

9:30-10:30 AM

REGISTRATION AND OPENING

- Registration (9:30am)
- Land acknowledgment and smudging, Veronica Johnny (10:00am)
- Welcome remarks

10:45-11:45 AM

CONVERSATION

Reclaiming Creativity: Reflecting on Our Societal Relationship with Art and its Influence on Mental Health

This session delves into our cultural connection with art and its impact on individual and collective mental well-being. We examine how a hierarchical perspective, rooted in colonialism, has led to an undervaluation of art and creative expression, thereby detrimentally affecting our mental and societal health. Veronica and Melissa will engage in dialogue to dismantle these hierarchies, concurrently exploring Indigenous viewpoints on art's significance within communities. By harmonizing Western and Indigenous philosophies, we endeavour to reshape our approach, advocating for the use of communal artistic endeavours to foster robust individuals and societies. Subsequently, participants are invited to immerse themselves in the experience! Play stations will be thoughtfully arranged and remain accessible throughout the day. Attendees are encouraged to revisit these stations at their leisure, providing opportunities to relax, re-energize, and craft artistic expressions.

Facilitators: Veronica Johnny and Melissa Foster

11:45 AM-3:00 PM

INTERACTIVE STATIONS

Play, Make and Connect

Whether you're seeking a moment of respite between sessions, a burst of energy to fuel your inspiration, or a haven to unleash your imagination, we invite you to explore and engage with our stations and embrace the journey of play, creation, and connection at Emergence.

12:00 -1:00 PM

LUNCH

1:00-1:30 PM

MEDITATION & STRETCH

1:00 -2:00 PM

MENTORSHIP

Mentorship Hives: Connecting Art, Play, and Professional Growth

These intimate and collaborative spaces provide the perfect environment for nurturing your creative journey. Connect with like-minded individuals who share your passion for artistic exploration and play. Through group drop-in sessions, you'll have the opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions, exchange ideas, and receive guidance from both peers and mentors.

Mentorship Hive with Julián Carvajal

Join Julián as he delves into the captivating interplay between art and play, highlighting how they intersect to cultivate creativity and innovation. Julián will examine how play has gradually transformed into a commodity, influencing consumer culture. Unveiling the complexities of play and fun in a professional setting, he will shed light on why the integration of enjoyment at work is often misconstrued as counterproductive. Transitioning to the Orange Economy, he will underscore the vital role of fostering sustainable spaces that empower artists and community members alike. By emphasizing the significance of self-expression, he will elaborate on how these spaces not only nurture creativity but also enrich cultural vibrancy and socio-economic growth. Ultimately, his session aims to illuminate the multifaceted relationship between art, play, and community-building, underscoring the pivotal role of sustainable creative environments.

Mentorship Hive with Paddy Leung

Play is essential in the process of art and creativity. It gives us the necessary freedom to construct our ideal social, emotional, constructive experiences and so much more. In this mentorship hive, we will discuss through the lens of artists and art workers, how we can integrate play into our practice. How can we dismantle the barriers through art? What does it mean to create community care? The goal of this session is to share and hold space for playful and artful interaction with each other and the environment. Participants will make creative mind maps to facilitate discussion that draws inspiration from art and life.

1:00 -2:00 PM

WORKSHOP

The Power of Collaboration

This immersive and interactive session will allow participants to delve into and reflect upon the principles of collaboration, its defining characteristics, while also gaining insights into the existing power dynamics within groups. Guided by expert facilitators, attendees will have the opportunity to co-create in an environment that emphasizes personal growth and introspection. The session will shine a spotlight on the participant's individual journey, uncovering how their talents, skills, fears, preferences, and passions influence collective decision-making and the collaborative creative process.

Facilitator: Paola Gomez, Muse Arts

Making your own Art Kit

Get ready to discover a fresh way to connect with people through an interactive storytelling adventure packed into a box! We'll walk you through techniques, cool art ideas, and plenty of inspiration to help you create a unique experience for your community. After, you'll have the chance to team up and dive into testing already created art kits.

