

## **ABDI OSMAN**

### **EDUCATION**

2012 Ryerson University, Documentary Media, MFA  
2004 University of Toronto, Hon. BA

### **SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

2023 Tiding(s), Campbell River Art Gallery, Vancouver, BC  
2021 Curated online exhibition and public art project, *Shadowboxing*,  
ArQuives, co-presented with Trinity Square Video, Toronto, ON  
2019 Variations in Black, Queer, and Otherwise, Art Museum, Toronto, ON  
2019 Intimate Encounters ~ Animate Histories, Gardiner Museum, Toronto, ON  
2017 Discover Series..., Photopolis, Halifax, NS (Public Billboard Art)  
2017 Queer Diaspora, Richmix Gallery, London, UK  
2013 Labeeb, Northwestern University, Chicago, IL.  
2012 Labeeb, Gordon Snelgrove Gallery, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK  
2010 Queering the Queen City, McColl Centre for Visual Arts, Charlotte, NC  
2009 Seeing Black in 3, Banu, Toronto, ON

### **GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

2023 Influences and Conversations, Gallery TPW, Toronto, ON  
2021 Thresholds exhibition, digital project, part of Maps of 20 international gathering, York  
University, Toronto, ON  
2021 Curated online exhibition project, The Curatorial Incubator v.16:  
Living in Hope, Program #5, *Endarkened Perspectives*, presented by VTape.  
2020 Curated online exhibition project, *Covid Drawings*, co-presented with LOMAA –  
London Ontario Media Arts Association, London, ON.  
2020 Curated online exhibition and installation project, *Intimate Encounters ~ Animate  
Histories*, Department of Contemporary Art, Aalto University, co-presented with Centre for  
Feminist Research, York University, Toronto, ON.  
2018 Contact Landing(s), Thames Art Gallery, Chatham, ON  
2018 I believe in Living, Untitled Art Society, Calgary, AB  
2017 Future Africa: Visions in Time, The National Museum of Kenya, Nairobi, Kenya.  
2017 Future Africa: Visions in Time, Goethe Institute, Johannesburg, South Africa  
2017 Photopolis, Halifax, NS  
2016 Canadian Belonging(s), The Art Gallery of Mississauga, Mississauga, ON  
2015 Future Africa: Visions in Time, Iwalewahaus The Centre for African Contemporary Art  
and Culture, Bayreuth, Germany.  
2015 Take Me to Rio, Richmix Gallery, London, UK  
2015 There Is Always More than What We Perceive, OCADU Graduate Gallery, Toronto  
2014 Open House: An exhibition of artists based in Toronto, working in visual media, Toronto  
2014 That's So Gay: On the Edge, The Gladstone Hotel, Toronto, ON  
2013 Labeeb, University of Toronto, ON  
2012 New Faces: Portraits from the Canada Council Art Bank in collaboration with Les Jardins  
de Métis, Grand-Métis, Québec, QC  
2012 Labeeb, IMA Gallery, Toronto, ON  
2012 Open House: An exhibition of works by artists living in or close to the Junction and  
Junction Triangle, Toronto, ON  
2012 The Fire This Time: Blockorama Retrospective Exhibition, Glad Day Books, Toronto, ON  
2011 Queering Black History, Ryerson University, Toronto, ON  
2010 Do You See What I Mean? Canada Council Art Bank in conjunction with Festival X and  
Culture Days, Ottawa, ON

2010 Discover Us...Series, McColl Center for Visual Arts, Charlotte, N.C, USA  
2010 Artists Unite for Haiti, The LoDi Project, Raleigh, N.C, USA  
2009 DIASPORArt: Strategy and Seduction by Canadian Artists from Culturally Diverse Communities in Works from the Collection of the Canada Council Art Bank, Rideau Hall, Ottawa, ON  
2008 LGBT Youthline, Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, ON  
2007 African Images, Spence Gallery, Toronto, ON  
2007 LGBT Youthline, Spin Gallery, Toronto, ON  
2002 80th Annual Exhibition of Photographs, J. M. Barnicke Art Gallery, Toronto, ON  
2001 79th Annual Exhibition of Photographs J. M. Barnicke Art Gallery, Toronto, ON

