



Invest in Culture

Inspire Minds

Connect Communities



Annual Report | 2022

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# Message from the President of the Board

Successful board and staff collaboration is vital to the health of an organization. Over the past year, I worked closely with the Executive Director to develop new strategies and initiatives at the VAC. Together, we had essential discussions, presented to Clarington Municipal Council, established goals for board members, streamlined workflow, worked on succession planning and maintained an open line of communication.

Like co-pilots, we worked as a team to help the VAC soar, but we couldn't do it alone! I would like to thank the members of the board and staff for their passion, advocacy and dedication. Board members have donated their time, shared their expertise and pitched in to help at events. Staff members worked hard behind-the-scenes and in the public eye to ensure a smooth transition back to in-person programming. Their combined efforts, enthusiasm and creative thinking go a long way to help the VAC grow and thrive in the community.

I'm excited to see what the future holds!

*Amy Shackleton*

Amy Shackleton  
**President of the Board of Directors**

# Message from the Executive Director

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Although 2022 started as another challenging year, by mid-Spring, we had turned the corner and welcomed people back to the gallery.

The VAC continues to be committed to bringing diverse voices and communities together. This commitment was reflected in our exhibitions and programming. We embarked on a number of ambitious projects and programs throughout 2022.

- *this is not an atlas* examined notions of mapping, mythologies, and belonging in the works of artists Jude Abu Zaineh, Bruno Canadien, Bonnie Devine, Maria Hupfield, Teo Monsalve, Su Yu Hsin, and Joseph Tisiga.
- *Yesterday is Melting* Sandy Williams IV invited audiences to acknowledge how we observe and participate in history.
- *Sutures* invited artists Eve Tagny (Montréal, QC) and Emii Alrai (Leeds, UK) in our inaugural international residency and site-specific duo installation.
- *41st Juried Art Show* through an open call to artists, included emerging Creators under 18. Juror's Hannah Keating, Mia Vujcic and Megan Kammerer culled an elegant exhibition showcasing the talent of locally engaged artists and creatives.
- Throughout 2022 the VAC was honoured to assist Toyota in acquiring a sculpture installation at their Eastern Canada Parts Distribution Centre on Lambs Road.

Thank you to our members, volunteers, donors, and many funders. The sustained support from the Municipality of Clarington, the Ontario Arts Council, the Canada Council for the Arts, Young Canada Works (Canadian Museum Association) and Service Canada allows us to build relationships with diverse artists and communities through art.

*Dionne Powlenzuk*

Dionne Powlenzuk  
**Executive Director**

# At a glance

In 2022, the VAC presented

**40**

paid opportunities for: artists, writers, students,  
photographers and technicians

**1**

international residency

**1**

solo exhibition

**3**

group and community  
exhibitions

**4**

screenings, talks and  
artist-led workshops

# Audience Growth

In 2022, the VAC presented 1 solo exhibition, 1 Artist residency, 2 group shows and 1 community show; throughout 2022 we welcomed an audience of **4,416** visitors to our shows and programs on site; we engaged with **3,043** followers on Instagram, **1,715** fans on Facebook and provided information to over **24,321** visitors on the website;

Channel/Followers	2022	2021	2020
Facebook	1,715 (+10.6%)	1,550 (+31%)	1,182
Instagram	3,043 (+30.8%)	2,326 (+38%)	1,680
Website	24,321 (+65%)	14,725 (+21.5%)	12,113

# Vision

The VAC connects people of all ages and backgrounds in a creative place for learning and discovery.

# Mission

The VAC utilizes art to create an inclusive space where ideas are exchanged, questions are asked, and connections are made.

