TORONTO BIENNIAL OF ART

TORONTO BIENNIAL OF ART UNVEILS 2026 PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE



Eating the Archives: Flatbread as Embodied Histories, November 3, 2024. Featuring: Sameer Farooq and Naomi Duguid. Program held at The Auto BLDG, 158 Sterling Rd, 9th Floor as part of the Toronto Biennial of Art 2024.
Photography by Rebecca Tisdelle-Macias.

Toronto, Canada (August 12, 2026) — The Toronto Biennial of Art (TBA), under the continued direction of Founding Executive Director Patrizia Libralato, today unveils an extensive programming schedule for its fourth edition, titled *Things Fall Apart*. Running from September 26 to December 20, 2026, the 12-week city-wide exhibition features works by over 30 artists and collectives, including 16 new commissions.

Curated by Allison Glenn, *Things Fall Apart* is anchored by a central question: What can we learn from artists who explore rupture as an ontological tool or a way of understanding? Relying on the shared geographies of the Great Lakes as a place of departure, TBA 2026 also traces expansive, interconnected relationships between over twenty international waterways, trade routes, and voyages spanning five continents. The dialogue that emerges between these global waterways and trade networks expands upon an inquiry into waterways first seeded by the 2019 Biennial, which looked specifically at Toronto's geographies.

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To explore these themes and geographical frameworks, the edition unfolds in three distinct parts: a central exhibition grounded in methodologies of collectivity, sovereignty, reflection, and refusal; a series of performances and artist-led programming that invites embodied engagement with these practices; and a collaboratively curated gathering in the form of a convening in three acts: *An Arrival, A Grounding, A Departure*. TBA 2026 opens with a weekend of performances and engagements, as well as the release of its exhibition catalogue, *Things Fall Apart: Notes on Rupture*.

The Biennial's 2026 public programs, curated by Allison Glenn, under the direction of TBA Deputy Director and Director of Programs, Ilana Shamoon, are an integral part of her curatorial vision and offer regular moments of engagement and connection for intergenerational audiences, in the form of performances, conversations, viewings, shared meals, and more.

"The full vision of the 2026 Toronto Biennial extends beyond the central exhibition through performances, gatherings, and shared moments of learning and engagement that encourage the public to connect with the ideas of *Things Fall Apart* in different ways. I am thrilled to present this vision in its entirety with this incredible team and partner organizations."

– Allison Glenn, Curator 2026 Toronto Biennial

"Our 2026 public and learning programs are designed to invite audiences to encounter the Biennial not only through artworks, but also through conversations, performances, and collective experiences. From meaningful opening weekend performances at the University of Toronto campus and on the waters of Lake Ontario, to our multi-site October convening and student-led Storytelling initiatives, we are bringing artists, knowledge-keepers, and community members into direct dialogue. These programs, realized with multiple collaborators, both complement the Biennial and actively deepen Allison's framework of rupture and syncopation in conversation with a range of publics."

– Ilana Shamoon, Deputy Director & Director of Public Programs

In line with TBA's mission of accessibility, most exhibitions and all public programs will be free to the public at more than 10 sites across Toronto. Admission and opening hours vary by site. Please consult respective partner websites for the latest visitor information.

For more information on participating artists, please visit the Biennial's artists page.

Opening Party
Art Museum at the University of Toronto
Friday, September 25 at 7PM

Guests will be amongst the first to see the main exhibition partner site at the Art Museum at the University of Toronto (Art Museum). Attendees will celebrate alongside TBA 2026 artists, art enthusiasts, tastemakers, and our partners at this special event, which will feature Biennial artist performances, sets by DJ Skurge of TBA 2026 artist collective Underground Resistance and TBA 2026 artist Nirbhai (nep) Singh Sidhu. Food and drink will be served.

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The TBA 2026 Opening Party is an important fundraiser that supports TBA's mission to make contemporary art accessible to everyone. Proceeds from the event support artist projects, public programs, and learning experiences as well as enabling TBA to offer free admission to all visitors.

The event is generously sponsored by EY. For ticketing information, visit our website.

