

ABOUT MAYWORKS

Founded in 1986, the Mayworks Festival of Working People and the Arts is a community-based festival which annually presents new works by a diverse and broad range of artists, who are both workers and activists. The programming presents bold, insightful, responses to pressing issues at the intersection of art, social justice and labour.

Mayworks prioritizes the representation and participation of artists and audiences from communities facing systemic discrimination. We encourage works rooted in the reality of working people's lives that advance the struggle for improved working and living conditions.

Mayworks is actively engaged in a social dialogue that challenges the logics of capitalism, and seeks to reimagine and represent a just future.

Mayworks is situated upon the traditional territories of the Wendat, Anishinabeg, the Haudenosaunee, and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and recognizes the enduring presence of Indigenous peoples on this land.

Toronto is located on the Dish With One Spoon territory, a covenant created between the Haudenosaunee and the Anishinabeg nations, designed to both share and replenish the resources of this land.

Acknowledging this covenant asks us to consider our collective responsibility past, present and future, and to take seriously the teachings of the Indigenous peoples of this land as we move forward.



FESTIVAL WELCOME

Welcome to the 38th Mayworks Festival of Working People and the Arts.

Throughout the month of May we offer 24 events with 29 participating artists. Whether through zine, installation, photography, film, spoken word or performance – the festival presents the realities of contemporary labour.

This year's artists critically investigate various forms of work from arms manufacturing to flower arranging. Their artworks, informed by personal histories of social activism and research, recognize workers as agents of social transformation.

Struggles for better working and living conditions have guided our most revolutionary movements. Looking back at labour history to imagine future justice, the festival honours the workers who make change possible.

Please join us as we envision just transitions!

In solidarity,

Mayworks' Executive Director, Board and Staff





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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Illustrator

Moe Pramanick

Graphic Design

Karen Cowl, Stripe Graphics Ltd.

Thank you for all the support and hardwork from our festival volunteers.



TICKETS AND VENUES

Tickets

All Mayworks events are free for all.

Tickets are not required, although where capacity is limited, an RSVP is requested at **mayworks.ca**.

Contact us at **festival@mayworks.ca**.

Please arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the start time of the event.

Donations welcome at mayworks.ca.

Venue Information

Masks are encouraged in all indoor venues.

Another Story Bookshop

315 Roncesvalles Ave, Toronto Wheelchair accessible with accessible washrooms.

Artscape Gibraltar's Point

443 Lakeshore Ave (on Hanlan's Island), Toronto Wheelchair accessible with accessible washrooms. Shuttle bus is not wheelchair accessible.

Canadian Filmmakers Distribution Centre

1411 Dufferin St Unit D, Toronto
Wheelchair accessible with accessible washrooms.

Dentonia Park

by Victoria Park subway station
Thyra Ave & Dentonia Park Ave, Toronto
Wheelchair accessible with accessible washrooms.

Dr. Chun Resource Library - OPIRG Toronto

563 Spadina Crescent, Toronto Wheelchair accessible with accessible washrooms.





TICKETS AND VENUES

James Rottman Fine Art

830 St Clair Ave W, Toronto, ON Wheelchair accessible, however assistance required to raise wheelchair above 7 inch front pad to the door.

Larry Sefton Park (behind Toronto City Hall)

500 Bay St, Toronto Wheelchair accessible.

Riverdale Hub

1326 Gerrard St E, Toronto
Wheelchair accessible with accessible washrooms.

Textile Museum of Canada

55 Centre Ave, Toronto Wheelchair accessible with accessible washrooms.

Trinity Square Video

401 Richmond St W (first floor), Toronto Wheelchair accessible with accessible washrooms.

United Steelworkers Hall

25 Cecil St, Toronto

Wheelchair accessible with gender neutral, accessible washrooms

Whippersnapper Gallery

594 Dundas St W, Toronto

The storefront installation is viewable from the sidewalk. The inside gallery is not wheelchair accessible and does not have a washroom.

Workers Arts & Heritage Centre

51 Stuart St, Hamilton

Wheelchair accessible with gender neutral, accessible washrooms.

For any questions around accessibility, please email <u>programming@mayworks.ca</u>



National Day of Mourning



Each year, the Toronto and York Region Labour Council holds a ceremony on April 28th to commemorate workers who have been injured or lost their lives on the jobsite. The ceremony includes remarks by injured workers, family members, union leaders, and elected representatives. Unions, labour councils, families and community partners who gather to mourn these losses also vow to prevent further suffering.

