

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 launches its winter 2026 program with groundbreaking exhibitions exploring themes of home and place

*Land. Sea. Sugar. Salt.* challenges how we see the Caribbean, while *Hangama Amiri: PARTING/فراق* explores the meaning of home and memory amidst displacement

**January 27, 2026 (Toronto, Ontario)**—The Art Museum at the University of Toronto is pleased to present two compelling exhibitions that consider home, memory, land, and place from the perspectives of artists living in diaspora. ***Land. Sea. Sugar. Salt.: Terrestrial and Aquatic Contemplations of the Caribbean* (February 25–August 1, 2026)** brings together artists of Caribbean descent whose work explores the complexity of the region’s histories of colonialism, African diaspora, Indigeneity, and ongoing struggles for sovereignty and environmental justice. This touring exhibition is curated by **Michelle Jacques** and **Sally Frater** of Remai Modern.

***Hangama Amiri: PARTING/فراق* (February 25–April 11, 2026)**, the Afghan-Canadian artist’s first major solo exhibition in Toronto, draws on personal archives and familial memories to reflect on

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home, family, and migration. This touring exhibition is curated by **Elizabeth Diggon**, Curator at the Esker Foundation.

*“It is our greatest pleasure to be able to present two new exhibitions that each uniquely explores histories of migration, the personal and political complexities of diasporic conditions, and the economic and cultural entanglements of places that are far apart and widely divergent,”* says Barbara Fischer, Executive Director / Chief Curator at the Art Museum. *“At a time when the experiences of rupture on account of war, persecution, economic displacement, and climate change shape the everyday lives of ever more of us, these exhibitions offer hope through vital sharing of personal memories, capacities of adaptation, and recollection of the ways in which our stories are knotted into each other and bound together beyond personal memory—across islands, lands, oceans and the depths of time.”*

While we speak of “the Caribbean” as a single region, it is, in fact, a complex and varied place, defined by intricate histories, cultures, and geographies. Many know the region only through tourism—a view that offers superficial understanding. *Land. Sea. Sugar. Salt.* aims to create a space of reflection through the works of eleven artists who think deeply about the Caribbean and have familial and lived ties to the region. Video, photographic, and installation-based works by **Alexandre Arrechea, Charles Campbell, Carolina Caycedo, Giana De Dier, Braxton Garneau, Deborah Jack, Las Nietas de Nonó, Hew Locke, Fariyah Aliyah Shah, and Kara Springer** speak to an intimate engagement with the land, sharing a

way of knowing it through physical experience and embodied knowledge. Together, their works attest to the ways in which Caribbean communities resist, adapt, and create—sustaining powerful traditions of solidarity, cultural expression, and environmental care in the wake of the pressures of colonial legacies, social and economic inequity, and climate change.

Hangama Amiri creates intricately layered textile compositions that explore kinship, memory, and the meaning of home. In *PARTING/فراق*, she builds on an ongoing body of work rooted in her personal history and diasporic experience during the nine-year period of familial separation that followed her family's migration from Kabul in 1996, when the artist was seven years old. Her father sought asylum in Denmark and later Norway, while Amiri lived in Dushanbe, Tajikistan with her mother and three siblings, before the family settled together in Halifax in 2005. This separation was marked by the frequent exchange of letters, snapshots, and gifts, offering glimpses into jobs, celebrations, and daily acts of care in the family's lives.

Amiri mines this archive of family photographs, letters, material fragments, and memories, translating them into dense and lush collages that focus on her parents. Her large-scale, intricate, and labour-intensive textile compositions combine painting, printmaking, quilting, and appliqué techniques. The resulting works honour the immense labour of caring for family amidst migration and separation.

Hangama Amiri holds an MFA from Yale University, New Haven, where she graduated in 2020 from the Painting and Printmaking Department. She received her BFA from NSCAD University, Halifax, and is a Canadian Fulbright and Post-Graduate Fellow at Yale University School of Art and Sciences. She works predominantly in textiles to examine notions of home, as well as how gender, social norms, and larger geopolitical conflict impact the daily lives of women, both in Afghanistan and in the diaspora.

*Land. Sea. Sugar. Salt.: Terrestrial and Aquatic Contemplations of the Caribbean* is circulated by Rемаi Modern with the support of the Frank & Ellen Rемаi Foundation.

*Hangama Amiri: PARTING/فراق* is organized and circulated by Esker Foundation, Calgary.

**For more information, visit:**

[artmuseum.utoronto.ca/exhibition/land-sea-sugar-salt](https://artmuseum.utoronto.ca/exhibition/land-sea-sugar-salt)

[artmuseum.utoronto.ca/exhibition/hangama-amiri-parting](https://artmuseum.utoronto.ca/exhibition/hangama-amiri-parting)

**PUBLIC PROGRAMS**

**Opening Reception: Winter 2026 Exhibitions**

*Wednesday, February 25, 6pm–8pm*

*Opening remarks at 7pm at the University of Toronto Art Centre*

Join the Art Museum in celebrating the public opening of exhibitions *Land. Sea. Sugar. Salt.: Terrestrial and Aquatic*

*Contemplations of the Caribbean and Hangama Amiri:  
PARTING/فراق*

**Contemporary Art Bus Tour: Art Museum to the Blackwood  
(Winter 2026)**

*Saturday, February 28, 11:30am–4pm*

Join the free Contemporary Art Bus for an afternoon of curator-led tours of four exhibitions. Stops include *Land. Sea. Sugar. Salt.* and *Hangama Amiri: PARTING/فراق* at the Art Museum, and *STIM CINEMA* and *Spreads from the Multiverse* at the Blackwood Gallery. Registration details coming soon.

More programs to be announced soon.

For more information, visit [artmuseum.utoronto.ca/programs/](https://artmuseum.utoronto.ca/programs/)

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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. 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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### **Museum Hours**

Tuesday 12pm–5pm  
Wednesday 12pm–8pm  
Thursday 12pm–5pm  
Friday 12pm–5pm  
Saturday 12pm–5pm  
Sunday and Monday closed.

### **Address**

University of Toronto Art Centre  
15 King’s College Circle  
Toronto, ON M5S 3H7

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7 Hart House Circle  
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### **Media Contact**

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