Opening Events

The Biennial launches with a weekend of site-specific public programs across Toronto's land and waters:

Rebecca Belmore: *Gichigami*
Saturday, September 26 at 12PM
Art Museum at the University of Toronto
Free, register via this link

Rebecca Belmore's new work, *Gichigami*, opens as a procession that moves from Queen's Park to the University of Toronto, where it will remain on view as an installation at the Art Museum for the duration of the Biennial.

Opening Remarks
Saturday, September 26 at 1PM
Art Museum at the University of Toronto, 7 Hart House Circle
Free, no registration required

TBA's formal opening will include remarks from Executive Director, Patrizia Libralato, Curator, Allison Glenn, and Executive Director/Chief Curator of the Art Museum at the University of Toronto, Barbara Fischer.

Raphaël Barontini: *Konvwa libèté*
Saturday, September 26 at 1:30 PM
Meeting point in front of Hart House, 7 Hart House Circle
Free, register via this link

Co-presented with the Toronto Caribbean Carnival, Hart House, and the Art Museum, Barontini brings a celebratory, carnival-style street parade to the U of T campus. Blending percussion, indigo costumes, banners, and flags, this parade honors historical figures of anti-enslavement resistance while celebrating contemporary Caribbean traditions of emancipation.

Gallery TPW Opening:
Saturday, September 26 from 2-4 PM
Gallery TPW
Free, no registration required

Things Fall Apart at Gallery TPW features the works of Nani Chacon, Regina de Miguel, and Skawennati. Artist Regina de Miguel will be in attendance as we celebrate the opening of these artist projects. Cash bar and light snacks will be provided.

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Andrés Ramírez Gaviria: *Sources (Toronto)*
Saturday, September 26 and Sunday, September 27 beginning at sunset
CN Tower - The work is best viewed from the southeast corner of Roundhouse Park.
Free, no registration required

Andrés Ramírez Gaviria's *Sources (Toronto)* (2026), a light work, will be presented on the Toronto CN Tower for the duration of the Biennial, at the top of every hour starting at sunset for 5 minutes, unless otherwise specified.

Please note that lighting begins at sunset, however it won't become fully visible until the sky darkens sufficiently, approximately 30 minutes later. We recommend arriving just before the top of the hour to ensure you find a good location and are able to see the work in its entirety.

Julien Creuzet: *Nos diables rouges, nos dérives commotions (…) danse papillon*
Saturday, September 26 and Sunday, September 27 at 10PM
Sankofa Square
Free, no registration required

Be amongst the first to see this presentation of Julien Creuzet's work, *Nos diables rouges, nos dérives commotions (danse papillon)*, which will take place nightly throughout the duration of the Biennial, across multiple screens in Sankofa Square at the corner of Yonge & Dundas. Throughout November, this work will also be presented in Times Square as part of Times Square Arts' Midnight Moment program. The simultaneity of these presentations is an echo of the expansiveness of Creuzet's references, clues to which cascade from his poetic artwork titles. Visit torontobiennial.org for more information.

Additional work by Creuzet will be on view at the Art Museum throughout the Biennial.

Co-presented by the Toronto Biennial of Art, Sankofa Square, and Times Square Arts. Made possible with the generous support of Bell Media, Cadillac Fairview, and Mendes Wood DM.

In Dialogue: Speculative Futures
Sunday, September 27 at 10:30AM
Harbourfront Centre Studio Theatre
Free, registration forthcoming via TBA's website

Join TBA Curator Allison Glenn for a moderated discussion with Biennial artists Andrés Ramírez Gaviria, Carolina Fusilier, Lindsay Katsitsakatste Delaronde, and Regina de Miguel, as they dive into notions of time, science fiction, Indigenous epistemologies, and speculative futures. Co-presented with Harbourfront Centre.

Brendan Fernandes: *The Calls (Toronto)*
Sunday, September 27, Sailings at 12PM & 2:15PM
The Tall Ship Kajama, docked directly behind the Harbourfront Centre and the Power Plant buildings
Free, register via this link

Co-presented with TO Live, this immersive sonic and movement performance takes place aboard the Kajama, a tall ship sailing Lake Ontario. Two contemporary dancers, alongside an

18-voice Modern Sound Collective choir vocalizing abstract sounds and sirens, reimagine collective gathering, grief, and solidarity on an embodied journey across the water.