# In the Press

In 2022, the VAC was mentioned in numerous print and online publications including:

- HeyGalleries.ca
- ToDoCanda.ca
- Peterborough Examiner
- Insauga.com
- NOW Magazine
- Downtowns of Durham
- Ontario Culture Days
- KawarthaNow
- Culture Days
- Watershed Magazine
- Destination Ontario
- Clarington This Week
- The Orono Times
- ArtScene



# Exhibitions | 2022







## this is not an atlas

by Jude Abu Zaineh, Bonnie Devine,  
Bruno Canadien, Maria Hupfield,  
Teo Monsalve, Su Yu Hsin, Joseph Tisiga

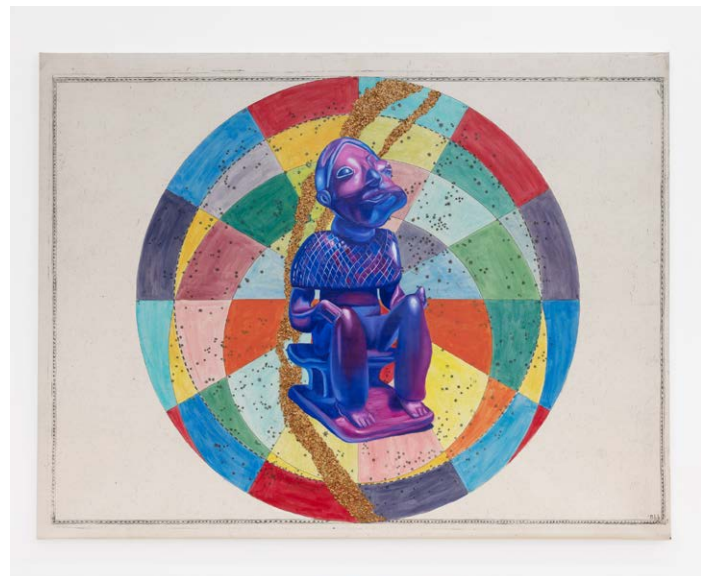
Curated by Noor Alé  
January 9 - March 26, 2022



***this is not an atlas*** examines notions of mapping, mythologies, and belonging in the works of artists Jude Abu Zaineh, Bruno Canadien, Bonnie Devine, Maria Hupfield, Teo Monsalve, Su Yu Hsin, and Joseph Tisiga. The gathered works—among them site-specific installations, prints, video and paintings—make visible the histories and realities of sovereignty and resilience by remapping, reorienting, and reclaiming cartography as a decolonial practice.

Cartography charted the expansion of European empires into the Americas, Africa, and Asia, fuelling the forced expropriation of Indigenous lands. Authored by surveyors, maps are neither neutral nor objective; they serve as ideological tools articulating power hierarchies, economic motivations, and

nationalistic agendas. The exhibition's title is borrowed from a global collection of counter-cartographic writings by artists, environmentalists, and scholars who create maps to engender political activism.





**prayers for a word  
(or a lack that builds the world)**

Joshua Vettivelu

Curated by Matthew Kyba and  
Megan Kammerer

February 4 - March 6, 2022

Public Program: Artist Led tour and talk,  
March 5, 2022.



Joshua Vettivelu's installation, *prayers for a word (or a lack that builds the world)* presents hundreds of slowly melting castings of their grandmother's hands, made out of beeswax infused with 'Ceylon' cinnamon.

Vettivelu's research investigates how the language we use to understand ourselves is informed by the material conditions that surround us. *Prayers for a word (a lack that builds the world)* connects the material history of the spice trade with the psychic impact of European missionary work to explore how frameworks of redemption and salvation have been used to ensure enthusiastic labour and unfettered access to resources.

The installation is housed in the VAC, recalling its role as a decommissioned



barley mill. The building was constructed in 1905 for the processing of grits and barley, later revitalized into a hub of cultural production by the Town of Newcastle in 1976. In collaboration with Nicolas Fleming and Andreas Buchwaldt, Vettivelu refigures the VAC's architecture into a factory that continually produces and destroys something that is simultaneously material and immaterial, public yet deeply private.



