

Maya Wilson-Sanchez

Curator, Writer, and Researcher at C Magazine, OCAD University

Toronto, ON, CA

Maya Wilson-Sanchez is a curator and writer based in Toronto.

Biography

Maya Wilson-Sanchez is an independent curator, writer, and editor based in Toronto. She is interested in processes of history-making and building connections between local and international communities to foster networks of exchange and solidarity. Her essays, reviews, and exhibition texts can be found in various publications including *The Senses and Society Journal*, *Canadian Art*, *Contemporary HUM*, and the book *Other Places: Reflections on Media Arts in Canada* (PUBLIC Books, 2019). Wilson-Sanchez holds degrees in art history from the University of Toronto (MA) and OCAD University (BA) and has worked in collections, research, programming, and curatorial research roles at Gallery TPW, the Royal Ontario Museum, Onsite Gallery, OCAD University, MKG127, and the Art Gallery of Ontario. She curated *Intra-Action: Live Performance Art* (2016, 2017) at Xpace Cultural Centre, *Living Room* (2017) at the Royal Ontario Museum, *DIY Love: Queer Knowledge & History Then, Now, and Forever* (2017) at Pride Toronto, and *Grounding* (2020) at the Art Gallery of Guelph. In 2019, she was an Editorial Resident at *Canadian Art* and a Curatorial Resident at the Art Museum at the University of Toronto, where she contributed to exhibitions highlighting the work of Deanna Bowen and the Isuma film collective. She has shared her research through talks, public tours, and guest lectures held in multiple venues across Canada, the United States, and Mexico. The 2020 recipient of the Middlebrook Prize for Young Canadian Curators, Wilson-Sanchez will be a 2021 participant at the Tate Intensive in London, UK. She is currently teaching at OCAD University curating a year-long public arts program and exhibition for the City of Toronto's Year of Public Art.

Availability

Keynote, Moderator, Panelist, Workshop

Areas of Expertise

Contemporary Art, Art Criticism, Curatorial Studies, Art History, Performance Art, Curatorial Research, Indigenous Art, Visual and Critical Studies, Museum Programming, Museum Collections, Latin American Art

Affiliations

Royal Ontario Museum, OCAD University, University of Toronto, Art Gallery of Ontario, C Magazine, City of Toronto, Art Gallery of Guelph, Art Museum at the University of Toronto, Tate Modern, Canadian Art Magazine

Curatorial Projects and Exhibitions

Grounding

Curator, Art Gallery of Guelph, 2020 Grounding includes artwork made from the ground ? work that uses as its material basis the same valuable natural resources that drive world economies. Taking a hemispheric approach, Grounding presents nuanced practices of art-making that respond to extractive industries in the Americas, and more specifically within Canada, Peru, and Argentina. Challenging the assumptions implicit in this economic model, the artists suggest a re-appropriation of natural resources to envision futures beyond those based on capital accumulation, environmental destruction, and colonial value systems.

God of Gods: A Canadian Play

Curatorial Resident, Art Museum at the University of Toronto, Toronto, ON 2019

The Living Room

Co-Curator, Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, ON 2017 Housed within the Family Camera exhibition at the Royal Ontario Museum, the Living Room is an exhibition that depicts how history, culture, and politics are present in our homes and in our photographs. By showcasing the collaborative work of designers, documentary-makers, and artists, it shows how through stories and images we create new histories that help shape our society. The installation explores the power of storytelling through sharing family photographs. This intimate setting portrays how photographs may be kept, shared, and displayed. It uses projection-mapping technology to create a multi-sensory narrative that explores how personal remembrance can contribute to collective memory.

DIY LOVE: Queer Knowledge & History Then, Now, and Forever

Curator, Pride Toronto, Toronto, ON 2017 This participatory artwork was a project for Pride Toronto that created a collective installation of queer discourse and history. Mobile walls were presented in the middle of Church Street where community members were invited to contribute to a collage-like mural. Defaced by markers and messages, it connotes the typical nightclub bathroom walls that were often the most direct portal to affection and an understanding audience during LGBTQ2 youth. Blank paper, markers, and paint were provided in addition to posters that were commissioned from five LGBTQ2 artists and writers that referenced important historical icons or moments of queer history in Toronto. Other LGBTQ2 artists based in Toronto also donated existing print-based work. While onsite, the curator and artists were present to teach participants how to make wheat paste and use the posters and artwork on hand (or create drawings themselves) to include in the creation of two murals. Participants were also free to take away the posters and invited to wheatpaste them in other places within the city. High-quality digital versions of the posters are also available online for free so that they may be shared on social media or printed out and wheat-pasted elsewhere. Pride Toronto has become an increasingly commercial space, therefore this free and interactive art project was a way to provide a non-transactional experience at Pride that was centered on community-building and remembering the radical history of Pride. One of the collective murals currently hangs at OCAD University.

Intra-Action II: Live Performance Art

Curator, Xspace Cultural Centre, Toronto, ON 2017 An exhibition of live performance art by artists based in Toronto, Montreal, and New York City. Supported by funding from the Toronto Arts Council, this performance event welcomed the public to come together to form a critical and inclusive space for the development and demonstration of performance art. The 2017 exhibition included themes of surveillance, performing femininity, current economic realities in Toronto, and the contemporary art community in Montreal, among others.

Conferences

Ways of Knowing Land: Métis and Anishinaabe Land Knowledge in the Work of Christi Belcourt and Bonnie Devine

Worlding the Global: Arts in the Age of Decolonization

Encuentro: The World Inside Out

Performing Cuir Histories and Curating Andean Musealities

The Album as Archive: Margaret Corry's souvenir photographs through the lens of Canadian citizenship (1946-63)

With Gabrielle Moser, College Art Association Annual Conference

Performing History in the Andes: Performance Art and Decolonial Methods

Decolonizing Conference

Non-Human Kinship in Contemporary Canadian Art

Unsettling the Americas: Radical Hospitalities and Intimate Geographies

Education

University of Toronto

M.A. Art History

OCAD University

B.A. (Hons.) Visual and Critical Studies

Accomplishments

The Middlebrook Prize for Young Canadian Curators

2020

OCAD University Alumni Award

2020

Jean Sutherland Boggs Fellowship
2019

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council's Canada Graduate Scholarships ? Masters
2018

Sir Edmund Walker Award for Graduate Studies
2018

Visual and Critical Studies Graduation Award
2018

Diversity & Equity Excellence Award
2017

Ada Slaight Scholarship
2013-2017

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