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What can't be missed at this year's Toronto Biennial of Art

It's 72 days of free contemporary art, 100-plus artworks, nine exhibition sites and 40-plus public programs: The Toronto Biennial of Art has made its powerful return to the city under the title *What Water Knows, The Land Remembers*.

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Judy Chicago in collaboration with Pyro Spectaculars by Souza. *Diamonds in the Sky*, 2021. Fireworks performance, Belen, NM. ©Judy Chicago/Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York; © Donald Woodman/ARS, New York

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Visit the TBA events calendar for a full list of Biennial events, including descriptions, locations, dates and times: torontobiennial.org/event-directory.

With such an array of works to choose from between now and June 5, the creative and curious may need help narrowing down a few pieces to take in. Here are seven sites plus one event that simply can't be missed this Biennial.

Brian Jungen at 5 Lower Jarvis

Known for transforming everyday products into objects to address potent issues of the day, Brian Jungen's work, *Plague Masks*, 2020, at [5 Lower Jarvis](#) focuses on timely themes of collectivism, racial justice and the pandemic. On display for visitors are three Nike Air Jordan sneakers, dissected and reconfigured by the Fort St. John artist to take the form of masks worn by so-called "plague doctors" in the 17th century.



Brian Jungen, *Plague Mask*, 2020. Nike air jordans, 34.3 × 68.6 × 40.6 cm. On view at 5 Lower Jarvis as part of the Toronto Biennial of Art (2022). Photo: Rebecca Tisdelle-Macias. Commissioned by Toronto Biennial of Art.

Various artists at 72 Perth Avenue

Slated to become a mid-rise residential building, this former Pentecostal church currently houses the work of nine inspiring artists. Inside, visitors will find works by such talents as Tanya Lukin Linklater, whose featured sculptural elements are central to the artist's unique multi-dancer choreography process. Outside, Ghazaleh Avarzamani's piece *Forced Afloat* consists of 7,000 square feet of blue rubber mulch.



Tanya Lukin Linklater, *Held in the air I never fell (spring lightning sweetgrass song)*, 2022. Kohkom scarf sculptures (kohkom scarves, thread, hide, hardware), performance platform (ash, paint, copper, hardware). Dimensions variable with 304.8 cm diameter platform. On view at 72 Perth Ave as part of the Toronto Biennial of Art. Photo: Toni Hafkenscheid. Commissioned by Toronto Biennial of Art.

Aycoobo (Wilson Rodríguez) at Arsenal Contemporary Art Toronto

Nonuya Indigenous artist Aycoobo (formerly Wilson Rodríguez) enchants with his work *4 elementos del origen* — a vibrant and moving exhibit at [Arsenal Contemporary Art Toronto](https://www.arsenalcontemporaryart.com/). The artist's works on paper are based on the feelings, inspirations and observations the artist experiences during rituals with sacred plants — and serve as a creative extension of his father's botanical knowledge of the Colombian Amazon jungle.



Aycoobo / Wilson Rodríguez, *Conexión; El Bastón; 4 elementos del origen*, 2019–2021. On view at Arsenal Contemporary Art Toronto as part of the Toronto Biennial of Art (2022). Photo: Toni Hafkenscheid. Courtesy of the artist and Instituto de Visión, Bogotá.

Eduardo Navarro at Colborne Lodge

In the heart of Toronto's High Park, art enthusiasts will be delighted to find the expressions of Argentina-born artist Eduardo Navarro in the form of his newly commissioned public sculpture *Wind Oracle*. Alongside [Colborne Lodge](#), a Regency-era lakeside summer cottage, the site-inspired installation invites audiences to engage with the wind and natural world.



Eduardo Navarro, *Wind Oracle*, 2022. Steel and mixed-media, 560 × 170 cm. On view at Colborne Lodge as part of the Toronto Biennial of Art (2022). Photo: Toni Hafkenscheid. Co-commissioned and co-presented by the Toronto

Lawrence Abu Hamdan at Mercer Union

A moving addition to this year's Biennial celebrations, Jordanian artist Lawrence Abu Hamdan brings his work, entitled *45th Parallel*, to the non-profit art space of [Mercer Union](#). Visitors to the site will find video and backdrops representing the Haskell Free Library and Opera House, the only dual-jurisdiction opera house in the world, for which Hamdan wrote a monologue and devised a performance.



Lawrence Abu Hamdan, *45th Parallel*. Installation view: Mercer Union, 2022. Courtesy the Artist. Photo: Toni Hafkenscheid.

Jeffrey Gibson at the Museum of Contemporary Art Toronto

Fifteen mobile stages have overtaken the first floor of the [Museum of Contemporary Art Toronto](#), courtesy of interdisciplinary artist Jeffrey Gibson. With a body of work that frequently references esthetic and material histories rooted in Indigenous cultures, Gibson's installation, *I AM YOUR RELATIVE*, features posters that incorporate text and images from local historical archives and from the public via open-call-submission.



Jeffrey Gibson, *I AM YOUR RELATIVE*, 2022. Installation views, MOCA Toronto. Courtesy of Jeffrey Gibson Studio, Kavi Gupta Gallery, Roberts Projects, Sikkema Jenkins & Co. and Stephen Friedman Gallery. *I AM YOUR RELATIVE* is co-commissioned by MOCA and the Toronto Biennial of Art. Photo by Rebecca Tisdelle-Marcias.

Various artists at the Small Arms Inspection Building

Once used as a munitions plant for rifles during the Second World War, the [Small Arms Inspection Building](#) in Mississauga is currently home to 10 inspiring and must-not-miss installations. Among them are a series of large-scale abstract paintings by artist Denyse Thomasos, woven sculptures by Eric-Paul Riege, and the remnants of a traditional obrog-obrog performance by clay music ensemble LAIR who are part of *Jatiwangi art Factory* (JaF).



Dana Prieto, *Footnotes for an Arsenal*, 2022. Terracotta tiles, terracotta containers, fired soil. Dimensions variable. On view at Small Arms Inspection Building as part of the Toronto Biennial of Art (2022). Photo: Toni Hafkenscheid. Commissioned by the Toronto Biennial of Art.

Spectacular closing event

Canada's leading free celebration of contemporary art is not only about installations! Check out the Toronto Biennial's plethora of engaging programming, including the can't-miss closing event: the public is invited to gather at [Sugar Beach](#) to see the lake and sky transformed by artist, educator and author Judy Chicago. From a barge on the water, she will release pigmented smoke into the air, where it will mix with the wind and the light to create a myriad of colour effects.

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