## yesterday is melting

Works by Sandy Williams IV Featuring  
ANTIESTABLISHED, Mariana Parisca,  
Monsieur Zohore

Co-Curated by Matthew Kyba and  
Megan Kammerer  
April 1 - May 28, 2022  
Public Program: Artist Talk, May 28, 2022

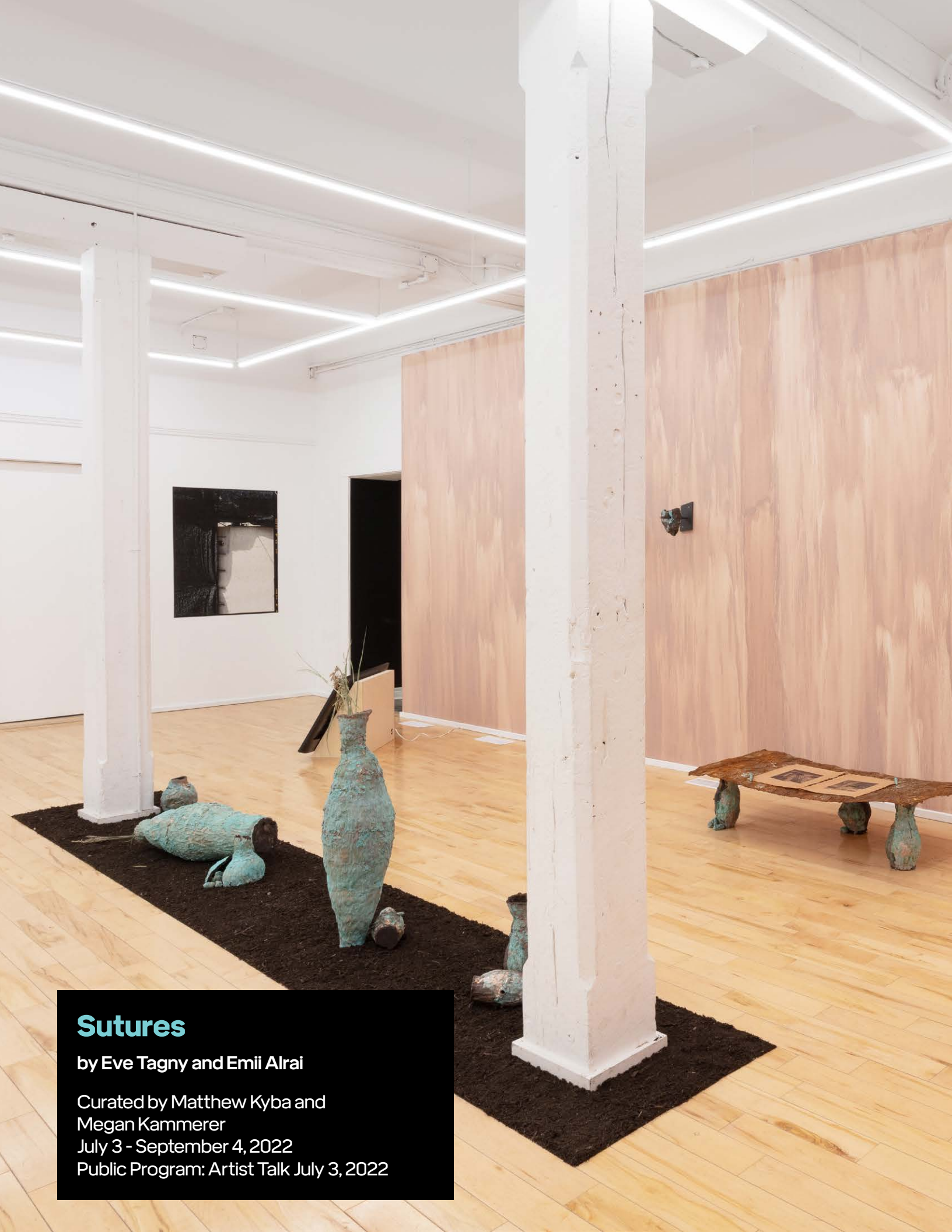


*Yesterday is Melting* encapsulates a relentless pursuit of public agency and free will in the face of colonial institutions, governmental power, and increasing social amnesia. Sandy Williams IV implicates audiences to acknowledge how we observe and participate in history. From the reconceptualization of public monuments to the unspoken implications of unattended luggage or the sociopolitical index captured in currency, Williams strikes a balance in tension. They interplay the untouchable and the malleable, the passage of time and the infallible memory, the transparent and the concealed to encourage the viewer's participation in history-making.

