

Koffler Centre of the Arts presents *There are Times and Places*, a digital exhibition featuring four original, commissioned artworks

Generously supported by the TD Bank Group and exclusively on Koffler.Digital, *There are Times and Places* explores social and intellectual interaction online

Toronto, ON, September 24, 2019 – This fall, the digital exhibition *There are Times and Places* launches on Koffler.Digital, the free online platform of the Koffler Centre of the Arts.

There are Times and Places features original artworks by artists **asinnajaq, Dayna Danger, Coco Guzman, Mani Mazinani** and **Wuulhu**, each exploring ways in which the Internet functions (and, sometimes, fails) as an alternative, digitally-constructed space for forming community, expanding identity, and knowledge sharing.

There are Times and Places launches officially on **Thursday, October 10, 2019** with a free public reception from 6 to 9 PM at **Artscape Youngplace**, 180 Shaw Street, Toronto. After that date, the project is free to access online: koffler.digital/timesandplaces

“We are thrilled to present this virtual exhibition, curated by Koffler.Digital director Leticia Cosbert Miller with the collaboration of Emma Steen, an MFA student in Indigenous art history and visual culture at OCAD University,” said Koffler Centre Executive Director, Karen Tisch. “The exhibition addresses critical issues about how Indigenous, people of colour and other minoritized communities are able to access and shape virtual space within the context of decolonization conversations. We are deeply grateful to TD for its support of this exhibition and for facilitating Emma Steen’s involvement in this project.”

There are Times and Places is inspired and informed by recent scholarship that reconsiders traditional ways of viewing and engaging on the Internet. The uncertainty that shrouded the rise of the Internet-age in the mid 1990s prompted Cree/Metis film director and writer Loretta Todd to ask “What ideology will have agency in cyberspace?” Decades since Todd’s question, the Internet has become an accessible space for large diverse communities and self-determination, as well as a space of polarities and polemics.

Bringing together artists who examine their own relationship to place, identity and the spaces where these notions intersect, *There are Times and Places* investigates how we interact socially and intellectually in digitally constructed realities – whether through meme culture, sensory experiences or imagined mythologies – and asks us, what kind of meaning are we able to locate in these sites?



There are Times and Places is generously supported by TD through The Ready Commitment.

There are Times and Places
koffler.digital/timesandplaces

Public Reception:
Thursday, October 10, 2019 | 6–9 PM
Koffler Gallery
Artscape Youngplace, 180 Shaw St., Toronto

Artists: asinnajaq, Dayna Danger, Coco Guzmán, Mani Mazinani, Wuulhu

Curatorial & Artistic Direction: Leticia Cosbert Miller
Production Assistance: Emma Steen (TD Mentorship Position)
Interactive Design & Development: Helios Design Labs

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

asinnajaq, the daughter of Jobie Weetaluktuk and Carol Rowan, is from Inukjuak, Nunavik and spends most of her time on the unceded Kanien'kéha territory of Tiohtià:ke.

Dayna Danger is a visual artist, organizer and drummer. Danger was raised in Treaty 1 territory, homeland of the Metis, or so called Winnipeg. They are currently based in occupied Tio:Tiake/Moonyang, or so called Montreal. Danger holds an MFA in Photography from Concordia University. Through utilizing the processes of photography, sculpture, performance and video, Danger creates works and environments that question the line between empowerment and objectification by claiming the space with their larger than life works. Ongoing works exploring BDSM and beaded leather fetish masks negotiate the complicated dynamics of sexuality, gender and power in a consensual and feminist manner. As a visual artist, activist and drummer, their focus remains on Indigenous and Metis visual and erotic sovereignty. Danger has exhibited their work nationally and internationally in such venues as Art gallery of Alberta, Edmonton AB; Urban Shaman, Winnipeg, MB; Warren G Flowers Art Gallery, Montreal; dc3 Projects, Edmonton; Roundhouse, Vancouver; Art Mur, Berlin; and the New Mexico Museum of Art, Santa Fe. Danger has participated in residencies at the Banff Centre for the Arts and at Plug In Institute of Contemporary Art. Danger currently serves as a board member of the Aboriginal Curatorial Collective (ACC/CCA). Danger is an Artist in Residence through Initiatives for Indigenous Futures at AbTeC.

