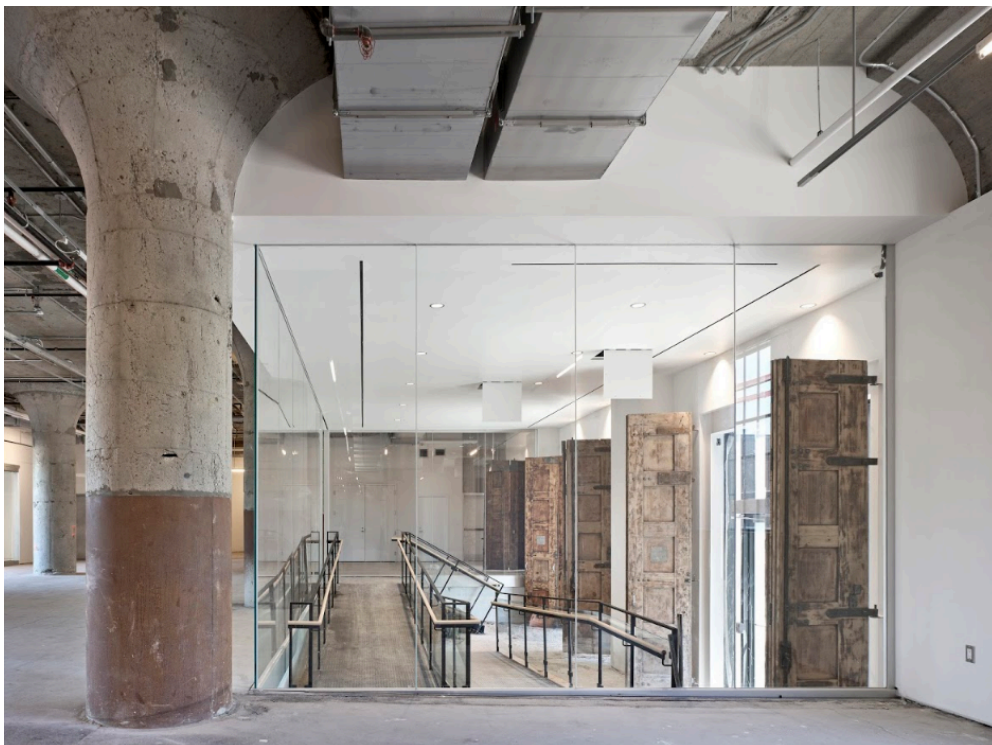


**The Museum of Contemporary Art Toronto Grand Opening takes place on September 22nd**

**TORONTO (September 18, 2018)** – The grand opening of the Museum of Contemporary Art Toronto Canada (MOCA Toronto) will take place with a community celebration on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. MOCA will be a community hub in the Junction Triangle, an area home to an expanding critical mass of creative businesses and activity that boasts one of the highest number of artists per capita in the country. MOCA’s transformative role as a catalyst for neighbourhood development began on Queen Street West and will be replicated and expanded in their new home on Sterling Road. The former MOCCA announced its move from Queen West to Sterling Road in 2015 to make way for condo development.

MOCA Toronto will be spread over 55,000 square feet of space between five floors encompassing two main exhibition floors as well as smaller program spaces, all of which will invite collaboration and conversation.

MOCA Toronto’s opening has been made possible due to the many likeminded partners and donors who have contributed to the \$25 million Tomorrow of Contemporary Art campaign. Funds raised to date include \$11.9 million from private donors/sponsors and \$6.1million from government sources including the Government of Canada’s Canada Cultural Spaces Fund and the Government of Ontario’s Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund. Working in collaboration with architectsAlliance and ERA Architects to design the space and Castlepoint Numa and Greybrook Realty Partners on the redevelopment plans, MOCA has been able to create a permanent home.



**The floor one of MOCA Toronto will remain a programmed free space for the community.**

“We are extremely grateful to our federal, provincial and city partners, as well as many private and corporate donors, and the staff, board members and volunteers who have worked so hard to get us to the finish line,” says Executive Director and CEO Heidi Reitmaier. “Today’s events culminate a visionary, multi-year process for everyone involved and we’re beyond thrilled to reveal this unique, wonderfully

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restored building and our exciting inaugural exhibitions on all five floors to the public and our guests from across Canada and around the world.”

The floor one of the museum will be a free space for the community to gather. During the first year of MOCA Toronto’s opening, guests will be able to use their imaginations to create their own area to gather. Greek artist Andreas Angelidakis was commissioned to create *Demos – A Reconstruction*, consisting of seventy-four modules that can be moved and recomposed by the public to create different structures, such as walls, amphitheatres, or even stages. Floor one will also include café partners [Forno Cultura](#), book store [Art Metropole](#).

MOCA’s inaugural exhibition *BELIEVE*, spread over floors two and three, will feature 16 Canadian and international artists and explore the beliefs and systems that inform our values and behaviours. Artists include Jeneen Frei Njootli, a Vuntut Gwich’in artist who has been hailed throughout Canada for her work in deconstructing materials from history to reclaim her past. Los Angeles-based artist Barbara Kruger is celebrated for a lifetime of work that forces viewers to revisit what they believe they know, currently through large installations that surround the viewer with language. Awol Erizku’s art is dedicated to the often-missing representation of people of colour, such as in his well-known work portraying classic portraits with black figures.

Half of floor four will be dedicated to *Art in Use*, a project conceived in dialogue with celebrated Cuban American artist and activist Tania Bruguera and the Association of Useful Art. This yearlong series opens with artists Hiba Abdallah and Justin Langlois (with furniture by Adrian Blackwell) and invites the public to participate in workshops and special projects that will explore how art drives social and political change.