Additional works by ANTIESTABLISHED (Kate Turner, Warren Jones, and Williams), Mariana Parisca, and Monsieur Zohore

respond to Williams' engagement in the emancipation of public space. Together their disparate works unravel common structures of power and repression in the Americas.





## Sutures

by Eve Tagny and Emii Alrai

Curated by Matthew Kyba and  
Megan Kammerer

July 3 - September 4, 2022

Public Program: Artist Talk July 3, 2022



In their first collaborative exhibition, Eve Tagny and Emii Alrai bring together an accumulation of sculptural gestures which reference a two-year digital research process. These gestures are placed in the gallery as a visual essay, layering relationships between land, extraction, and the body.

After injury, a suture weaves broken pieces back into a whole. Its bands pull together, forcing two lacerations to meet as the body recovers from incision. The works in this exhibition take the form of stitches—physical and photographic assemblages which together create a scarred landscape. Traditional techniques of cob mortar, hand-dyed textile, and clay are blended with new experimentation in bio-plastics and construction materials to create a terrain that

desires time to heal itself from the extractive binds which the non-white body undergoes in a landscape.

The duo met on Instagram—one based in Montréal and the other in Leeds. They wove individual research practices together online from across the Atlantic. Digital collaborations later developed into physical meetings in England, Italy, and Canada—ultimately landing on the common structures that tie these landscapes together. Tagny and Alrai traveled to Clarington for a month-long residency in June 2022. They stitched together dueling notions of a wound in our studios—activating ceramics, photography, and found objects to uncover the history of these materials as they transform into new barriers and skins.



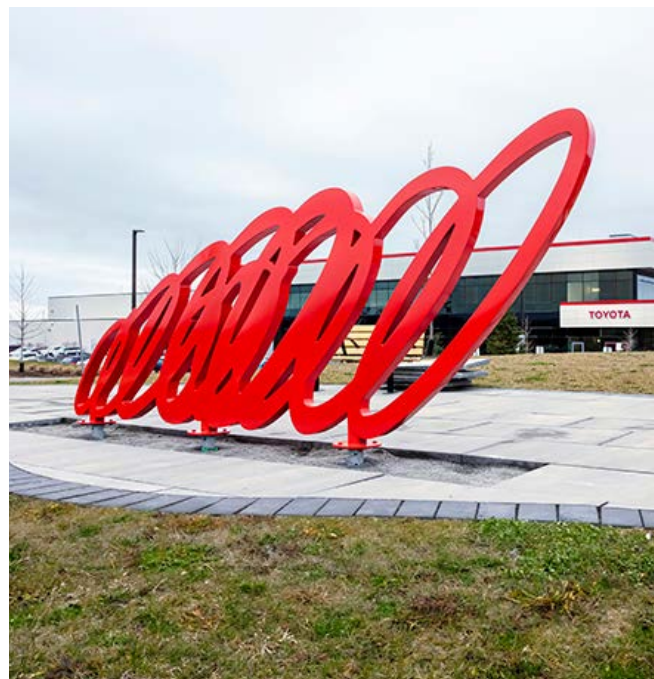
# Artist Opportunities

## 41st Juried Art Exhibition

October 1 - December 14

Awards Reception: Saturday,  
October 15, 6 - 9 pm

Following our call to artists in August 2022, the VAC received over 180 individual submissions. Narrowing selections from the incredible variety and quality of entries was a great challenge. Originality, ability, and technique were the primary criteria used to select the final 35 artists over 2 categories—Adult and Youth. This exhibition showcases varied artmaking techniques and subject matter from artists working in painting, photography, drawing, sculpture, and video art. Eight cash prizes are awarded between these groups, including six juried Excellence Prizes and two People’s Choice Awards.



