

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

**The Art Museum at the University of Toronto  
presents *Mnemonic silences, disappearing acts*,  
an exhibition that considers silences, erasure,  
and censorship in queer and trans archives**

*Presented by the Art Museum at the University of Toronto in  
conjunction with the Jackman Humanities Institute's 2023-2024  
research theme, Absence*

Opening Reception: Wednesday, September 13, 4pm–6pm  
Exhibition Dates: September 13–June 21, 2024  
Location: Jackman Humanities Institute

Toronto, ON (August 15, 2023)—The Art Museum is pleased to present *Mnemonic silences, disappearing acts*, an exhibition that grapples with the absences, erasures, and censorships that colour the queer and trans archive, seeking forms of documentation, storytelling, and memory-keeping that serve marginalized communities. Curated by Dallas Fellini, a Master of Visual Studies Curatorial Studies graduate student from the John H. Daniels Faculty of Landscape, Architecture, and Design, the exhibition features installations, prints, and video works and will be on view at the Jackman Humanities Institute from September 13, 2023 to June 21, 2024.

The archive has long been theorized as a structuring force that informs public memory, state narratives, and the making of official history. When trans and queer histories enter the archive, the conditions upon which they are absorbed are often

1 of 6



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those of surveillance, criminalization, coloniality, and degradation. More commonly, however, these histories do not make their way into official archives at all, which results to a fragmented remembering of queer and trans pasts.

The artists in this exhibition draw out the unreliable qualities of stored memory, positioning their work in the spaces where the archive momentarily goes out of focus. Through fiction-making, critical imagining, and revisionism, they gesture at and supplement histories of queer and trans people that are insufficient, compromised, colonial, or simply absent.

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***Mnemonic silences, disappearing acts***

Opening Reception: Wednesday, September 13, 4pm–6pm

Exhibition Dates: September 13–June 21, 2024

Location: Jackman Humanities Institute, 170 St. George Street,  
10th Floor

Works by Kasra Jalilipour, Jordan King, Kama La Mackerel,  
Hazel Meyer and Cait McKinney, and Lan “Florence” Yee

Curated by Dallas Fellini

**Visitor Information**

The exhibition is open to the public during regular business hours: Monday to Friday, 9am–4pm. Please call 416-978-7415 ahead of your visit to make sure that all works are accessible. Since the JHI is a working space, some rooms may be in use. For

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more information, visit the [Jackman Humanities Institute's website](#).

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## **PUBLIC PROGRAMS**

### **Opening Reception**

Wednesday, September 13, 4pm–6pm  
Jackman Humanities Institute  
170 St. George Street, 10th Floor

Free and open to the public.

More information: [artmuseum.utoronto.ca/exhibition/mnemonic-silences-disappearing-acts/](http://artmuseum.utoronto.ca/exhibition/mnemonic-silences-disappearing-acts/)

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## **ABOUT THE CURATOR**

**Dallas Fellini** is a curator, writer, and artist living and working in Toronto. They are a member of Crocus Collective and a co-founder of *Silverfish*, an arts publication devoted to interdisciplinary collaboration, skill-sharing, non-institutional pedagogy, and cultivating sustained dialogue between contemporary artists and writers. Fellini is pursuing a Master of Visual Studies in Curatorial Studies at the University of Toronto. Their curatorial research is situated at the intersection of trans studies and archival studies. ([dallasfellini.com](http://dallasfellini.com))

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## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**Kasra Jalilipour** is an Iranian multidisciplinary artist, writer, and educator based in the UK. Through humour, provocation, and storytelling, their practice uses the body as the subject to discuss race, gender identity and sexuality. They often use methods of speculative fiction to retell historical stories through a queer lens.

**Jordan King** is a Canadian multi-disciplinary artist, curator, and writer engaged in archival research and intergenerational dialogue. Her formative years were spent immersed in nightlife culture which continues to influence her work. Recent projects have included curation of gallery exhibitions, podcasts, short video works, and cabaret performance.

**Kama La Mackerel** is a Mauritian-Canadian multilingual writer, visual artist, performer, educator, and literary translator who believes in love, justice, and self and collective empowerment. Their practice blurs the lines between traditional artistic disciplines to create hybrid aesthetic spaces from which decolonial and queer/trans vocabularies can emerge. At once narratological and theoretical, personal and political, their interdisciplinary method, developed over the past decade, is grounded in ritual, meditation, ancestral healing modalities, auto-ethnography, oral history, archival research, and community-arts facilitation.

**Hazel Meyer** is an artist who works with installation, performance, and text to investigate the relationships between sexuality, infrastructure, and material culture. **Cait McKinney** is a media historian interested in how queer social movements use digital technologies to share information. Meyer and McKinney have been collaborating since 2014 to explore their shared attachment to queer histories and their accessibility through research, writing, video, and archival interventions. Together they take up experimental methods for enlivening archives related to sexuality and LGBTQ history.

**Lan “Florence” Yee** is a visual artist and serial collaborator based in Tkaronto/Toronto and Tiohtià:ke/Mooniyang/Montreal. They collect text in underappreciated places and ferment it until it is too suspicious to ignore. Lan’s work has been exhibited at the Darling Foundry (2022), the Museum of Contemporary Art Toronto (2021), the Art Gallery of Ontario (2020), the Textile Museum of Canada (2020), and the Gardiner Museum (2019), among others. Along with Arezu Salamzadeh, they co-founded the Chinatown Biennial in 2020. They obtained a BFA from Concordia University and an MFA from OCAD U.

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### **About the Art Museum at the University of Toronto**

The Art Museum is one of the largest gallery spaces for contemporary 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

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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 operating support from the Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council, and the Toronto Arts Council.

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