Coco Guzmán is a Spanish-Canadian queer artist investigating experiences of haunting emerging from systemic political violence. Using mainly drawing and installation, Coco Guzmán's work aims to embrace stories, mostly of what is not revealed to the eye but lives within our everyday reality as embodied memories or hidden whispers. Through an interdisciplinary approach that draws on critical theory, comics, queering strategies, archival research, observation, and conversations with friends, Coco's work invokes latent stories that invite the viewer to question who they are and the society they live in. Coco's work has been exhibited across the Americas and Europe, notably at CentroCentro Madrid (Spain), the Quebec Biennale (Canada) and soon at Encuentros festival (Mexico).

Tehran-born **Mani Mazinani** is a Toronto-based artist making installation, video, film, sculpture, photographs, multiples, sound and music. His practice evolved from an early interest in sound recording, now working with the process of translating thoughts into recordings. His visual work thinks about scale and perception, often combining subject matter and medium. Mazinani is currently thinking about the origins of ancient thought, perceptual limitations of humans, and improvisation. Mazinani can be heard playing the analog synthesizer used to create "Bounded" regularly in performances and on the LP "Shift" (Aerophone Recordings, 2019). Recent exhibitions/performances include Tate Modern (2019), The Bentway, Toronto (2018), Tehran International Electronic Music Festival (2017), SIP Culture Centre, Suzhou (2016), Asian Art Museum, San Francisco (2015), CAB Art Centre, Brussels (2013).

Wuulhu, otherwise known as **Bracken Hanuse Corlett** is an interdisciplinary artist hailing from the Wuikinuxv and Klahoose Nations. He began working in theatre and performance in 2001 and eventually transitioned towards his current practice that fuses sculpture, painting and drawing with digital-media, audio-visual performance, animation and narrative. He is a graduate of the En'owkin Centre of Indigenous Art and went to Emily Carr University of Art and Design for Visual Arts. He has studied Northwest Coast art, carving and design from acclaimed Heiltsuk artists Bradley Hunt and his sons Shawn Hunt and Dean Hunt. He was a recipient of the 2014 BC Creative Achievement Award for Aboriginal Art and has recently received public art commissions from the City of Vancouver and the City of Victoria. Some of his notable exhibitions, performances and screenings have been at Grunt Gallery, Museum of Anthropology, Unit PITT Projects, Vancouver International Film Festival, Vancouver Art Gallery, Institute of Modern Art – Brisbane, Three Walls Gallery - Chicago, Ottawa International Animation Festival, SAW Gallery, Royal BC Museum, Open Space, Winnipeg Art Gallery, Art Gallery of Alberta, Urban Shaman, Mackenzie Art Gallery, ImagineNative and Toronto International Film Festival.

ABOUT KOFFLER.DIGITAL

Koffler.Digital is a program of the Koffler Centre of the Arts that provides a virtual space where artists working in the field of New Media/New Genres are able to create, experiment and develop new work; and where conversation and dialogue between artists, activists and creatives is encouraged and documented. Koffler.Digital is committed to the intersection of social justice and artistic practice that is central to the mandate of the Koffler Centre of the Arts. We collaborate with artists, authors and individuals whose work engages issues affecting marginalized communities; who explore injustice and who look to spur constructive change and dialogue in regard to the current socio-political climate. Visit <https://koffler.digital/>

ABOUT THE READY COMMITMENT

TD has a long-standing commitment to enriching the lives of its customers, colleagues and communities. As part of its corporate citizenship platform, The Ready Commitment, TD is targeting CDN \$1 billion (US \$775 million) in total by 2030 towards community giving in four areas critical to opening doors for a more inclusive and sustainable tomorrow – Financial Security, Vibrant Planet, Connected Communities and Better Health. Through The Ready Commitment, TD aspires to link its business, philanthropy and human capital to help people feel more confident - not just about their finances, but also in their ability to achieve their personal goals in a changing world. For further information, visit www.td.com/thereadycommitment.

ABOUT THE KOFFLER CENTRE OF THE ARTS

The Koffler Centre of the Arts is a cultural platform that explores critical ideas and concerns of our time through exhibitions, publications, performances, literary events and digital initiatives. We examine complex issues through transformative art experiences that stimulate intercultural dialogue and position Jewish identity in conversation with diverse perspectives and global voices. The Koffler Gallery and its administrative offices are located at Artscape Youngplace, in Toronto's vibrant West Queen West art and design district. Visit <http://kofflerarts.org/>

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