## Open Call for Public Art: Toyota Eastern Canada Parts Distribution Centre

After sharing an open call to Ontario-based artists and art collectives in March, the VAC is happy to say that Toyota Canada has recently unveiled their new public art piece, *Momentum*. This vibrant red sculpture was created by multi-disciplinary Canadian artist Niall McClelland. *Momentum* reflects on Toyota’s core principles of respect for people and the environment, as well as their commitment to social progress.

# Public Programs | 2022



SPONSORED BY:



# ALLIES FOR AUTISM CAR RALLY

IN RECOGNITION OF WORLD AUTISM DAY

DISCOVER RURAL GEMS IN DURHAM REGION  
90 MINUTES OF DRIVING \* 9 FUN-FILLED STOPS  
STAGGERED START TIMES FROM 9:30 AM

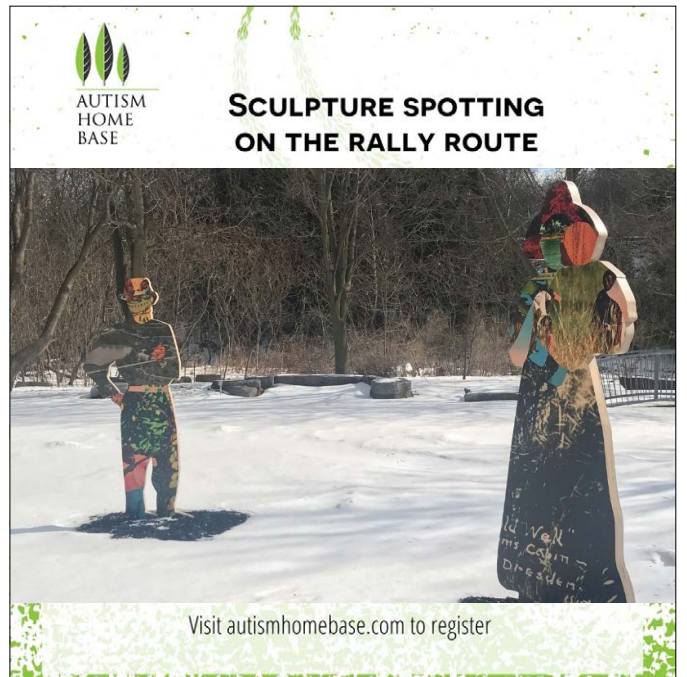


PROCEEDS BENEFIT AUTISTIC ADULTS IN DURHAM REGION AND SURROUNDING AREAS  
[WWW.AUTISMHOMEBASE.COM](http://WWW.AUTISMHOMEBASE.COM) A REGISTERED CANADIAN CHARITY #81352 5797 RR0001

## Allies for Autism Car Rally Activity: Create a Thaumatrope Saturday, April 2, 2022, 9 AM

In recognition of World Autism Day held on April 2, 2022 AHB is hosting Allies for Autism Car Rally fundraiser with nine checkpoints.

Head to the Visual Arts Centre of Clarington to create your own thaumatrope, then to Stoick, Axe Throwing for a quick target practice, over to Algoma Orchards Gourmet Market for some apple sampling and apple bowling. Continue on to Newcastle Disc Golf for a free throw, then over to The Hive Centre and Stay for a nature experience. Navigate the pylons at Canadian Tire Motorsport Park, sample the ciders at Archibald Orchards & Winery, meet some furry friends at Knox Farm and end your tour with a Trivia challenge at Ontario Power Generation Darlington.





## **Driftwood Theatre presents The Bard's Bus Tour: King Henry Five Tuesday, July 19, 2022, 7 PM**

Driftwood Theatre Group is excited to announce plans for their return to the road with The Bard's Bus Tour. Back for the first time since 2019, Driftwood will present *King Henry Five*, running throughout Southern Ontario from July 14 - August 21, 2022. An ambitious adaptation of three Shakespeare plays (*Henry IV* pts 1 & 2, *Henry V*), *King Henry Five* is a powerful story about community, the families we inherit and those we choose, and the legacies we leave behind.

