

Art Museum
University of Toronto
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Justina M. Barnicke Gallery
University of Toronto Art Centre

7 Hart House Circle
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artmuseum.utoronto.ca

Art Museum

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Art Museum at the University of Toronto presents the 2025 MVS Curatorial Studies Graduating Exhibitions

Public Opening Reception: Wednesday, April 30, 2025, 6–8pm

Exhibition Dates: May 1–July 26, 2025

University of Toronto Art Centre, 15 King’s College Circle

Toronto, ON, April 10, 2025—The Art Museum at the University of Toronto is proud to present the graduating projects of the 2025 Master of Visual Studies Curatorial Studies program students **Abisola Oni**, **Sophie Dubeau Chicoine**, and **Sibei Du**. Presented at the University of Toronto Art Centre, the three distinct curatorial projects interrogate imperial, colonial, and patriarchal structures, proposing concepts of collectivity, care, and resilience in their place.

Curated by Abisola Oni, *Careful Crossings* brings together artists whose experiences of travel inspire ethical relations in human geography. Complementary to the artists’ movement, the exhibition invites reflection on the meaning of travel as the three satellite sites take visitors through the city. Works by **Kapwani Kiwanga**, **Isabel Okoro**, **Oluseye**, and **Emma**

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Wolukau-Wanambwa are on view in the University of Toronto Art Centre. A rare showing of **Chetna Vora's** *OYOYO* (1980) will be held in the courtyard of University College, and a program of short films in the CineCycle underground will feature works by international filmmakers **Collectif Faire-Part** and **Annabelle Aaventurin**.

Curated by Sibe Du, *Whispers of Resistance* explores the complexities of womanhood and motherhood in contemporary China. Artists **Anny Peng**, **Liu Xi**, **Zhou Wenjing**, and **Cai Yaling** focus on memory, intimacy, and intergenerational relationships, revealing the multifaceted experiences of women bound by family life and societal expectations. Through deeply personal narratives and diverse artistic expressions, *Whispers of Resistance* sheds light on the challenges faced by women in their pursuit of identity and autonomy, highlighting their resilience and courageous resistance to patriarchal structures.

In the Interstices of Our Palms explores ways to build, hold, and share community in times of disruption. Navigating the personal and collective challenges of communal efforts, three artists mobilize processes of (re)assembly. They create space for hope, insisting on the possibilities of healing and renewal while simultaneously reckoning with ongoing grievances. Curated by Sophie Dubeau Chicoine and featuring work by **Rihab Essayh**, **Anouk Verviers**, and **Tanya Lukin Linklater**, the exhibition

puts forward reflective modes of collectivity fostered by sustained, careful gestures.

These projects are produced as part of the requirements for the MVS degree in Curatorial Studies at the John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design, University of Toronto.

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PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Opening Reception: Summer 2025 Exhibitions

Wednesday, April 30, 6pm–8pm

University of Toronto Art Centre, 15 King's College Circle

Justina M. Barnicke Gallery, 7 Hart House Circle

Celebrate the opening of the new graduating exhibitions for the Master of Visual Studies Curatorial Studies Program and the Master of Visual Studies Studio Program.

Short Films at CineCycle

Saturday, May 3, 4pm–6pm

CineCycle, 129 Spadina Ave

A satellite film screening of the exhibition *Careful Crossings*,

featuring short films by Collectif Faire-Part, Annabelle Aventurin, Emma Wolukau-Wanambwa, and Isabel Okoro.

Curatorial Tour: *Whispers of Resistance*

Saturday, May 10, 2pm–3pm
University of Toronto Art Centre

Student curator Sibe Du discusses how artists challenge the monolithic representation of womanhood and motherhood in contemporary China in a free guided tour.

In the Interstices: a conversation on memory and archives

Saturday, May 24, 2pm–4pm
University of Toronto Art Centre and Senior Common Room,
University College

An afternoon of musical performance by Sassa Linklater in the University of Toronto Art Centre, followed by a public discussion with Tanya Lukin Linklater, Seika Boye, Salma Serry, and Johannah Bird in the Senior Common Room.