### **SELECTED SCREENINGS**

2021 The Trouble with Normal, Art Gallery of Windsor, Windsor, ON.  
2021 The Age of Endarkenment, Niagara Artists Centre, St. Catharines, ON.  
2020 Holding Spaces, London Ontario Media Arts Association, London, ON.  
2019 Gardens of the Mediterranean, ICA Miami, Miami, ON.  
2019 Gardens of the Mediterranean, Art Museum, Toronto, ON.  
2019 Labeeb, Art Museum, Toronto, ON.  
2018 Gardens of the Mediterranean, Vienna Art Institute, Vienna, Austria.  
2018 Bajan Trans: new womanhoods from Barbados, HOMOGRAFÍA || HOMOGRAPHY #4 Muestra Internacional de Video-performance, Mexico City, Mexico.  
2018 Gardens of the Mediterranean, University of Western Cape, Cape Town, South Africa.  
2018 Gardens of the Mediterranean, Untitled Art Society, Calgary, AB  
2017 Bajan Trans: new womanhoods from Barbados, University of the West Indies, Cavehill, Barbados.  
2017 Black Queer Affection, Glitch Film Festival, Glasgow, Scotland.  
2017 Labeeb, The National Museum of Kenya, Nairobi, Kenya.  
2017 Labeeb, Goethe Institute, Johannesburg, South Africa.  
2017 Black Queer Affection, University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, Jamaica.  
2016 Black Queer Affection, Out in Africa International Film Festival, Goethe Institute, Nairobi, Kenya.  
2015 Labeeb, Iwalewahaus, The Centre for African Contemporary Art and Culture, Bayreuth, Germany.  
2015 Black Queer Affection, Bayreuth Academy of Advanced African Studies, University of Bayreuth, Bayreuth, Germany.  
2014 Black Queer Affection, Fredrick Douglas Institute, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY.  
2014 A Somali Perspective: Language as a tool of Resistance, Werkstatt der Kulturen, Berlin, Germany.  
2013 Black Queer Affection, Northwestern University, Chicago, IL  
2013 Labeeb, Northwestern University, Chicago, IL.  
2012 Labeeb, Snelgrove Gallery, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK  
2012 Labeeb, IMA Gallery, Toronto, ON  
2011 Trans(Formation): A Portrait, Ryerson University, Toronto, ON.

### **JURIED EXHIBITIONS**

2002 80th Annual Exhibition of Photographs J. M. Barnicke Art Gallery, Photographic Slides Division-W.J. Blackhall Award.  
2001 79th Annual Exhibition of Photographs J. M. Barnicke Art Gallery, Junior Division- A.F. Coventry Award.

### **PRIVATE COLLECTIONS**

Italy, USA, Caribbean, Canada and Germany.

## **PUBLIC COLLECTIONS**

The Canada Council Art Bank  
University of Toronto  
Vtape & The 519

## **SCHOLARLY AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

- 2022 Invited Panelist, *Visualizing Pleasure and Practices of Freedom: A South/North Dialogue*, Jackman Humanities a virtual symposium under the auspices of University of Toronto's Jackman Humanities Program for the Arts, jointly hosted with the Centre for Humanities Research, University of the Western Cape, South Africa.
- 2022 Sessional Lecturer, Daniel School of Architecture, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON
- 2021 Invited Panelist, Center for Arts, Design, and Social Research, on their Black Planetary Futures seminar series "What about Africa in/and the Diaspora?". Bag Factory, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 2021 Artist Talk, *Engaging Our Communities*, Sexual Diversity Studies, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON
- 2021 Invited Panelist, Center for Arts, Design, and Social Research, on their Black Planetary Futures seminar series "What about Africa in/and the Diaspora?". Bag Factory, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 2021 Sessional Lecturer, Daniel School of Architecture, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON
- 2021 BPTO | Black Portraits VI Toronto - Advisory Committee
- 2021 Shadowboxing Cruising Panel, Arquivos Toronto - Organizer
- 2020 Fellow, Mark Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON
- 2020 Invited Academic Collaborator, RTA 893 Social Justice Media, Ryerson University, Toronto, ON
- 2020 Invited Panelist, Afrofest, University of Windsor, Windsor, ON
- 2020 Invited Artists in the Community, Art Gallery of Burlington, Burlington, ON
- 2019 Invited Panelist, WGS Feminist Lunch Series; Decolonizing the Colonial Archives: Resistance Refusals and Reimaginings, University of Toronto, Mississauga, ON
- 2019 Sessional Lecturer, WGS-Historical Studies, University of Toronto, Mississauga, ON
- 2019 Sessional Lecturer, African Studies - New College, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON
- 2019 Contract Lecturer, RTA School of Media, Ryerson University, Toronto, ON
- 2019 Sessional Lecturer, Daniel School of Architecture, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON
- 2018 Contract Lecturer, RTA School of Media, Ryerson University, Toronto, ON
- 2018 Sessional Lecturer, Daniel School of Architecture, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON
- 2018 Board Member, YYZ Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 2018 Exhibitions Committee Member, Gallery 44, Toronto, ON
- 2018 Invited Panelist, CAHR Conference, Vancouver, BC
- 2017 Art Instructor, Across Boundaries, Toronto, ON
- 2017 Working Group Member, Studio for Media Activism & Thought, Ryerson University, Toronto, ON
- 2017 Artist Talk, (Keynote Speaker), Photopolis: The Halifax Festival of Photography, Halifax, NS
- 2017 Artist Talk, Big Pictures, NSCAD University, Halifax, NS
- 2017 Artist Talk, Diaspora Sexualities, University of Toronto, Scarborough, ON
- 2016 Artist Talk, Speaker Series, Ryerson University, Toronto, ON
- 2016 Artist Talk, Speaker Series, Doris McCarthy Gallery, Scarborough, ON
- 2016 Invited Panelist, Queering Black History Month, Ryerson University, Toronto, ON
- 2015 Artist Talk, (3rd year, Art and Activism) York University, Toronto, ON
- 2015 Invited Panelist, Stuart Hall's Legacy for Thinking Tomorrow's Planetically: Representation, Language and Postcoloniality in Posthumanism and Beyond, Bayreuth Academy,