Set against the backdrop of a contemporary patio bar and featuring Driftwood's signature blend of music, puppetry and Shakespeare's captivating poetry, *King Henry Five* rolls into outdoor community

spaces across Ontario this summer. This compelling saga will be told with a cast of only five performers. Led by Driftwood's Founding Artistic Director, Jeremy Smith the cast includes celebrated Canadian theatre veteran Hume Baugh, Richard Alan Campbell, Ximena Huizi and emerging theatre artists Rosalie Tremblay and Ben Yoganathan. The production is designed by Julia Kim, and will feature seven original songs with lyrics by Germaine Konji.

In keeping with Driftwood Theatre's vision of theatre for all people, all tickets are available for Pay What You Can Afford admission. Audiences are invited to select from admission prices which best suits their circumstance.

# Incubator Workshop Series

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## **We need to speak in spores A Participatory performance by Emily DiCarlo**

**Saturday, August 27, 2022**

We need to speak in spores is a collective exercise in attunement, empathy and collaboration where the public is invited to think like fungi.



## **Saprotrophs—A screening with artist Miles Rufeld**

**Saturday, August 27, 2022**

Saprotrophs is a hybrid screening and lecture event to be presented at the VAC, focused on historicizing ideas of growth and decay, as they've evolved from the earth's ancient ecologies to landscapes of industrialized capitalism. The event will open with a screening of artist Miles Rufelds' 2019 essay film, *Two or Three Saprophytes*.



## **A Virtual Meeting**

**Friday, September 9, 2022**

August Klintberg leads a virtual discussion studying the phenomenon of artist-run restaurants—the subject of his Ph.D. thesis and a remaining area of ongoing research in his practice. Klintberg's selected case studies use food and hospitality as leverage points to highlight commodity exchange, to enact activism, to question or claim forms of identity, and to spark conviviality.



**Into the Mire:  
Foraging New Ethics in the Soper Creek Valley  
Led by Artist Maria Simmons  
Saturday, December 10, 2022**



A nature walk venturing out into Soper Creek Valley. Hybrid artist Maria Simmons lead participants through the landscape, introducing the present ecology, fungal structures and basic floral identification techniques. Participants learned about current foraging practices as they investigated the anaerobic underworlds of Canadian Peatlands. Participants co-produced living sculptures with Simmons as they used a collection of the vegetation gathered during this event to create active bog fermentations in their upcoming exhibition, *Anoxic Memory*.



# Education Programs

Mid 2022 the VAC was able to reopen the studios for extensive educational programming through classes and public events that focus on making art and developing visual literacy. Our classes cater to kids and adults and offer fun, interactive, engaging programs that are taught by a team of art educators whose practices vary in all forms of mediums.

## Adult Classes

- Watercolour Painting
- Painting Essentials
- Beginners Wheel Throwing
- Wheel Throwing
- Beginner's Pottery
- Hand-building

## Kids Classes

- Junior Kids Art
- Kinder Kids Art
- Junior Kids Pottery
- March Break Camp
- Summer Camp



# Funders

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## Clarington



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL  
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO

an Ontario government agency  
un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario



Canada Council for the Arts  
Conseil des arts du Canada

ONTARIO ARTS  
foundation  fondation  
DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO

ONTARIO **POWER**  
GENERATION

**PineRidge  
Arts Council**





# Donors

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Elizabeth Jamischak  
Cathy Kammerer  
Ellie Kinnear  
Aubrey Kassirer  
Sherri Helwig

Vivienne Song  
Grace Moores  
Owen Witherspoon  
Jill Price  
Gary Tyler Durbano

Deborah Patrick  
Reza Hosseiny  
Patricia Duncan

# Volunteers

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Autumn Goldsmith  
Carly Bowen  
Gabriella  
Sarrinah Asif  
Chloe Chalms  
Hariz Sayed  
Aidan Rambaille  
Carly Williams  
Lukas Smith  
Oliver Smith  
Minna Powell  
Sfiyah Waqar

Miryam Elhayek  
Mido Abe  
Isabel Cheng  
Veronica Jeffery  
Samantha McCarthy  
Maddie Harloff Leech  
Hailey Wright  
Brianna Wright  
Vera Cooke  
Kayla Bota  
Rebecca Sullivan  
Kyra Wessels

