PROTOTYPE 2026 Symposium Program

November 20–22 at 32 Lisgar Street, Toronto

Free and open to the public, PROTOTYPE 2026 welcomes all who are interested in arts publishing's connective potential.

CRITICAL DISTANCE
CENTRE FOR CURATORS

KRIT

Friday, November 20 — Opening Night

Time	Session	Presenters
7:00 pm	**Doors**: Fair preview and Study Space for Indigenous Arts Publishing open; welcome and opening remarks at 7:30 pm	**Shani K Parsons** Director, Critical Distance **Schem R. Bader** Founder, Publisher, and Editor, KRIT Zine
7:30–9:00 pm *Session 1* *Symposium space*	SlowPitchSound **Opening Night Performance** A live set by Toronto composer and improviser SlowPitchSound	**Cheldon Paterson** (SlowPitchSound) Artist and composer

Saturday, November 21 — Symposium Day One

Time	Session	Presenters
11:00 am *Symposium space*	**Doors**: Fair, All-Ages Reading Room open	
11:30 am–1:00 pm *Session 2* *Symposium space*	*Inuit Art Quarterly* and *Studio Magazine* **Pitching an Art Magazine*** An open presentation on the anatomy of a successful pitch, followed by a small-group, pre-registered pitch-writing workshop in the InterAccess classroom *(PWYC, NOTAFLOF)*	**Erin Sylvester** Managing Editor, *Inuit Art Quarterly* **Lera Kotsyuba** Editor-in-Chief, *Studio Magazine*
1:00–2:00 pm *Symposium space*	Toronto Biennial of Art **Biennial Break**	**Toronto Biennial of Art**

Time	Session	Presenters
	Information and maps to discover *Things Fall Apart*, the 2026 Biennial curated by Allison Glenn and presented across Toronto through Dec 20th.	
2:00–3:00 pm *Session 3* *Symposium space*	*Dear friends, The Kitchen Table, Calabrees World* and *Art Forecast* **Autonomy of a Newsletter** Panel on the newsletter as self-publishing that goes directly to readers. Practical how-tos on creating your own virtual zine.	**Ashley Diana Culver** Artist and writer, *Dear friends* **Madelyne Beckles** Artist, *The Kitchen Table* **Beck** Arts worker, *Calabrees World* **Tatum Dooley** (moderator) Arts publicist and writer, *Art Forecast*
2:20–3:00 pm (concurrent) *Session 4* *All-Ages Reading Room*	Vividoodles **Zine Dream Machine** Intergenerational workshop for kids and their caregivers to learn how to fold their own 8-page zines *(drop-in; first come, first served)*	**Vivi Partridge** (Vividoodles) Comics artist and zine-maker
3:10–3:50 pm *Session 5* *Symposium space*	Kelly McCray **Chasing Towers: Evolution of the *Tower of Banned Books* and Censorship** Artist talk on a touring tower of 500+ censored books and a brief history of book bans	**Kelly McCray** Artist
4:00–5:30 pm *Session 6* *Symposium space*	OK Stamp Press / Pseudonym Press **Critical Arts Publishing, Part One: Processes and Practices** Two modes, two models. OK Stamp Press discusses their publishing process from idea to distribution— including their recent project with Feminist Photography Network. Pseudonym Press shares three examples for translating ephemeral world experiences into tangible publications, including pandemic drone listening walks, the glut of video memory, and resurrecting antique Victorian stereograms.	**maya rae oppenheimer** Co-director, OK Stamp Press **Tasman Richardson** Publisher and Designer, Pseudonym Press
5:30 pm	**Symposium Day One Closes** Art book fair open until 6:00 pm	