Facilitator: Karen Harkins, Clark Centre for the Arts

1:00-2:00 PM & 2:15-3:00

WORKSHOP

Felted Journeys

Felted Journeys Join multimedia artist and therapist Kat Singer for a hands-on felting workshop. Using high-quality materials sourced both locally and globally, participants will create a soft felted rock as a keepsake. While demonstrating felting techniques, Kat will share their knowledge and facilitate conversation on a variety of topics including the history and ethics of materials used in felting, embodied mindfulness practices, and neurodivergence.

Facilitator: Kat Singer

2:15-3:15PM

MENTORSHIP

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2:15-2:45 PM

MEDITATION & STRETCH

2:15-3:00 PM

PRESENTATION

Legal Labs: Self Employment for Artists Receiving Income Support

This session is your gateway to mastering the art of monetizing your creative passion and achieving self-employment, all while seamlessly navigating complex social assistance systems like Ontario Works (O.W.) and Ontario Disability Support Program (O.D.S.P.). Discover strategies to maximize income and asset exemptions tied to arts grants, empowering artists to earn and retain more without compromising support. Legal Labs is a SKETCH initiative aimed at demystifying and transferring legal knowledge to benefit its members on their artistic journeys. It's supported by the OAC and ESDC

Facilitator: Glatma Kimaiyo, SKETCH

3:15-4:00 AM

CLOSING AND NETWORKING



9:30-10:30 AM

REGISTRATION AND OPENING

- Registration
- Land acknowledgment & Welcome remarks

9:45-10:15 AM

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Julius Lindsay, David Suzuki Foundation

Delve into the powerful intersection of art and climate change action. Through vivid examples and insightful anecdotes, attendees will gain a deepened understanding of how art can serve as a potent instrument for conveying both the urgency of the climate crisis and the promise of sustainable solutions.

10:30 AM-11:15 AM

PRESENTATION

Exploring Culture's Role in Climate Action: CreativePEI a case study

As we learn more about the enigmatic tasks of mitigating and adapting to the worst effects of climate change, the inextricable link with culture becomes increasingly clear. In recognition of culture's key role in climate action, scholars are increasingly contributing to the emerging field of sustainability and the arts (SATA) and encountering myriad ways the arts can aid in fostering badly needed sustainable transformations. Using a mixed methods approach over two phases, this research explores the role and impact potential of arts organizations in responding to climate change, through the case of CreativePEI. This research showcases a robust engagement with climate change by an organization not explicitly mandated to do climate work, showing how existing arts activities and capabilities can be viewed through a climate lens. From this work, we present a preliminary impact framework for use and adaptation by CreativePEI and the broader arts sector.

Presenter: Emma Bugg

11:15 AM - 12:45 PM

LUNCH

11:30 AM-12:30 PM

GROUP DISCUSSION

Unleash Action in Breakout Working Groups

Our symposium transcends mere conversations — it ignites action. Join our breakout working groups, collaborating with kindred spirits to turn ideas into tangible initiatives. Together, we'll innovate creative approaches to champion climate action.

Meditation & Stretch (30mins)

12:30-1:30 & 1:30-2:30PM

MENTORSHIP

Mentorship Hives: Connecting Art, Play, and Professional Growth

These intimate and collaborative spaces provide the perfect platform to explore emerging ideas from the day, while fostering crucial discussions on climate change's relationship with the arts. During these sessions, participants will delve into how art can address climate challenges, discussing projects, sharing insights, and forging connections that cultivate both artistic and environmental growth.

Mentorship Hive with Jaene Castrillon

A guided meditation on self and the land through body awareness. Using our senses to connect to the land and a facilitated discussion on creating a reciprocal relationship to the land.

Mentorship Hive with Aqua Nibii Waawaaskone

Embark on a guided nature walk with musician and educator Aqua Nibii Waawaaskone. This walk will uniquely blend art, Indigenous teachings, and climate action, inviting you to explore the interconnectedness of these elements in a natural setting.