Select Public Programs

Convening: *An Arrival, A Grounding, A Departure*
October 16–18, 2026
Various sites: Native Canadian Centre, the Art Museum at the University of Toronto, the Scarborough Gurdwara (Gursikh Sabha Canada), the Toronto Black Farmers and Food Growers Collective farm at Downsview Park
Free, registration forthcoming via TBA's website

This three-day public gathering conceived by Glenn brings together a polyphonic group of knowledge-holders, including artists, co-curators, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, scientists, farmers, community members, and musicians. Structured around three thematic pillars (*puncta*)—arrival by water, co-curated by Bert Whitecrow (Curatorial Fellow, and Mikinaak Migwans, Curator, Indigenous Contemporary Art, Art Museum at the University of Toronto, grounding), and departure—the Convening will unfold across various Toronto geographies through:

- Critical dialogues and panels
- Live performances
- Shared meals and moments of community gathering

This program directly engages with several new artist commissions featured in *Things Fall Apart*, connecting the Biennial's overarching explorations of intersectionality, community knowledge, and collective understanding. It is presented in partnership with the Art Museum at the University of Toronto, BAND Gallery, the Scarborough Gurdwara, Toronto Black Farmers and Food Growers Collective, Wedge Curatorial Projects, and without SHAPE without FORM.

Artist talk: Nanibah "Nani" Chacon with Allison Glenn
Thursday, November 5 at 2-3:30PM
Free, online, registration opens one month prior to the event, accessible via TBA Programs Calendar and Gallery TPW's website

Nanibah "Nani" Chacon's new commission, *What happens when they steal our babies …* (2026), centres the Diné creation story of Tééhoołtsódii, or the Big Water Monster, who creates a devastating flood in response to her children being taken from her. Join Nani and Allison Glenn for a dialogue about Chacon's practice and her incorporation of Tééhoołtsódii during this moment of intense social, political, and climate catastrophe. Co-presented with Gallery TPW.

Learning Programs

TBA's 2026 Learning Programs, developed by Mary Kim, Senior Manager, Learning & Community Partnerships, will take place at various TBA sites, with a particular concentration at the Art Museum.

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Programs will offer experiences and workshops across three streams: Storytelling Sessions, School Programs, and the Mobile Arts Curriculum (MAC).

New collaborations with Ontario Institute for Studies in Education will invite their students to lead Ontario curriculum-supportive weekday sessions for K-12 students, while weekend public Storytelling Sessions are co-developed with the Collaboratory for Black Poiēsis and the Art Museum.

The 2026 MAC Learning Guide will be available onsite at the Art Museum and digitally, highlighting six TBA 2026 artists and providing a resource to facilitate deeper engagement with the exhibition's curatorial framework.

Details pertaining to the above public and learning programs are subject to change. Please sign up for our newsletter, follow us on social media (@torontobiennial), and keep an eye on our Programs Calendar for the latest information.

TBA 2026 Catalogue: *Things Fall Apart: Notes on Rupture*

TBA will release an accompanying catalogue titled *Things Fall Apart: Notes on Rupture* on September 26. Co-published by Goose Lane Editions and the Art Museum at the University of Toronto, with contributing publisher the Aga Khan Museum, the publication will expand on the exhibition's key themes of rupture, syncopation, and resistance through a combination of critical texts, image-driven artist sections, and an experimental sonic intervention.

Designed by Montréal-based studio house9, it is written for a wide audience interested in art, sound, music, exhibition practices, literature, theory, and more.

The book will be available to buy onsite at the Art Museum, at local bookshops, and online. It is available for pre-order now.

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Exhibition Highlights



Céline Semaan, *Heirlooms*, as part of Slow Factory and Ward Gallery's collaboration, hosted at the Slow Factory.

Presented across museums, public spaces, and community sites in Toronto and internationally, the following projects offer a glimpse into the breadth of TBA 2026.

- Bonnie Devine: Ten new paintings and works on paper (2026)
    - Location: Art Museum at the University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada
    - Likening global maritime routes to the veins and circulatory systems of organic bodies, these twelve new paintings and works on paper examine points of contestation, obstruction, and critical sensitivities that are currently manifesting in global transport and trade relations.

