be its own site for becoming. His MVS exhibition presents a two-room immersive sound installation featuring audio of a close friend attempting to give directions to an after-hours venue over the phone while unseen speakers play the sound of dance music heard from the other side of a wall.

**Matt Nish-Lapidus** is an artist, writer, musician, and designer. He makes software, sounds, and texts probing the myth that computers need to be useful rather than beautiful. His current exhibition looks at the relationships between programming languages, computer cultures, poetry, and Kabbalah language mysticism. The installation *A Path* offers a real-time, computational micro-world meditating on the poetics and material of computation through recombination and repetition.

**Sophia Opper** is an interdisciplinary arts practitioner and researcher interested in examining digital interfaces and physical architectures as parallel sites of power. Opper deploys transparent substrates—glass, mirror, and the screen—as a framework to consider the paradoxes of legibility under surveillance capitalism. Opper’s current work, *being both opened up and flattened*, considers both the complicity with, and refusal of, biometric capture on a bodily scale. Referencing the streamlined, clinical aesthetics of airports and luxury retail establishments, the work explores the perverse desire to participate in the flows of commodified self-image.

#### **PUBLIC PROGRAMS**

Reading by Oscar Alfonso

*La lectura / The reading*

Sábado, 5 de Junio, 12:00 mediodía de la Ciudad de México  
hasta tarde

Saturday, June 5, 10:00am PST / 1:00pm EST until late

**For more information, visit**

[artmuseum.utoronto.ca/exhibition/2021-university-of-toronto-mvs-studio-program-graduating-exhibition/](https://artmuseum.utoronto.ca/exhibition/2021-university-of-toronto-mvs-studio-program-graduating-exhibition/)

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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

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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**

We gratefully acknowledge project support from The Valerie Jean Griffiths Student Exhibitions Fund in Memory of William, Elva, and Elizabeth.

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