12:45 -2:00 PM

PANEL

Harmonizing Art and Climate Action: Illuminating Pathways to a Sustainable Future

Moderator: Nehal El-Hadi

Panelists: Bonnie Devine, Vladimir Kanic, Adam Quang, Cole Swanson

Harmonizing Art and Climate Action: Illuminating Pathways to a Sustainable Future

Discover the compelling fusion of art and climate action as visionary artists share their insights, showcasing how creative expression can drive environmental awareness and inspire meaningful change. Join us for an engaging discussion that explores the dynamic interplay between artistic innovation and sustainability, shaping a greener future through the lens of creativity.

2:15-3:00 PM

ARTIST TALK

Exploring Science and Art with Charmaine Lurch

Join conceptual artist, researcher, and educator Charmaine Lurch for an afternoon of pairing science and art. Sharing her activist work, cultural investigations, and bees and pollen grains constructions, the artist invites you to a peek behind the scenes with a studio visit and intimate chat where she will talk about some of the pieces on display at the Clark - opening up to a lovely discussion of sharing one's own experience with climate change, materials, and taking the time to pause.

Speaker: Charmaine Lurch

Meditation & Stretch (30mins)

3:00-4:00 AM

CLOSING AND NETWORKING



PRESENTERS

Day 1



Veronica Johnny is a multi-disciplinary artist, Indigi-Queer, Cree/Dene, 2Spirit woman. She's an arts educator, producer, and female entrepreneur. Ms. Johnny is a member of the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation and presently lives in Ontario. She is Cree-Metis on her mother's side and Dene-Scottish on her father's side, and has many other bloodline relations. She's a performer, workshop facilitator, musician, hand-drummer, speaker and visual artist and the frontwoman, co-producer, and manager of The Johnnys. Known for their high-energy performances, The Johnnys are an Indigenous-fronted rock'n'roll band featuring music with cheeky lyrics & anthemic choruses on fun, environment, social & political change. As a music producer and audio engineer, Veronica has worked with youth, women, and her own music projects. As an arts entrepreneur, Veronica's the founder of IndigenEd which focuses on lifting female Indigenous voices & stories through music, film & workshops. IndigenEd strives to create understanding between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people through interactive arts-education and performance events, both in-person & virtual, for all ages.



As a graduate of the Community Arts Practice Certificate and a BA (hons) in Theatre Studies from York University, Melissa has led and collaborated on numerous community arts projects over the years. She has developed and facilitate arts programs both abroad and within Toronto. She has close to 20 years of experience working in both the art and social service sector. Melissa's current interest is how we integrate play and art into the social fabric of our society. Melissa has worked at North York Arts since 2014, she is currently the Director of Development. This is where she first met and collaborated with Veronica Johnny and is thrilled to be working with her again.



Paola is a trained Human Rights lawyer, Community Organizer, Public Speaker, an Artist Facilitator, a writer and a dreamer. Paola is involved in causes such as Ending Violence against Women and Forced Migration as well as Community engagement. Paola is the Co-Founder and Program Director MUSE Arts, a Community Arts organization working with newcomer and refugee artists and communities focused on community and peace building.

Paola has received several awards such as Toronto Community Foundation VITAL PEOPLE, Amina Malko Award, City of Toronto Human Rights Award, and Skills for Change Pioneers for Change Excellence in the Arts award, amongst others. Paola is a professor at Centennial College.



Karen Harkins has a strong background in gallery and museum-based arts education, experience with facility management, excellent and proven community engagement and stakeholder relation skills and hands-on project management capabilities. Karen is at her best as part of a team, where she can use her unique skills and talents both to lead and to collaborate on work that fits with her values. Karen has gained a reputation for having highly developed interpersonal skills, professionalism and for infusing creativity into all that she does



Kat Singer, BA, BFA, MSW is a multiply neurodivergent interdisciplinary artist, scholar, facilitator, activist, and mental health professional residing in Tkaronto. Kat's interests include disability justice, community building, and healing through the arts.