- Cameron Harvey's *Family of Things* (2026)
    - Locations: Art Museum at the University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada; Anchorage Museum, Anchorage, AK, USA
    - A series of 7 large-scale acrylic paintings on stretched canvas inspired by chaparral shrubs damaged in the wildfires of 2025 in Los Angeles, CA, Cameron Harvey's project will be presented across Toronto and Anchorage, AK, from September 24, 2026 – January 18, 2027.

- Céline Semaan and Jean-Marc Bullet's *Carnet de Retour/Notebook of Return* (2026)
    - Locations:

        - Toronto Black Farmers and Food Growers Collective, Downsview Park, Toronto, ON, Canada
        - Allana Clarke's Amend Garden, Little Village, Detroit, MI, USA
        - Antioch Baptist Church / Sumner High School Community Garden at Counterpublic Triennial (through December 12, 2026), The Ville, St. Louis, MO, USA
        - Céline Semaan's Slow Forest, Nyack, NY, USA
        - Jean-Marc Bullet's Héritage de Îles, Saint-Joseph, Martinique, France
        - Mary Mattingly's *Floating Garden* at Medina Triennial (through September 7, 2026), Medina, NY, USA
    - *Notebook of Return* is a collaborative project linking artist gardens and community food-growing initiatives across the Great Loop through a simultaneous harvest and the exchange of seeds, stories, and knowledge. Inspired by Aimé Césaire's *Cahier d'un retour au pays natal / Notebook of a Return to the Native Land* (1939), the work considers the garden as a living archive, exploring memory, migration, ecological care, and collective resilience across borders.

- Lindsay Katsitsakatste Delaronde's *Soul-Hex* (2026):
    - Location: Art Museum at the University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada
    - Developed over several years, *Soul Hex* is a land-centred digital performance project that uses augmented reality and motion-capture technology to combine Indigenous cosmologies and contemporary Indigenous performance.

- Rouzbeh Akhbari's *Of Wool and Diesel* (2026):
    - Location: Mercer Union, a centre for contemporary art, Toronto, ON, Canada
    - This newly commissioned video installation examines trade-linked histories along the International North–South Transport Corridor, presenting fieldwork from the region and archival research from Toronto, Lisbon, London, Dubai, and Baku. Co-curated by Glenn and Aamna Muzaffar, Curator & Head of Exhibitions, Mercer Union.

Creative Partnerships

The Toronto Biennial of Art is pleased to collaborate with a wide array of creative partners including Anchorage Museum, Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, BAND Gallery, Capsules Artist Resources, Collaboratory for Black Poiēsis, Counterpublic, GDW Productions, Goose Lane Editions, Hart House, Little Village Detroit, Medina Triennial, Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, National Gallery of Canada, OCAD University, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, Remai Modern, TO Live, Toronto Black Farmers and Food Growers Collective, Toronto Caribbean Carnival, Toronto District School Board, Times Square Arts, University of Victoria, Vancouver Art Gallery, Wedge Curatorial Projects, and without SHAPE without FORM.

We are also grateful to our site, program, and commissioning partners, including Aga Khan Museum, Art Gallery of Ontario, Art Museum at the University of Toronto, Cadillac Fairview, CN Tower,

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Harbourfront Centre, Gallery TPW, Mercer Union, Royal Ontario Museum, Sankofa Square, the Scarborough Gurdwara, Toronto Pearson Airport, and the Urban Indigenous Education Centre.

Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) supports Canadian Artists' Career Growth

With RBC's support, TBA works to provide inclusive access to paid work opportunities and equip Canadian artists, particularly from racialized and other historically marginalized groups, to help them grow their careers and benefit from access to national and international art markets.

For TBA 2026, RBC has generously supported projects by five Canadian artists, including Dawit L. Petros, Chiedza Pasipanodya, Rouzbeh Akhbari, Simranpreet Anand, and Taqralik Partridge.