Sunday, November 22 — Symposium Day Two

Time	Session	Presenters
11:00 am *Symposium space*	**Doors:** Fair, All-Ages Reading Room open	
11:30 am–12:30 pm *Session 7* *Symposium space*	*PUBLIC* **Pre-launch of *PUBLIC #74: Publishing Artists*** Pre-launch overview of PUBLIC #74: Publishing Artists, guest edited by Jayne Wilkinson. Note participants will join us remotely.	**Jayne Wilkinson** (remote) Guest Editor **Alex Turgeon** (remote) Contributing Artist **Erika DeFreitas** (remote) Contributing Artist
12:30–1:30 pm *Symposium space*	Toronto Biennial of Art **Biennial Break** Information and maps to discover *Things Fall Apart*, the 2026 Biennial curated by Allison Glenn and presented across Toronto through Dec 20th.	**Toronto Biennial of Art**
1:30–3:00 pm *Session 8* *Symposium space*	Possible Worlds / Publication Studio Guelph **Critical Arts Publishing, Part Two: Communities and Networks** Possible Worlds on expanding publishing through alternative art, music and cultural infrastructure. Publication Studio Guelph on cultivating responsive practices as part of the Publication Studio global network	**Melanie Yugo** and **Jason Skilz** Possible Worlds and Object//Project Art Book Fair Co-Directors **Sonia Preisler** Studio Coordinator, Publication Studio Guelph
2:20–3:00 pm (concurrent) *Session 9* *All-Ages Reading Room*	Vividoodles **Zine Dream Machine** Intergenerational workshop for kids and caregivers to learn how to fold their own 8-page zines *(drop-in; first come, first served)*	**Vivi Partridge** Comics artist and zine-maker
3:30–5 pm *Session 10* *Black box theatre*	Anu Makinde **Fluid Frontiers: A Screening & Makeback*** Open screening of Ephraim Asili's 23-min film, followed by a pre-registered workshop on responsive zine-making *(PWYC, NOTAFLOF)*	**Anu Makinde** Artist, educator and curator

Time	Session	Presenters
5 pm	**Symposium Day Two Closes** Art book fair open until 5:00 pm	

Session Descriptions

Opening Night Performance

Session 1 · Friday, 7:30–9:00 pm · Symposium space · Performance · Free, no registration

Toronto composer and improviser SlowPitchSound (Cheldon Paterson) opens PROTOTYPE 2026 with a live set during the art book fair preview. His sound practice draws on more than two decades of work across jazz, electronic, experimental and interdisciplinary performance.

Pitching an Art Magazine*

Session 2 · Saturday, 11:30 am–1:00 pm · Symposium space (presentation, 11:30 am–12:10 pm) and InterAccess classroom (workshop, 12:15–1:00 pm) · Open presentation followed by pre-registered workshop (link below)

Print is seeing a resurgence, and knowing how to pitch is the first step to getting published. Editors from *Inuit Art Quarterly* and *Studio Magazine* open with a short presentation on the anatomy of a successful magazine pitch and what art publications in particular look for. Participants then workshop their own story ideas and pitches with peers and professional editors. Designed for anyone interested in art writing, including emerging writers, academics looking to reach a general audience, and journalists branching into art.

Pre-registration required. Pay what you can; no one turned away for lack of funds. Due to limited capacity, max 10–15 participants. Registrants not present when the workshop begins forfeit their spot to the standby list.
Register here.

Biennial Break

Saturday, 1:00–2:00 pm and Sunday, 12:30–1:30 pm · Symposium space · Drop-in

Curated by Allison Glenn, the fourth edition of the Toronto Biennial of Art, *Things Fall Apart,* considers ideas of syncopation and disruption through the lens of shared thematics that emerged from artists' voices: diaspora through movement and migration, syncretic traditions, notions of borders, water networks, maritime histories of empire, corporeality, calls to action, global climate justice, genocides, speculative and science fictions, material memory, the transformation of knowledge, and both water and land as conceptual links. During our program break over the lunchtime hour, information and free maps will be available for PROTOTYPE visitors interested in this city-wide exhibition, on view through December 20th.

Autonomy of a Newsletter

Session 3 · Saturday, 2:00–3:00 pm · Symposium space · Panel

Newsletters are a kind of virtual zine: cheap or free to make, and anyone can send one into the world at any time. This panel treats the newsletter as self-publishing with a direct line to readers' inboxes, sidestepping gatekeepers and algorithms. Three newsletter writers and a moderator compare how they use the form, from monthly letters to weekly round-ups of Toronto openings, varying in length, frequency, platform and purpose. Each shares a recent issue, and the panel closes with practical how-tos for anyone curious to start their own.