Mayez Babar  
Minna Powell  
Krystyna Fulling  
Stephanie Fulling  
Haylee Ball  
Calvin Gauley  
Ben Barry  
Isla Rose Mackenzie  
Kiera Elliott  
Nethuki Galmangoda Guruge

# 2022 Team

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## Board of Directors

### Executive Officers

Amy Shackleton - President  
Anna McQuaid - Vice President  
Zane Piekenbrock - Treasurer  
Jess MacGregor - Secretary

### Directors

Michelle Gewurtz  
Rhonda Jessup  
Yam Lau  
Victoria Smyth

### Council Representative

Councillor Corinna Traill

## Staff Members

### Executive Director

Dionne Powlenzuk

### Curator of Exhibitions

Megan Kammerer

### Marketing Coordinator

Áine Belton

### Community Engagement & Development Coordinator

Chistian Iozzo

### Education Coordinator

Desarée Roskopf  
Rebecca Reynolds

### Academic Interns

Bronwyn Gauley  
Lindsay Olivieri  
Mia Vujcic

### Camp Director

Emily Stanisz

### Camp Administrator

Autumn Herd

### Camp Counsellors

Sabeen Asif  
Gabrielle Lewis  
Erica Rand  
Sarah MacNaughton  
Lizzie Meropolyt

### Community Engagement Coordinator

Micah Nasir

## Artist Instructors

Hi-Sook Barker  
Pete Smith  
Katie Snoek  
Natalie Miller  
Reza Hosseiny  
Jihee Min