Bayreuth, Germany.

- 2015 Invited Panelist, Les minorités au cinéma. Est-ce vraiment possible? Massimadi Festival international des films lgbt afro-caribbean, Montreal, QC
- 2015 Invited Panelist, Hacking the Culture: A Speakers' Series on Media Activism and Social Justice, RTA School of Media - Ryerson University, Toronto, ON
- 2014 Invited Panelist, Dear Science and workshop, Drake Hotel, Toronto, ON
- 2014 Artist Talk, Frederick Douglass Institute Speaker Series, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY
- 2014 Invited Panelist, The State of Blackness Conference, OCADU, Toronto, ON
- 2014 Artist Talk, Sexual Diversity Studies (2nd & 3rd year), University of Toronto, Toronto, ON
- 2014 United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) Fellowship, Cardiff, Wales.
- 2013 Artist Talk, (Africa through the Photographic Lens) University of Toronto, Toronto, ON
- 2013 Artist Talk, (Labeeb), Northwestern University, Chicago, IL
- 2013 Invited Panelist, Where are you from? Reclaiming the Black Presence in Canada, Black Canadian Studies Association Conference, Brock University, St. Catherine, ON.
- 2012 Artist Talk, (Labeeb), University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK.
- 2012 Artist Talk, (3rd year, Art and Activism) York University, Toronto, ON
- 2012 Artist Talk, (Keynote Speaker), Queen's University, Kingston, ON
- 2011 Artist Talk, (2nd Year, African Art) York University, Toronto, ON
- 2010 Artist Talk, "Making in the Real World Lecture Series", Winthrop University, Rock Hill, SC
- 2009 Photography Instructor, African in Partnership Against AID (APAA), Toronto, ON
- 2009 Academic/Artist/Activist Conference, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, USA
- 2008 Artist Talk, Gay & Lesbians of African Descent, "Challenge Homophobia Outside", 519 Community Centre, Toronto, ON
- 2007 Festival Photographer, Reel Asian Film Festival, Toronto, ON
- 2007 Festival Photographer, Documenting for Nuit Blanche, Toronto, ON
- 2006 Freelance Photographer
- 2003 Photography Assistant, Department of Fine Art (University of Toronto), Toronto, ON

## **FUNDED PROJECTS**

- 2019 Gardiner Museum funded Community Arts Project (\$7,500)
- 2010 Charlotte Lesbian and Gay Fund to McColl Center for Visual Arts for the Community Outreach Project with Resident Artist Abdi Osman (\$5,000)

