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FALL 2023 PREVIEW

Top ten art shows to see in Toronto this fall

From an island art crawl to a touring Keith Haring show, there's something for all art aficionados in Toronto this fall.

By Sue Carter Special to the Star

Sep 3, 2023

Article was updated Sep 3, 2023



Clockwise from left: Art from Keith Haring, "Art Is for Everybody"; Phyllida Barlow, "Eleven Columns"; Alanis Obomsawin, "The Children Have to Hear Another Story"; "Stories From the Picture Press"; Magdalene Odundo, "A Dialogue With Objects."

TORONTO STAR PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

From global art stars to rising new talents, here are 10 exhibitions and events not to miss this fall.

1. The Children Have to Hear Another Story



Alanis Obomsawin filming "Richard Cardinal: Cry From a Diary of a Métis Child," 1986. Her work is part of "The Children Have to Hear Another Story" at the Art Museum at the University of Toronto.

COURTESY NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA AND THE ARTIST

Acclaimed Abenaki, American and Canadian filmmaker Alanis Obomsawin is internationally recognized for her groundbreaking body of National Film Board documentaries that centre Indigenous lives. This exhibition surveys five decades of this trailblazer's career through a selection of her films, prints, music and other materials, celebrating her influence on new generations of Indigenous artists and storytellers.

When? Sept. 7 to Nov. 25

Where? Art Museum at the University of Toronto

2. Eleven Columns



Phyllida Barlow's "untitled pinkspree," 2018, part of "Eleven Columns" at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Toronto.

GENEVIEVE HANSON / COURTESY HAUSER & WIRTH

British artist Phyllida Barlow, who found art-world success in her mid-60s after retiring as a professor, died in March, at which time she was working on a site-specific installation at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Toronto, inspired by the museum's industrial architecture: specifically the columns that anchor its ground floor. "Eleven columns" is an ode to Barlow, her influences and her sculptural works, constructed with everyday materials such as cardboard, plywood, fabric and cement, which play with space and scale in playful, sometimes shocking ways.

When? Sept. 7 to Feb. 4, 2024

Where? Museum of Contemporary Art, Toronto

3. The Scales That Fall From Our Eyes



A monotype abstract print in dark blue is displayed on white Stonehenge paper and held by the artist's hand behind a sheet of frosted Dura-lar film, blurring the print behind. Part of Olivia Brouwer's "The Scales That Fall From Our Eyes" at Tangled Art and Disability.

COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

While perusing the fall season offerings, this exhibition by Olivia Brouwer made me stop and think deeply about how we conventionally engage with art through visuals. As a partially blind artist, Brouwer draws attention to how inaccessible a gallery can be for those with limited or no sight by incorporating obscured imagery with Braille translations. Brouwer's interdisciplinary works are an opportunity to experience art through other senses such as touch and sound.

When? Sept. 8 to Nov. 3

Where? Tangled Art and Disability

4. Toronto Island Art Crawl



Maurice Vellekoop's Tiny Gallery is part of the Toronto Island Art Crawl.

COURTESY MAURICE VELLEKOOP

This is one of my favourite events of the fall art season — so much so, I hesitate to promote the weekend-long event to ensure my own spot on the ferry. Spend a day leisurely strolling or cycling across Ward's and Algonquin islands, stopping at various homes and makeshift galleries that dot this artist enclave. On Sept. 10, the Ward's Island Clubhouse is hosting an arts market if you want to take some island life back to the city.

When? Sept. 9 to 10

Where? Ward's and Algonquin islands

5. Stories From the Picture Press



Doris Heydn's "Untitled (Little girl selling calaveras [sugar skulls], Day of the Dead, Mexico)," 1942, part of "Stories From the Picture Press."

BLACK STAR COLLECTION / THE IMAGE CENTRE

Between the proliferation of AI-generated imagery and Meta banning access to Canadian media outlets in response to the federal government's Online News Act, this exhibition at Toronto Metropolitan University's Image Centre is both timely and urgent. Highlighting more than 35 stories about historic events and personalities, this show featuring archival photos from Black Star Publishing and the Canadian Press highlights the vital role photojournalism has played throughout the 20th century.

When? Sept. 13 to April 6, 2024

Where? Image Centre

6. Gallery Weekend Toronto, and 7. Nuit Blanche



Divya Mehra's sculptural installation "A Practical Guide," to be part of Toronto's Nuit Blanche.

NIGHT GALLERY LOS ANGELES

Set aside the fourth weekend of September as the Contemporary Art Galleries Association returns with the third edition of Gallery Weekend Toronto, featuring 25 galleries exhibiting more than 70 artists. Take advantage of three curated routes or meander through all the shows, plus talks, receptions, tours and even tarot readings. Save some energy because the all-night art party Nuit Blanche happens on Sept. 23 with a new curatorial team and theme. "Breaking Ground" touches on the impacts of climate change, urban development and our collective responsibility to steward the land.

When? Sept. 21 to 24

Where? Various venues across the city

8. A Dialogue With Objects



Magdalene Odundo's hand-coiled ceramic objects speak to a legacy of female sub-Saharan African pottery-makers. She makes her Canadian debut at the Gardiner Museum.

CRISTIAN BARNETT PHOTOGRAPHY

Celebrated Kenyan-British potter Magdalene Odundo makes her Canadian debut at the Gardiner with her largest North American exhibition to date. Odundo's stunning hand-coiled ceramic objects, with their curvaceous forms and unique finishes, speak to a legacy of female sub-Saharan African

pottery-makers. Odundo's sought-after sculptures will be showcased alongside works from other local cultural institutions and private collections.

When? Oct. 19 to April 21, 2024

Where? Gardiner Museum

9. Art Toronto



Marion Scott Gallery's booth at Art Toronto 2022. Even if you're not in the market to buy, the fair is always an entertaining outing and great for people watching.

ART TORONTO

While the mandate of Art Toronto is to connect artists and gallerists with potential buyers and collectors, the annual art fair has expanded its programming to highlight more emerging talents and find new ways to promote Canadian artists. A highlight this year will be the fair's Focus exhibition, led by curatorial heavyweight Kitty Scott, pulling together works from artists represented by Art Toronto galleries, all available for purchase. Even if you're not in the market, the fair is always an entertaining outing and great for people watching.

When? Oct. 26 to 29

Where? Metro Toronto Convention Centre

10. Art Is for Everybody



Keith Haring's "Untitled," 1982, part of "Art Is for Everybody" at the Art Gallery of Ontario.

DOUGLAS M. PARKER STUDIO / COURTESY OF THE BROAD ART FOUNDATION/KEITH HARING FOUNDATION

Following major retrospectives of work by Jean-Michel Basquiat in 2015 and Andy Warhol in 2021, the Art Gallery of Ontario completes its trinity of Manhattan art stars with the only Canadian stop on this touring Keith Haring show. The exhibition showcases more than 120 works centring Haring's much replicated bold iconography and how he infused social activism into his art. To get in the Studio 54 mood, I highly recommend listening to "Keith Haring's Mixtapes" playlist on Spotify, a digitized archive of the beloved artist's favourite music.

When? Nov. 8 to March 17, 2024

Where? Art Gallery of Ontario

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