"RBC is proud to support the Toronto Biennial of Art and its mission to help make contemporary art accessible to everyone," said Gayle Corcoran, Senior Director, Social Impact, RBC. *"We are directly supporting the careers of five exceptional Canadian artists, helping to create paid opportunities and equip them with the networks, visibility and skills they need to thrive in national and international art markets. We look forward to seeing these artists' new works come to life and the conversations and connections their work will spark on the world stage."*

Donors & Supporters

The Toronto Biennial of Art is grateful to all contributing donors for their generous support. Major funders to date include Armstrong Fine Art Services, Bell Media, Cadillac Fairview, Hatch, the Michelle Koerner Family Foundation, Mini Giants, RBC, the Sabourin Family Foundation, Sutton Communications, TD Bank, and a generous anonymous patron. TBA also acknowledges the support of the Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council, the City of Toronto, and the Government of Ontario.

Media Partners

The Toronto Biennial of Art would like to acknowledge the support of its media partners, including Akimbo, Esse, ESPACE art actuel, Nieuport Aviation, Pattison, Toronto Star, TTC, UB Media, and The Walrus.

Sutton Communications is the official Communications Partner for the Toronto Biennial of Art 2026.

Follow us on Instagram, Facebook, and TIkTok, and sign up for our newsletter for more information and up to date programming announcements.

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Press Kit:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1xs8dn-C6JZMVhk2a9SPQJJyQ0xHZs_kN

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About Allison Glenn
Allison Glenn is a New York-based curator and writer focusing on the intersection of art and public space through public art and special projects, biennials, and major new commissions by a wide range of contemporary artists. For over fifteen years, Glenn has been devoted to realizing ambitious and experimental exhibitions and site-specific projects with artists working across the globe.

She is one of the curators of Centro América Red de Arte (CARA), opening in 2027 in Guatemala City. Her previous roles include Artistic Director of The Shepherd; Co-Curator of Counterpublic Triennial 2023, Senior Curator at New York's Public Art Fund; Visiting Curator at The University of Tulsa; and Associate Curator of Contemporary Art at Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art. She also held a curatorial staff position with New Orleans' international art triennial, *Prospect.4: The Lotus in Spite of the Swamp* (2016). She gained broad acclaim for curating the pathbreaking 2021 exhibition *Promise, Witness, Remembrance* (2021) at Louisville, Kentucky's Speed Art Museum.

About the Toronto Biennial of Art
The Toronto Biennial of Art's mission is to make contemporary art accessible to everyone.
A twelve-week event every two years, the Biennial commissions artists to create new works for a city-wide exhibition in dialogue with Toronto's diverse local contexts. Year-round public and learning programs bridge Biennials and invite intergenerational audiences to explore the ideas that inspire our events. Building upon past editions and offering new ways of seeing and listening, each Biennial connects people to spark meaningful dialogues and imagine new futures.

For more information, visit: torontobiennial.org, and on Instagram and Facebook.

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Appendix: Exhibition Sites

Art Gallery of Ontario, 317 Dundas Street West
Aga Khan Museum, 77 Wynford Drive
Art Museum at The University of Toronto - TBA's Main Hub at University of Toronto Art Centre, 15 King's College Circle, and Justina M. Barnicke Gallery at 7 Hart House Circle
Billboard in St. George TTC Station, Westbound Platform - Bloor-Danforth Line
CN Tower, 290 Bremner Boulevard
Gallery TPW, 170 St Helens Avenue
Harbourfront Centre, 235 Queens Quay West
Midnight Moment, Time Square Arts, New York City
*Month of November only
Mercer Union, a centre for contemporary art, 1286 Bloor St West
Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queens Park
Sankofa Square, 1 Dundas Street East
Scarborough Gurdwara, 905 Middlefield Road

<u>Extended Footprint Sites</u>

Allana Clarke's Amend Garden, located in Detroit's Little Village, Detroit, Michigan
Antioch Baptist Church/Sumner High School Community Garden, as part of Counterpublic Triennial, St. Louis, Missouri
Mary Mattingly's Floating Garden, as part of Medina Triennial, Medina, New York
Midnight Moment, Time Square Arts, New York, New York
*Month of November only
Toronto Black Farmers and Food Growers Collective, Toronto, Canada
Anchorage Museum, Anchorage, Alaska