

Art Museum
University of Toronto
—
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 2026 MVS Curatorial Studies Graduating Exhibitions

Toronto, ON, May 6, 2025—The Art Museum at the University of Toronto is proud to present the graduating projects of **Chloe Gordon-Chow** and **Gia Liapi**, students of the 2026 Master of Visual Studies Curatorial Studies program. Culminating two years of rigorous research, the exhibitions will be presented at the **Justina M. Barnicke Gallery** from **May 7 to August 1, 2026**.

Curated by **Chloe Gordon-Chow**, *Little and Often* traces how relationships to land, material, and one another are sustained within conditions of precarity. Spanning geographies from Palestine to the Philippines and Tuktoyaktuk to Toronto, the exhibition considers how life continues to be negotiated amidst ecological, political, and social disturbance. Relations to people and place are sustained in spite of land occupation, eroding shorelines, geographic displacement, fungal decay, and colonial logics of purity and exclusion. Working with seeds, soils, mushrooms, and plants, the artists foreground resilience as a collective, relational practice, continually shifting under constraint.

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Featuring work by **Maureen Gruben, Rachel Crummey, Miguel Caba, Rana Nazzal Hamadeh, and Meech Boakye and Bhavika Sharma**, *Little and Often* looks around rather than forward to explore human-ecological entanglements and resiliencies on unstable terrain.

Curated by **Gia Liapi**, *Blind Spot* brings together the practices of **Shadi Habib Allah, Shu Lea Cheang, Jeremy Laing, Lou Sheppard, and Iris Touliatou**. Working across installation, performance, video, and digital interfaces, the artists destabilize sanctioned structures—the “default settings” of technological, medical, linguistic, and archival systems—to reorient perception toward what operates beneath the visible.

The exhibition seeks out blind spots in common infrastructures, from software to cellular signals, through which subjectivities are experienced and normalized, exposing systematic gaps and suggesting ways to repurpose their functions toward more complex realities and new possibilities. The works emphasize processes requiring bodily engagement, prompting closer attention to what is considered a given, and to who and what generate the systems and technologies that shape daily life.

These exhibitions 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.

Opening Reception: 2026 MVS Curatorial Studies Graduating Exhibitions

Wednesday, May 6, 6pm–8pm

Justina M. Barnicke Gallery, 7 Hart House Circle

Celebrate the opening of the graduating exhibitions for the Master of Visual Studies in Curatorial Studies Program. Join us for welcoming remarks, student presentations, an awards ceremony, and a performance by artist Lou Sheppard, whose work is featured in *Blind Spot*.

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

About the Curators

Chloe Gordon-Chow is a Chinese-Canadian curator and researcher based in Toronto. She is an MVS candidate in Curatorial Studies at the University of Toronto and holds a BA in Art History and Sociology from McGill University. Her curatorial practice explores human, non-human, and spatial entanglements. Her research is rooted in collaboration and interdisciplinary experimentation, mobilizing exhibitions and public programming as forms of speculative world-building and critical intervention.

Gia Liapi is a curator and researcher specializing in gender and sexuality studies. Their curatorial practice often responds to specific geographies and conditions related to exhibition sites. She has worked internationally with ELEUSIS 2023—European Capital of Culture, the Contemporary Art Gallery (Vancouver), the DESTE Foundation, and the B&M Theocharakis Foundation. Awards and fellowships include the NEON Curatorial Exchange (2020) with the NEON Foundation and Whitechapel Gallery, a Curatorial Fellowship with the Schwarz Foundation (2019, 2022), and a Concept to Realization grant from the Canada Council for the Arts (2023). They served as curator of Zoumboulakis Galleries in 2019-23 and are currently completing an MVS in Curatorial 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 18th 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 *Little and Often* is provided by the Women and Gender Studies Institute, University of Toronto; the Ontario Arts Council through the Exhibition Assistance program; the Government of Ontario; the Graduate Architecture, Landscape, and Design Student Union (GALDSU); and UTERN.

Additional project support for *Blind Spot* is provided by the Cinema Studies Institute and the Mark S. Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies, University of Toronto; the Ontario Arts Council through the Exhibition Assistance program; the Government of Ontario; and the Graduate Architecture, Landscape, and Design Student Union (GALDSU).

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