

August 13, 2024



Dr. Toby Lawrence Appointed AGGV Curator of Contemporary Art

The Art Gallery of Greater Victoria has welcomed Dr. Toby Lawrence in the new role of Curator of Contemporary Art. Lawrence joins the AGGV from the University of British Columbia's Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery where she was the Curator of Outdoor Art and previously as Curator at Open Space Artist-Run Centre in Victoria.

"I am thrilled to welcome Dr. Toby Lawrence to the AGGV curatorial team. Toby has a stellar reputation for building strong relationships with artists and a deep commitment to contemporary art in BC," said Steven McNeil, Chief Curator & Director of Collections and Exhibitions. "Her work will build upon the AGGV's commitment to hold space for living artists and for critical thinking about the contemporary world."

Lawrence draws on 15 years of curatorial experience, working extensively throughout BC, and holds a MA in Art History & Theory from the University of British Columbia and a PhD in Interdisciplinary Studies with a focus on curatorial practice from the University of British Columbia Okanagan.

"I'm excited to be back in ləkʷəŋən territory and working with the AGGV. There is so much potential here, with the size of the organization, to offer responsive programming and meaningful collaborations. I will be building on the extensive work of my predecessors at the Gallery to think deeply about what it means and looks like to expand the parameters of what is possible through art," said Lawrence.

Lawrence was appointed to the BC Arts Council in July 2023 and previously served as chair of the City of Victoria Art in Public Places Committee. From 2017-2019, she led the organization of an annual gathering for curators across Vancouver Island, with hosting partners Nanaimo Art Gallery, Comox Valley Art Gallery, and Campbell River Art Gallery. She has also developed many projects as an independent curator, including *Bread, Flesh & Ink*, an interdisciplinary, cross-border collaboration exploring gestures of hospitality and guest-host relation, and was a contributing curator for the inaugural *Contingencies of Care Residency* hosted by OCAD University, Toronto Biennial of Art, and BUSH gallery and a curatorial resident of the Otis College of Art & Design Emerging Curators Retreat in Los Angeles. Lawrence writes frequently on contemporary art and curatorial practice with articles and essays for *PUBLIC*, the *Journal of Canadian Art History*, *C Magazine* and *BlackFlash*, among others, and forthcoming book chapters for *Creative Conciliations: Reflections, Responses, and Refusals* and *Curatorial Contestations: Critical Methods in Contemporary Exhibition-Making in Canada*.

The Art Gallery of Greater Victoria sits on the unceded and traditional territories of the ləkʷəŋən Peoples, today known as the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations.

For more information visit aggv.ca

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