Zine Dream Machine

Session 4 + 9 · Saturday, 2:20–3:00 pm and Sunday, 2:20–3:00 pm · Concurrent with the main program
All-Ages Reading Room · Intergenerational workshop, drop-in basis; first come, first served

Children are the future artists and bookmakers of the world. In this hands-on workshop, artist Vivi Partridge teaches kids and their caregivers how to fold their very own 8-page zines and talks about why self-publishing matters. Participants learn that their voices are worth publishing, and leave with a zine of their own and the confidence to keep making. All materials are provided.

Drop-in, first come, first served. No registration needed; capacity is limited. Caregivers must stay with their children throughout the workshop.

Chasing Towers: Evolution of the *Tower of Banned Books* and Censorship

Session 5 · Saturday, 3:10–3:50 pm · Symposium space · Talk

Toronto-based artist Kelly McCray will trace the journey of his *Tower of Banned Books*, a touring installation created from over 500 used books that have been targeted for censorship. Exhibited for the first time in the 2023 Artist Project at the Canadian National Exhibition, it has since traveled to the Toronto Reference Library (2023), Oakville Public Library (2025), and the Waterdown Library in Hamilton (2026). Amplifying the continuing struggle over book banning, including works by contemporary children's and young adult authors, McCray will share his research into ongoing and recent assaults taking place in libraries, schools and bookstores everywhere.

Critical Arts Publishing, Part One: Processes and Practices

Session 6 · Saturday, 4:00–5:30 pm · Symposium space · Panel

OK Stamp Press discusses their publishing process from idea to distribution, tracing how *From One to Another*, a book born from a 2023–24 peer-to-peer residency of twelve artists with Feminist Photography Network, went from idea to readers' hands. Pseudonym Press shares three examples for translating ephemeral world experiences into tangible publications, including pandemic drone listening walks, the glut of video memory, and resurrecting antique Victorian stereograms.

Pre-launch of PUBLIC #74: Publishing Artists

Session 7 · Sunday, 11:30 am–12:30 pm · Symposium space · Presentation and talk (hybrid)

PUBLIC is a hybrid, interdisciplinary journal focusing on art and visual culture. The theme of issue #74, *Publishing Artists*, refers to both the artistic practices of publishing and the activities of curators, organizations, and institutions that distribute artists' projects and ideas. Guest editor, Jayne Wilkinson, will offer a preview of the issue and discuss the overlapping contexts of artistic and academic publishing embodied by PUBLIC's hybrid model.

Erika DeFreitas and Alex Turgeon will present their respective artist projects for the issue, with a focus on the research and processes behind preparing them. Erika's project, *A Choreography for Reading*, intervenes into the didactic materials of the 2025 Pompidou exhibition, *Paris Noir*, by using annotation, erasure, and mark-making in the margins to call attention to what is missing and question how authority is constructed through language. Alex's project, *Archival Monuments for Speculative Cities*, 2026, imagines the layout of a magazine page as a speculative form of urban planning, where edge, margin, gutter operate as spatial proposals. Following the presentations, a short Q+A will consider how each project intervenes into a conventional form of publishing (exhibition materials and magazines).

Critical Arts Publishing, Part Two: Communities and Networks

Session 8 · Sunday, 1:30–3:00 pm · Symposium space · Talk

What can a publishing project become beyond the publications it produces? Melanie Yugo and Jason Skilz of Possible Worlds reflect on running an experimental publishing space and cassette label as a way of building community, supporting interdisciplinary practices, and creating alternative cultural infrastructure outside conventional institutions. Sonia Preisler of Publication Studio Guelph follows with a talk on cultivating more critical and responsive practices of listening, publishing and engagement. Drawing on conversations at a Publication Studios gathering in São Paulo, they ask what a hand-bound, print-on-demand studio can offer in this moment: a salve, a point of connection, a spark.