## **GRANTS**

- 2021 Ontario Arts Council Grant (Media Arts Grant)
- 2019 Ontario Arts Council Grant (Exhibition Grant)
- 2018 Ontario Arts Council Grant (Visual Artist-Mid-Career)
- 2018 Ontario Arts Council Grant (Exhibition Grant)
- 2018 Ontario Arts Council Grant (Exhibition Grant)
- 2016 Ontario Arts Council Grant (Exhibition Grant)
- 2015 Fellowship Bayreuth Academy of Advanced African Studies, University of Bayreuth, Bayreuth, Germany
- 2014 United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) Fellowship, Cardiff, Wales.
- 2014 Ontario Arts Council Grant (Exhibition Grant)
- 2013 Ontario Arts Council Grant (Exhibition Grant)
- 2013 Ontario Arts Council Grant (Visual Artist-Emerging)
- 2012 Fellowship for Community-Based Intellectuals/Activists/Artists Residency, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK, Canada
- 2011 Ryerson Graduate Award (RGA)
- 2010 Ryerson Graduate Award (RGA)
- 2006 Ontario Arts Council Grant (Visual Artist-Emerging)

## **RESIDENCIES**

2021-22 Community Leadership Residency, Queer and Trans  
Research Lab (QTRL) housed at the Bonham Centre for Sexual  
Diversity Studies, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON.  
2017-18 Artist-in-Residence, Thames Art Gallery, Chatham, ON  
2017-18 Artist-in-Residence, Charles Street Video, Toronto, ON  
2010 Artist-in-Residence, McColl Center for Visual Arts, Charlotte, N.C, USA

## **JURY**

2022 Performance of Gender Residency, La Porte Peinte Centre Pour les Arts in Noyers,  
France  
2021 BAM! Holiday Edition\_Community Artists, Wychwood Barns, Toronto  
2021 Open Door Peer Grant Assessment Panel, Toronto Arts Council  
2018 Artists in the Library, Toronto Arts Council  
2016 Arts Service Projects, Ontario Arts Council

## **CURATORIAL**

2022 HIVogue, YYZ Artists' Outlet, Toronto, ON

## **TEACHING**

WGS 434 African Queer Studies (4<sup>th</sup> year Undergraduate)  
NEW 357 Art, Media and Politics in Africa and the African Diaspora (3rd year Undergraduate)  
MP 8112 Race, Sexuality and Screens (Graduate)  
JAV 130 Visual Strategies (1st year Undergraduate)

## **PUBLICATIONS (Visual/Writing)**

2024 "Modern Primitive," Abdi Osman, Zine, Iwalewabooks: Bayreuth, Germany. \*Forthcoming

2022 Co-authored article with Elyn Walker, "Collaboration in Diasporic Settler-Colonial  
Contexts," *PUBLIC*, \*Special Issue: Critical Settler Arts Practices, co-edited by Carla  
Taunton & Leah Decter, vol. 63, spring (\*Forthcoming).

2021 "The Thin Line Between Modernity and Tradition in Queer Performance", Abdi Osman,  
BlackFlash Fall/Winter Issue 38.3: *Infinites* guest-edited by Nadia Kurd

2021 "Celebrating Austin Clarke-The Man and the Body of His Work", Topia (Cover), Spring  
vol. 42

2021 "My Personal Photographer's Manifesto," Abdi Osman, Thought Experiments, Drain:  
Journal of Contemporary Art and Culture, Volume 17, Issue 1: Social/Affects.

2020 "Plantation Futures": Special Issue on Queer Canada, Abdi Osman, Journal of Canadian  
Studies. Volume 54 Issue 2-3, Spring-Fall.

2017 "Picturing Black Women". Writing Black Canada: Transitions, No.124, pp.62-65.

2015 "The Couples Project," Abdi Osman, Ground Magazine, Fall Issue #1.

2015 "Labeeb," Identity Politics, Abdi Osman, Journal on Images and Culture, Issue #8.

2014 "Future Riddims", Abdi Osman, Scarf Magazine, 5:1, 33. London, UK.

- 2013 "Black Diaspora Conversations: Gender, Sexuality & Queer Thought" Symposium Poster, Abdi Osman, OISE-UT.
- 2011 "Post-9/11 experiences of black Muslims in Canada" Abdi Osman, Blurb.
- 2006 "Diasporic Hegemonies: Race, Gender, Sexuality and The Politics of Feminist Transnationalism", Abdi Osman, University of Toronto.
- 2002 "Unplug: Discover creativity and passionate play at Hart House", Abdi Osman, HartBeat, Vol.4, no.1, Spring.