Julián is a multifaceted, colourful and vibrant queer Latin Canadian Arts Manager/Producer with over 22 years of experience managing and delivering a diverse portfolio of arts festivals and cultural events that celebrate diversity, equity and inclusion. He has worked across the City of Toronto leading large high-level events, coordinating personnel, producing shows, and developing marketing concepts, allied with experience in budgeting, managing staff, and building strong community and media relations across cultural boundaries. He strives to work on projects that can transform the City of Toronto's cultural landscape and can showcase the diversity and strength of the City's unique spirit for residents and tourists.



Paddy Leung is a genderqueer, neurodivergent, second-generation, Canadian Chinese artist, educator, and activist. Working with drawing and painting, mixed media, sculpture, and installation. Paddy works from a unique perspective of strength-based, community change and experimental art forms, and ideas through an activist lens to support various communities with diverse life experiences and navigating multiple intersections of identities. Paddy's practice has focused largely on providing customized community art-based programs, primarily for young people with lived experience on the margins. Working with the Art Gallery of Ontario, VIBE Arts, The 519, North York Arts, Xpace Cultural Center, and Design Exchange, among others, Paddy is helping to transform the landscape of Toronto's community arts scene.



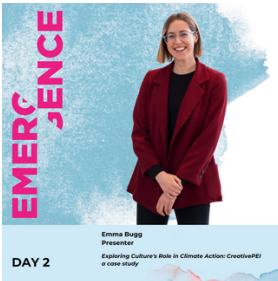
Glamma Kimaiyo, Sketch Toronto

Legal Labs is a SKETCH initiative aimed at demystifying and transferring legal knowledge to benefit its members on their artistic journeys. It's supported by the OAC and ESDC.

Day 2



Julius Lindsay is the Director of Sustainable Communities at the David Suzuki Foundation. He leads the Foundation's work to accelerate and raise the ambition of climate action in cities across the place now known as Canada. He is also a co-founder of the Black Environmentalist Alliance, an organization that seeks to champion black people in the environmental profession, provide a safe space for peer-to-peer engagement to have real conversations and share experiences, and to advocate for environmental justice for Black Canadians now and in the future. Julius is also a 2022 Next generation Foresight Practitioner Fellow and received their Inaugural Existential Risk award and is a 2023 Future Fellow for the Future of Canada Project at McMaster University to support work on the Prismatic Project.



Emma Bugg (she/her) is a PhD student in Dalhousie University's Interdisciplinary PhD program. She holds a Master of Environmental Studies from Dalhousie and was one of five researchers in residence contributing to the Mass Culture Arts' Civic Impact research project. Through this project, Emma explored the intersections of art, climate change, and environmental sustainability by working in residence with CreativePEI to develop an impact framework to better understand, amplify, and enhance the contributions of the arts towards addressing the climate crisis. Prior to beginning her studies at Dalhousie University, Emma worked at the Ottawa based non-profit Evidence for Democracy as the Communications and Campaigns Manager. She holds a Bachelor of Arts Honours from the University of Saskatchewan.



Aqua, just as her name suggests, is an elemental force. Her lyrics and melodies flow out of her like the crystal clear medicine water that she is. She is rooted in her Anishinaabe heritage and proudly identifies as a mixed ancestry being; embodying all the beauty of Ojibwe, Irish, and French bloodlines. Proudly walking with the heartbeat of her hand drum. She brings a unique take on Blues music and has created her own genre, IndigiBlues; inspired by her life stories as an IndigiQueer person overcoming intergenerational trauma, mental health, addictions, homelessness, and violence. Woven together with unforgettable harmonies and the soothing sounds of strings.

In essence, Aqua has taken her soul music made of magic and shared it with the world.



Jaene F. Castrillon is a multi-disciplinary artist who explores her relationship to the world through various spiritual teachings and the wisdom of the land. As a mixed race (Colombian/Hong Kong Chinese) queer woman of color living with disabilities, her work combines art and activism with spirituality to open a dialogue on ideas of wellness and illness. Jaene's believes in sharing the brilliance and heart-break of living a life less ordinary.