Fluid Frontiers: A Screening and Makeback*

Session 10 · Sunday, 3:30–5 pm · Black box theatre · Screening and pre-registered all-ages workshop

Curator Anu Makinde screens Ephraim Asili's *Fluid Frontiers* (23 min). In the 5th and final installment of his series, *The Diaspora Suite* (2011-2017) community members situated along and across the Detroit River read publications from Broadside Press, a publisher of African American writers and essential institution of the Black Arts Movement. Instead of a talk-back, participants will spend an hour making their own zines in response to the film. The session considers how Black independent publishing histories are transnational, complicate border regimes, and can be extended to today. Presented as part of *To Whom It May Concern*, Makinde's program with Critical Distance.

Pre-registration required. Pay what you can; no one turned away for lack of funds. Due to limited capacity, max 24 participants. Register here.

Participant Bios *Listed in order of appearance.*

SlowPitchSound

Cheldon Paterson is a Toronto-based composer and improviser who performs as SlowPitchSound. His sound practice draws on more than two decades of experience across jazz, electronic, experimental and interdisciplinary performance.

Inuit Art Quarterly

Erin Sylvester is Managing Editor of *Inuit Art Quarterly*, the award-winning flagship program of the Inuit Art Foundation. The *IAQ* is the only publication dedicated to the advancement and appreciation of Inuit and circumpolar Indigenous arts, reaching readers in print, online and through *IAQ* Profiles.

Studio Magazine

Lera Kotsyuba is Editor-in-Chief of *Studio Magazine*, which offers perspectives on contemporary Canadian craft and design within global material culture. *Studio* publishes writing that invites new ways of considering objects through their production, materiality, purpose and movement through public and private spaces.

Toronto Biennial of Art

The **Toronto Biennial of Art**'s mission is to make contemporary art accessible to everyone. A twelve-week event every two years, the Biennial commissions artists to create new works for a city-wide exhibition in dialogue with Toronto's diverse local contexts. Year-round public and learning programs bridge Biennials and invite intergenerational audiences to explore the ideas that inspire our events. Building upon past editions and offering new ways of seeing and listening, each Biennial connects people to spark meaningful dialogues and imagine new futures.

Dear friends

Ashley Diana Culver is a queer artist and writer. She is also a butcher and a chef. Every month on her day of birth she sends a newsletter as a way to stay in touch. After completing a MFA from York University (2015), Culver ran the apartment gallery, Sea Foam, that encouraged a porousness between life and art by inviting local artists to exhibit in her home. She writes the column 'Alt-Arts' for Cornelia Magazine, profiling alternative art spaces in Toronto and the people who make them. Culver is also the creator of Soupy Club. www.ashleydianaculver.com

The Kitchen Table

Madelyne Beckles is a Registered Holistic Nutritionist, yoga educator, and interdisciplinary artist whose work invites people back into an embodied relationship with their lives. With a background in Art History and Gender Studies, Madelyne brings an intersectional, and creatively informed approach to health and well-being, blending nutrition, movement, cyclical living, self-inquiry, and storytelling. She supports clients and communities through 1:1 holistic guidance, yoga classes, workshops, and her weekly newsletter, *The Kitchen Table*. Her artistic work has been presented at the Art Gallery of Ontario, Art Basel Miami and MoMA. www.madelynebeckles.com

Calabrees World

Beck is an arts worker and the writer behind *Calabrees World*, a weekly newsletter covering Toronto's contemporary art scene through exhibition guides and interviews. calabrees.substack.com

Art Forecast

Tatum Dooley is a writer and the founder of Art Forecast, an online newsletter and communications agency. Her writing has appeared in *Artforum*, *Architectural Digest*, *Border Crossings*, *Canadian Art*, *Garage Magazine*, the *Globe & Mail*, *The Walrus*, *Lapham's Quarterly,* the *Toronto Star*, and *Vogue*. She has written exhibition texts for artists worldwide. artforecast.substack.com

Vividoodles

Vivi Partridge is a queer comics creator working out of Toronto. A painter, teacher, zinester and graphic arts community enthusiast, they love to dream up new worlds and possibilities for the future, with strong queer, eco-conscious and feminist themes. They also love a matcha latte at a café and time with their cats. Their work is at vividoodles.ca.