### **CRITICAL WRITING ABOUT THE ARTIST'S WORK**

- 2022 "I Believe in Living: An Intertextual Curatorial Approach to Environmental (Inter)Relations, by Ellyn Walker, in Making (Eco)Logical: Locating Canadian Arts in the Environmental Humanities, Amanda White & Elysia French Eds, Wilfred Laurier Press.
- 2020 "Curatorial Contestations: Challenging Institutional Modes of Inclusion through Curatorial Position(s) and Practice(s)," PhD Dissertation, Cultural Studies Program, Queen's University, Kingston, ON
- 2019 "Black, Queer, and Still Here: The Lived Experiences of a Community Captured in Art," Byron Armstrong, <https://byblacks.com>, June 17.
- 2019 "The Gardiner Museum's Community Art Space explores what we long for," Sonya Davidson, *Toronto Guardian*, July 11.
- 2019 "Cruising the Museum: Animating Queer Sexual Geographies & Histories," Christopher Smith, *The Gardiner Museum*, July 31.
- 2019 "Variations in Black Queer Worlds." Christina Sharpe, *Canadian Art*, August 20.
- 2019 "The Works of Contemporary Art (In Black)," Rinaldo Walcott in *Archi-feministes!; Art contemporain, theories feministes/Contemporary Art, Feminist Theories*, eds. Marie-Eve Charron, Marie-Josée Lafortune, Therese St-Gelais (Montreal: OPTICA, centre d'art contemporain), p.90.
- 2018 "Preview: I Believe in Living," Merray Gerges, *Canadian Art*, spring.
- 2018 "Must-Sees This Week: April 19 to 25, 2018," *Canadian Art*, April 19.
- 2018 "Exhibit showcases art with view from diverse communities," Tom Morrison, *Chatham This Week*, August 3.
- 2017 "Afrikanische Zukunftsvisionen: Nationalmuseum in Kenia zeigt Ausstellung aus Bayreuth". Anisha Soff. Goethe-Institut, April 28.
- 2017 "FAVT: Future Africa Visions in Time". Bayreuth Academy of Advanced African Studies. Fink, K. Gerhard, S. & Siegert, N. Contact Zones NRB.
- 2017 "Canadian Artists Struggle with US Travel Ban: For some Canadian artists, the recent American travel ban is the latest in a stream of Islamophobia that has affected their lives and careers for years." Leah Sandals, *Canadian Art*, January 3.

- 2016 "Blackness, Masculinity, and the Work of Queer". Rinaldo Walcott, *Queer Returns: Essays on Multiculturalism, Diaspora, and Black Studies*, 215-238, 75-89.
- 2016 "Third Meaning '3rd'". Trish Salah, *Vetch: a magazine of trans poetry and poetics*. No.3, 17-19.
- 2016 "Must-Sees This Week: May 5 to 11, 2016," *Canadian Art*, May 5.
- 2016 "CANADIAN BELONGING(S) at the Art Gallery of Mississauga," Terrence Dick, *Akimblog*, June 8.
- 2016 "Art Gallery of Mississauga exhibit explores non-traditional take on Canadian identity," Chris Clay, *Mississauga.com*, June 9.
- 2015 "There is Always More Than What We Perceive," Geneviève Wallen, masters dissertation, Criticism and Curatorial Practice program, OCADU University, March 6.
- 2015 "Records of African Black Queer (Times)". Mariam Popal, *FAVT*. October 29.
- 2015 "Longing: The Sadness of Doors and Mirrors. Ricky Varghese, *Kapsula*, 2:3, 7-16.
- 2014 "The state of Blackness Conference." Leah Snyder, *Mixed Bag Mag*. February 19.
- 2012 "Blackness, Masculinity, and the Works of Queer (pp.191-205)". Rinaldo Walcott *Canadian Men and Masculinities: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives*. Toronto: Canadian Scholars Press.
- 2011 "Black queer and Black Trans – Imagine Imagination Imaginary Canadian Futures". Rinaldo Walcott, *Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences*.
- 2011 "Post-9/11 experiences of black Muslims in Canada: a book on the everyday perception of Islam-phobia", Christina Ali Farah, *Vogue Black*, August 2.
- 2010 "McColl Centre artists-in-residence invite participation." Barbara Schreiber, *Creative Loafing Charlotte*, point 8 blog. February 16.
- 2010 "Movers & Shakers: Viewed through a queer lens. McColl Center Artist-in- Residence. Abdi Osman documents Charlotte LGBT culture," Matt Comer, *Qnotes*, No.21:14, February 19.
- 2010 "A Statement is worth over 400 pictures: International Artist Show-cases Charlotte's LGBT Community", Nathan James, *Qnotes*, No.24:24, , April 3.
- 2009 "Reconstructing Manhood; or, The Drag of Black Masculinity". Rinaldo Walcott, *Small Axe*, 28, 75-89.