Nehal El-Hadi is the Science + Technology editor at The Conversation in Canada and editor-in-chief of Studio magazine. Her writing has appeared in Brick, CBC Arts, Real Life, and Guernica. She completed a Ph.D. in Planning at the University of Toronto, where she examined the relationships between user-generated content and everyday public urban life. Her current research projects explore human-sand relations, the cultural impact of white sandalwood environmental regulations, and the long-term implications of surveillance. Nehal currently holds a residency at Toronto's Theatre Centre, where she is developing a live arts event that explores surveillance, privacy, and consent.



Bonnie Devine
Panel Speaker
DAY 2

Bonnie Devine is a visual artist and writer. An off-reserve member of the Anishinaabek of Genaabaajing (Serpent River) First Nation, Devine's work emerges from the storytelling and image-making traditions that are central to Anishinaabe culture. Devine's cross disciplinary practice combines written, sculptural, painted, and performative gestures to explore issues of land and history. Though formally educated in sculpture and installation art at the Ontario College of Art and Design (OCAD U) and York University, Devine's most enduring learning came from her grandparents, who were trappers on the Canadian Shield in northern Ontario.

Devine was awarded a Governor General's Award in Visual and Media Arts in 2021. She is an Associate Professor Emerita and the Founding Chair of the Indigenous Visual Culture program at OCAD University.



Cole Swanson
Panel Speaker
DAY 2

Cole Swanson is an artist and educator based in Toronto/Tkaronto, Ontario. Through a multidisciplinary, collaborative, and materially-focused practice, he explores the complex relations emerging between creatures living together in tension amidst the so-called Anthropocene. Swanson's work opens to multiple ways of knowing; he often learns from/with conservationists, scientists, community partners, and more-than-human actors to inform critical aspects of the creative process.

Swanson is undertaking PhD research in the Environmental Studies Program at York University where is engaged in multispecies and arts-based research into Toronto's massive and maligned double-crested cormorant colony. He is a faculty member in Humber College's Faculty of Media and Creative Arts.



Vladimir Kanic
Panel Speaker
DAY 2

Vladimir Kanic's art practice is informed by his maritime heritage and extensive free diving experience. He uses diving and breathing to access his cultural, ancestral and personal worlds while exploring memories of Earth's geological time deposited within the bodies of living algae. As Earth's principal carbon sinks, algae produce approximately 70% of planetary oxygen while consuming gasses produced by the burning of Earth's geological layers (such as coal, oil and gas).

Kanic studied science at Goldsmiths University of London and Interdisciplinary Arts at OCAD University in Toronto, where he graduated from the BFA program with valedictorian honours. He is currently completing the MFA graduate program in Visual Arts at York University.



Adam Quang
Panel Speaker
DAY 2

Adam Quang is an accomplished interdisciplinary artist, designer, and author with over 20 years of experience. He serves as the fashion director for Hollywood North Style Lounge and is a prominent advocate for sustainable fashion. Adam has been honored with the Excellence Young Quebec Designers Award and has showcased his work at prestigious events including Design Miami/Art Basel, T.I.F.F, and various fashion weeks in Canada. Additionally, he brings his expertise as a costume FX textile artist for Star Trek: Discovery.



Charmaine Lurch
Speaker
DAY 2

Charmaine Lurch is a conceptual artist whose paintings, sculptures, and social engagement reveal the intricacies and complexities of the relationships between us and our environments. Her sculptures, installations, and interventions contend with explorations of space and light and invite analysis into overwhelmingly complex and urgent racial, ecological, and historical understandings. Lurch has exhibited beyond and throughout Canada, including the Art Gallery of Ontario, Musée des beaux-arts de Montréal, the Massillon Museum in Ohio, the National Gallery of Jamaica, and an exhibition at WEAD/Platform 3 in Iran. Lurch's works, acquired by Global Affairs Canada, were exhibited at EXPO 2021 in Dubai, and her pieces have been shown in Canadian embassies and consulates globally.