As part of commitment to local community partnerships, the rest of floor four is devoted to the [Akin Studio Program](#). The program will provide spaces to 32 local artists on a one-year studio residency where they will benefit from producing work within the midst of MOCA. In addition, one studio hosts artists in collaboration with the Ontario Science Centre, where work produced will explore the intersections of art, science and technology for display at the Science Centre.

Andy Holden presents *Laws of Motion in a Cartoon Landscape* on the floor five: an exhibition of moving image works that Holden describes as "a lecture on cartoons, and also a cartoon lecture, guiding viewers through an animated landscape populated by well-known characters including Bugs Bunny and Wile E Coyote."

In the words of Reitmaier, “This new home for MOCA Toronto in the city’s Junction Triangle neighbourhood has been lovingly restored over the last three years and is now ready share with everyone its creativity and potential.”

A full list of MOCA Toronto programs is follows this release

**About the Museum of Contemporary Art Toronto Canada**

MOCA Toronto reopens in its new 55,000 square foot home in the Junction Triangle on September 22, 2018. Under the leadership of Executive Director and CEO, Heidi Reitmaier, the new MOCA Toronto is a place of conversation, exchange and exploration where visitors of all ages and backgrounds can be part of a global creative moment.

MOCA welcomes visitors to three phases of exhibitions a year featuring work from Canadian and world-recognized artists that explores the themes of our time. Located on Sterling Road, in the culturally rich Junction Triangle community, the museum is housed on the first five floors of the historic Tower Automotive Building, a former aluminium factory known for its unique architecture

The evolution of the Museum of Contemporary Art Toronto Canada is made possible through a unique alliance with Castlepoint Greybrook Sterling Inc., public sector funders, private donors, members, sponsors and a network of cross-sectoral partners. For more information on MOCA Toronto, visit [moca.ca](http://moca.ca).

**Media Contact**

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## Programming 2018-19

### **Andreas Angelidakis, *DEMOS – A Reconstruction***

September 22, 2018–August 2019

Functional and interactive, MOCA's first large-scale Invitation Project will invite visitors to reconfigure 74 modular foam blocks. The work is located on Floor 1 and free to all. It can serve as seating, a stage, an amphitheatre or even sculptural monuments.

### **Joi T. Arcand, *kiya itako (be you)***

September 22, 2018–January 6, 2019

A lightbox installation on the west external façade by Joi T. Arcand work and an accompanying text by John Hampton have been commissioned in collaboration with Mercer Union.

### ***BELIEVE***

September 22, 2018–January 6, 2019

MOCA's inaugural group exhibition will explore the beliefs and systems that inform our values and behaviours. The show reflects an institutional commitment to plurality and inter-disciplinarity and features 16 Canadian and other international artists.

### **Art in Use**

September 22, 2018–September 2019

Conceived in dialogue with celebrated Cuban American artist and activist Tania Bruguera and the Association of Useful Art, this yearlong series of workshops and special projects will explore how art drives social and political change.

- **Adrian Blackwell, *Scaffold and Horizons (Earth and Sky)***  
September 22, 2018–September, 2019
- **Hiba Abdallah and Justin Langlois, *Rehearsing Disagreement***  
September 22, 2018–November 11, 2018
- **Apolonija Šušteršič, *Light Therapy Room***  
November 28, 2018–February 10, 2019

**Andy Holden, *Laws of Motion in a Cartoon Landscape***

September 22, 2018–November 18, 2018

Holden's video installation explains the laws of physics through animations populated by well-known characters including Bugs Bunny and Wile E. Coyote.

**Chantal Akerman, *NOW and In the Mirror***

February 14, 2019 to April 28, 2019

This is the first presentation in Canada of Akerman's final video installation *NOW*, which was originally produced for the Venice Biennale in 2015. This immersive experience — a mediation on the power, meaning and mystery of time is coupled with her much earlier and very personal work *In the Mirror* from 1971.

**Basma Alsharif**

February 14, 2019–April 28, 2019

The first solo exhibition within our ascending artist series is part of the Mophradat Consortium Commissions Program, a partnership that supports contemporary artists from the Arab world.

**Mark Dion**

May, 2019–August 2019

The first Sterling Commission will see a major new work produced for MOCA by artist Mark Dion.

**Mika Rottenberg**

Summer 2020

MOCA is a partner of the New Museum, NYC and two other European institutions supporting the commission of a new film by Mika Rottenberg. An exhibition is earmarked for 2020 that will include a unique site-responsive installation of this commission, along with a number of other works.

**Megan Rooney**

June, 2019–August 2019

The second exhibition in our ascending artist series will allow the Toronto-raised artist to create a site-specific response to MOCA's unique architecture through painting, sculpture, written and spoken word and performance.

**Shezad Dawood, *Leviathan***

September–November 2019

Part of an ambitious ten-part film cycle inaugurated at the 57th Art Biennale in Venice, this ascending artist series installment will address marine welfare, migration, mental health and interconnections. MOCA are partners in the commission of episode 5, with the Toronto Biennial of Art, Fogo Island Arts and Tale of a Tub, Rotterdam.

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***Age of You***

September 2019–January 2020

MOCA's second group exhibition is organized by Shumon Basar, Douglas Coupland and Hans Ulrich Obrist and will focus on ideas of subjectivity while elaborating on the question, "Who are you?"

Please note that additional elements will be added to this schedule.