## Exhibition Installation

### Technicians

Andre Beneteau  
Paul Oldham

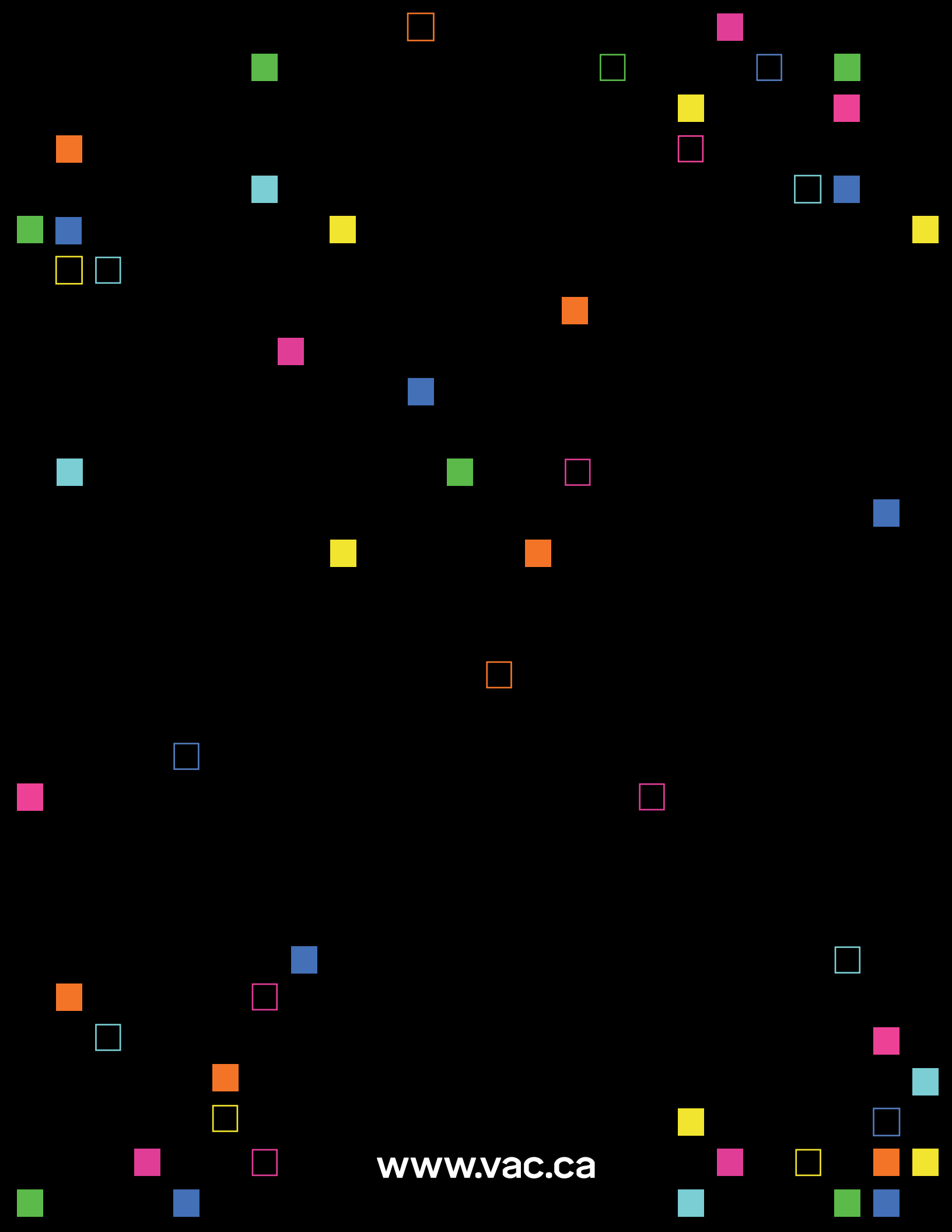
## Photographic Documentation

Laura Findlay

# Summary of Financial Position

## Fiscal Year January 1 - December 31, 2022

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>Revenue</b>		
Municipality of Clarington	\$234,713	\$219,336
Program revenue	\$67,119	\$7,019
Other revenue	\$24,691	\$102,208
<i>Mayor's Gala for the Arts</i>	\$19,789	\$21,774
<i>Ontario Arts Foundation Endowment</i>	\$3,695	\$3,459
<i>Private Foundation Grants</i>	-	\$76,758
<i>Interest and other income</i>	\$1,207	\$217
<b>Government Grants</b>	<b>\$165,660</b>	<b>\$192,551</b>
<i>2020 OAC operating grant</i>	\$15,359	\$15,359
<i>Canada Cultural Spaces Grant</i>	-	\$13,575
<i>Government of Canada - Summer Jobs</i>	\$38,144	\$36,229
<i>Canadian Museums Association - Young Canada Works</i>	\$56,627	\$44,926
<i>Grants Ontario - Summer Experience Program</i>	10,000	-
<i>Canada Council for the Arts</i>	\$45,530	\$25,500
<i>Government of Canada -</i>		
<i>Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy</i>	-	\$56,962
<i>Government of Canada Temporary Wage Subsidy</i>	-	-
Fundraising and donations	\$22,290	\$10,194
Membership fees	\$3,582	\$260
	<b>\$518,055</b>	<b>\$531,598</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>		
Wages and benefits	\$332,937	\$293,962
Exhibitions	\$87,928	\$155,149
Education Programs	\$29,766	\$4,901
Special Events	2,729	-
Administration	\$95,141	\$120,725
<i>Capital expenditure</i>	\$4,965	\$32,970
<i>Repairs and maintenance</i>	\$26,887	\$21,051
<i>Professional Fees</i>	\$20,817	\$18,173
<i>Office and Sundry</i>	\$16,639	\$15,130
<i>Utilities</i>	\$13,560	\$11,374
<i>Advertising and promotion</i>	\$4,794	\$10,669
<i>Professional development</i>	\$1,393	\$6,415
<i>Insurance</i>	\$6,086	\$4,943
	<b>\$548,501</b>	<b>\$574,737</b>
<b>(EXCESS OF EXPENSES OVER REVENUE)/EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>(\$30,446)</b>	<b>(\$43,139)</b>
<b>NET ASSETS, BEG. OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$79,285</b>	<b>\$122,424</b>
<b>NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$48,839</b>	<b>\$79,285</b>



[www.vac.ca](http://www.vac.ca)