

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’s new exhibition unveils the invisible labour of Black, Indigenous communities

*Renowned artists boldly upend traditional power dynamics
through new commissions and recent works*

AUGUST 28, 2024 (TORONTO, CANADA) — The Art Museum at the University of Toronto is proud to present the powerful new exhibition *Labour* by guest curator **Ingrid Jones** from **Sept. 4, 2024–March 22, 2025**, at the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery. The exhibition challenges racial biases, unveiling the corrosive effects of unseen labour on the colonized from Black and Indigenous perspectives while exploring how this labour can be unburdened and shifted onto the dominant. Featured artists are: **Natalie Asumeng, La Tanya S. Autry, Tony Cokes, Chantal Gibson, Tanya Lukin Linklater, Kosisochukwu Nnebe, Leanne Betasamosake Simpson, and Martine Syms.**

“Unseen labour in the form of micro- and macro-aggressions is wide-ranging: from extractivist practices to gaslighting and overt hostility,” says Jones. “Addressing any or all of these forms of discrimination demands continuous effort beyond the scope

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of any job description, resulting in a level of stress that is invisible to others but can have devastating internal consequences, such as cancer, heart disease, and autoimmune disorders. In response, *Labour* not only acknowledges the invisible labour of the Black and Indigenous people and people of colour; it foregrounds the resilience and resistance of these communities in the face of systemic discrimination.”

Inspired by Claudia Rankine’s scholarship on microaggressions in *Citizen: An American Lyric* and themes of perceptibility, the exhibition asks: What are the motivations for our inclusion in institutional spaces? Who has the right to tell our stories? What is our right to rage in the face of discriminatory acts? And how can we employ much-needed rest as a form of resistance?

Labour introduces an exciting number of new commissions that embrace alternative pedagogies focused on decolonial perspectives, offering immersive experiences that prioritize rest and reflection for BIPOC communities, while also activating learning opportunities that encourage audiences to engage deeply with the exhibition space.

The show includes compelling video works by Tony Cokes, Kosisochukwu Nnebe, and Martine Syms; artist manifestos in the form of a library installation by curator and cultural worker La Tanya S. Autry; a series of haptic poems in the form of

altered texts and sculptural works by writer, artist, and educator Chantal Gibson; and a large-scale textual work by writer and musician Leanne Betasamosake Simpson. *Labour* concludes with the cathartic sonic and visually meditative works of Natalie Asumeng and Tanya Lukin Linklater.

For more information, visit
artmuseum.utoronto.ca/exhibition/labour.

Programming

- Exhibition Opening on Wednesday, Sept. 4 from 6–8pm
- Curatorial Tour with Ingrid Jones on Saturday, Sept. 14, 2–4pm

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. Comprised of the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery (Hart House) and the University of Toronto Art Centre (University College), the 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.

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Gallery Hours

Tuesday 12–5pm
Wednesday 12–8pm
Thursday 12–5pm
Friday 12–5pm
Saturday 12–5pm

Address

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7 Hart House Circle
Toronto, Ontario M5S 3H3

Press kit and photos

bit.ly/LabourAMUT

Social media

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Press contact

Ines Min
604 440 0791
ines@inesmin.com

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