Tower of Banned Books

Kelly McCray is a Toronto-based artist and the creator of the touring *Tower of Banned Books*.

OK Stamp Press

maya rae oppenheimer, phd (she/her) is an artist working with, through, from, and around paper. She is the founder and co-director of OK Stamp Press, a mutual aid publishing project, and teaches in the Department of Studio Arts at Concordia University. She recently co-founded a community letterpress and bindery studio in Montreal called Ddense Sun Press [sic]. Website under perpetual construction.

Pseudonym Press

Tasman Richardson is an artist and the publisher of Pseudonym Press, which collaborates with artists to make limited-edition things you can touch. The press splits costs and profits evenly with its artists and selects content with a penchant for provocation.

PUBLIC

PUBLIC is an interdisciplinary journal with a core focus on art and visual culture. It strives to be an accessible, smart, and beautiful journal on the intersection of politics and aesthetics with the timeliness and visual interest of a magazine, but the longevity of a book. PUBLIC maintains an enduring and esteemed profile in the periodicals market with its demonstrated commitment to publishing works, both written and visual, that are innovative and challenging, forward-thinking and critical, and engage both internationally and locally inflected perspectives.

Jayne Wilkinson is an art writer and editor based in Toronto and Berlin. She holds an MA in Art History and Theory from the University of British Columbia (Vancouver), where her research focused on photographic histories and the politics of surveillance culture. Her essays and reviews appear in publications including *Artforum*, *Berlin Art Link*, *Camera Austria*, *C Magazine*, *e-flux Criticism*, *esse arts + opinions*, *Momus*, and various journals. She was previously editor-in-chief at *Canadian Art* and, since 2022, has worked as a freelance editor on dozens of monographs, catalogues, artist books, and digital publications. She sits on the board of directors of *C Magazine* and is a member of the editorial collective of *PUBLIC*, where she edited the latest issue on the theme “Publishing Artists”.

Alex Turgeon (b. Kjipuktuk/Halifax, Nova Scotia) is an artist whose practice investigates the structural relationships between language and architecture. Through interdisciplinary methods, his work braids images of architecture, infrastructure, and nature, to become uncanny translations of queer subjectivity, social class, and urban space under late capitalism. Turgeon's practice explores how poetic structures, in tandem with architectural methods, can interpret queer experience as a form of built environment situated within peripheral landscapes.

Erika DeFreitas’s interdisciplinary practice includes performance, photography, video, installation, textiles, drawing and writing. Placing emphasis on gesture, process, the body, documentation and paranormal phenomena, DeFreitas mines concepts of loss, post-memory, legacy and objecthood. Her work has been exhibited nationally and internationally. DeFreitas holds a Master of Visual Studies from the University of Toronto.

Possible Worlds

Melanie Yugo and **Jason Skilz** are Co-Directors of Possible Worlds, an independent project space, shop and publisher, specializing in narrative-driven visual art, electronic music and small press initiatives. Based in Canada, Possible Worlds presents and produces works and programming that amplify the voices of underrepresented, emerging and experimental artists from Canada and internationally. Through its outreach arm, Possible Worlds operates a public engagement studio, hosts experimental music salons and artist talks, offers micro-publishing residencies and research-based learning programs, and presents Object//Project Art Book Fair.

Publication Studio Guelph

Sonia Preisler is Studio Coordinator of Publication Studio Guelph, one node in the international Publication Studio network, which prints and binds books by hand, one at a time, on demand. The studio is committed to the social life of the book: decentralizing publishing, removing intermediaries and resisting metrics of marketability.

To Whom It May Concern

Anu Makinde is a multidisciplinary artist, educator and curator. A recent graduate of a Master of Arts in Human Geography, her arts-informed research focuses on how migration and diaspora in Black communities are revealed through the sounds and sights they produce. She sees public programs as spaces for exploring collective liberatory pedagogies, and is invested in building critical visual literacy through poetic reimaginings of the archive. She is the curator of *To Whom It May Concern*, an epistolary workshop series at Critical Distance.