Curatorial Tour: *In the Interstices of Our Palms*

Friday, May 30, 3pm–4pm
University of Toronto Art Centre

Student curator Sophie Dubeau Chicoine explores the themes and artworks featured in her exhibition in a free guided tour.

Curatorial Tour: *Careful Crossings*

Wednesday, June 4, 6pm–7pm
University of Toronto Art Centre

Student curator Abisola Oni reflects on how artists' travels inspire ethical relations in human geography in a free guided tour.

Outdoor Screening: *OYOYO (1980)*

Thursday, June 12, 8pm–10pm
University College Quad

A rare international showing of Chetna Vora's *OYOYO (1980)*, an intimate documentary of international students in their dorm at Babelsberg in the former German Democratic Republic.

All programs are free and open to the public.
For more information and to register, visit
artmuseum.utoronto.ca/programs.

ABOUT THE CURATORS

Abisola Oni is a performance artist and writer of Nigerian heritage based in Toronto. Her research and creation interests focus on body politics through artistic practice, using postcolonial and feminist methods to contemplate topics ranging from human geography to contemporary technopolitics. Her creative and curatorial writing practices intersect with her video, sound, and performance art projects as she works between Toronto and places along the Haldimand Tract. Abisola has served for the past two years as the Chair of the Board of Directors of Pleasure Dome, a Toronto-based artist-run organization focused on experimental media founded in 1989.

Sibei Du is a curator currently based in Toronto. Originally from Guangdong, China, she graduated from University of the Arts London, London College of Fashion with a Bachelor of Arts. Her curatorial practice explores themes of identity, gender, and the body. Sibeï has worked as a Curatorial Intern at The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery in Toronto. In 2022, she curated the group exhibition *Uncertain Future* at Zi Museum in Shenzhen.

Sophie Dubeau Chicoine is an emerging curator and art writer from Tiohtià:ke/Montreal. Her practice is rooted in anti-capitalist visions, slow methodologies, and queer utopias. Recent essays include “A Degrowth Future for the Arts?” and

“Art Labor: Communal Land Protection in the Face of Industrial Protection,” both published by *Esse arts + opinions*. She is currently completing a SSHRC-funded Master of Visual Studies at the University of Toronto.

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.

About the Master of Visual Studies Curatorial Studies Program

Initiated in 2008, the Curatorial Studies stream in the MVS program at the University of Toronto is currently in its 17th year. Embedded within a rich environment of study, teaching assistantships, internships, and mentorship within the internationally renowned Daniels Faculty and the Art Museum at the University of Toronto, students immerse in recent developments in the visual arts, theory, and critical writing in an interdisciplinary context to support their research interests and curatorial engagement. In particular, the program focuses on the presentational challenges arising from the diverse and

complex modes of contemporary art—from material and historical artefacts to installation, from performance to image, text, sound, and digital media—within the broader context of contemporary global culture. Significantly, the program offers students the opportunity to produce their own Graduating Exhibition for public presentation within the professional context and support of the Art Museum on the downtown campus of the University of Toronto, and at the centre of Canada’s largest city.

The highly respected degree affords students access to a sustained professional network and mentorships. With an outstanding history of accomplishments of Graduating students’ exhibitions, graduates of the program continually achieve successful curatorial careers and institutional positions in Canada and internationally. They include directorial, curatorial, and related positions at the Art Gallery of Ontario, the MacKenzie Art Gallery, the Toronto Biennial of Art, the Esker Foundation, and many other art institutions across Canada and around the world.

Our Supporters

The Art Museum gratefully acknowledges project support from the Reesa Greenberg Curatorial Studies Award and International Travel Fund.

Additional project support for *Careful Crossings* was provided by the Graduate Architecture, Landscape, and Design Student Union (GALDSU) and the African Studies Centre, University of Toronto.

Whispers of Resistance is sponsored by Shuyun (Christine) Chen from C.Y Art Gallery, with additional support from Shunling Zhou, Siwei Du, and Weiru Chen.

In the Interstices of Our Palms draws on research supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. Additional project support was provided by the Graduate Architecture, Landscape, and Design Student Union (GALDSU) and the Yellowhead Institute.

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