

ARTWORX·T O

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ArtworxTO Symposium: Public Art of Tomorrow, Hosted by the City of Toronto and Government of Québec, Draws in 1,000 Professional Art Attendees Who Select Public Artwork *1000 Faces* to be Mounted for ArtworxTO in 2022

(Toronto, ON. November 26, 2021) The City of Toronto and Government of Québec hosted a three-day virtual symposium, focusing on the future of public art in cities. The ArtworxTO Symposium: Public Art of Tomorrow ran from November 22 to 24, as part of ArtworxTO: Toronto's Year of Public Art 2021–2022 and drew in 1,000 professionals from across Ontario and Québec.

This virtual symposium discussed the future role of art and artists within urban centres and provided attendees an opportunity to learn more from the impressive lineup of keynote speakers, panelists and industry leaders. To encourage creative ideation and allow for fruitful dialogue, attendees were able to actively participate in conferences, panels and conversations between participating speakers from all over North America.

Pandemic recovery and rebuilding, specifically the essential role of the cultural and creative sectors within urban areas, was a topic that was addressed throughout the Symposium. Other timely topics included: Public Art: A Real Possibility for Social Change?; Actions to Take Now for A Better Public Art Future; How to Export Canadian Public Art Expertise; and Reaching the Community & Citizens Through Public Art.

The Government of Québec and the City of Toronto joined together to create the ArtworxTO Symposium: Public Art of Tomorrow with the common goal to stimulate the recovery efforts within the creative sectors of urban areas. The free, three-day conference was an opportunity for industry professionals to drop in and learn more about the importance of public art as a recovery tool, as well as brainstorm possible solutions to multi-layer challenges.

The Symposium closed with attendees voting for *1000 Faces* by Alejandro Figueroa and Nigel Irwin to receive the \$75k grant for the project which best responded to the RFP theme, "public art of the future." The ArtworxTO team will look to site and install *1000 Faces* in Toronto in 2022, working jointly with the artists and external partners.

1000 Faces is a multi-sensorial Kinetic experience that aims to provide the visitors with an immersive and inclusive public space that can serve as a platform for dialogue, reconciliation and relaxation. The 1000 Faces are dedicated to all the indigenous children found across Canada in unmarked graves. Inspired by nature, in the dances of flocks of birds, this 1779 mirror sphere is not only able to reflect the viewer but also the surrounding environment, resulting in a sense of Togetherness.

The piece will also be equipped with an original sound score, composed by a Toronto based composer member of the Cree Nation. This original score, inspired by nature and ancestral chants, will help the audience reconnect with pachamama and feel the souls of the past.

Alejandro Figueroa is a Venezuelan / Canadian multidisciplinary artist based in Montreal. Director and founder of +AMOR atelier, his work ranges from Installation, to sculptural work, passing by interactive murals, and VR experiences. Nigel Irwin is a Cree multi-artist based in Tkaronto. As Co-Creative Director of Nagamo, Irwin has helped build the first production music-library created entirely by Indigenous artists.

ArtworxTO: Toronto's Year of Public Art 2021–2022, kicks off the City's new 10-Year of Public Art Strategy and signals Toronto's renewed commitment to public art. Read the City's 10-Year Public Art Strategy at www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/92e1-Toronto-Public-Art-Strategy-2020-2030.pdf.



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More information about ArtworxTO: Toronto's Year of Public Art 2021–2022, including an interactive map of Toronto's extensive collection of public art, is available at www.toronto.ca/explore-enjoy/history-art-culture/public-art/year-of-public-art/

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