Please join us in this commemoration.

Friday, April 28, 12-1PM
Larry Sefton Park
(behind Toronto City Hall)



All In Together Now by Moe Pramanick



All In Together Now is a portrait of working people, specifically migrant workers, who are central to constructing our past-present-and-future, and continue to struggle for labour rights, decent work and immigration status. The piece combines ink, screen tone and digital mediums.

The illustration is inspired by the use of comic art — revolutionary and decidedly cool — from protest posters throughout history and around the world, to some of the greatest hip hop album covers ever made

May 1-31
Everyday from dusk until dawn
United Steelworkers Hall foyer



Here & Home



With Felicia Byron, Sydellia Ndiaye and Shai Buddah, curated by Djenabé Edouard

Co-presented by
CONTACT Photography Festival
at Riverdale Hub with
Public Service Alliance
Canada (PSAC)

Here & Home presents the work of photographer Felicia Byron, spoken word artist Sydellia Ndiaye and choreographer Shai Buddah in an exhibition that brings visibility to the Afro Caribbean community and celebrates stories of immigration, labour and legacy.

The opening reception includes an artist talk with Felicia Byron and Djenabé Edouard, moderated by PSAC, exploring familial histories and engaging the socio-economic systems that support migratory labour but not migrant workers.



Opening Reception and Artist Talk Thursday, May 4, 7PM RSVP at <u>mayworks.ca</u>

Exhibition
May 2-18
Tuesdays - Saturdays, 1-3PM
at Riverdale Hub

Sydellia Ndiaye will be performing live at the Closing Reception.

Felicia Byron's photographs will be on display and *Here & Home* artists and curator will be in attendance.

Refreshments served.

Closing Reception
Monday, May 22, 1-3PM
Artscape Gibraltar's Point*
(Hanlan's Island)
RSVP at mayworks.ca

* Free shuttle bus from the Hanlan's ferry dock to Artscape Gibraltar's Point at 12PM







Diversity and Community:

50 Years of photographic works

by Vincenzo Pietropaolo



Presented with James Rottman Fine Art and as part of CONTACT Photography Festival

The exhibition consists of works spanning fifty years from the artist's work, including many inspired by his upcoming book, *Toronto as Community*. This body of work chronicles the daily lives of ordinary residents of the city, the evolution of labour and social issues, working class culture and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Join the artist at the Diversity and Community opening reception.

Opening Reception Saturday, May 6, 2-4PM

Exhibit May 2-31

at James Rottman Fine Art

Additional photographs will also be displayed at the Italian Cultural Institute on Huron Street.



Days of Action: Then and Now



Photography exhibit and panel discussion

In the 1990s, austerity measures in Ontario provoked a series of strikes and demonstrations known as the Days of Action uniting labour and social movements and representing historic collective action across Ontario.

Photographer **Vincenzo Pietropaolo** captured the events in several different cities. Join us as he presents a selection of his works and considers his role in witnessing and framing these events.

Reflecting on their experiences a part of the *Days of Action* and ongoing mobilizations, **JP Hornick** (OPSEU), **Carolyn Egan** (Steelworkers' Toronto

Area Council), and **Chris Wilson** (Public Service Alliance of Canada) discuss what has changed, what has stayed the same, and how to organize broad involvement across workplaces and communities.

Moderated by freelance journalist, **Kevin Taghabon**

Refreshments provided.

Friday, May 5, 7PM (Doors open at 6:30PM) RSVP at <u>mayworks.ca</u> United Steelworkers Building Hall



The Professor's Desk by Zinnia Naqvi



Co-presented with CONTACT Festival, Whippersnapper Gallery and OPIRG Toronto

Developed through **Mayworks' Labour Arts Catalyst** program in partnership with **Asian Canadian Labour Alliance**.

The Professor's Desk is a series of images which pairs documents from ACLA's archives within the frame of a professor's office. This project looks particularly at four cases of discrimination on or relating to Canadian universities; the W5 Campus Giveaway TV Special from 1979, Professor Kin-Yip Chun's

case of racial discrimination against the University of Toronto, MacLean Magazine's "Too Asian" article from 2010, and current barriers facing international students in Canada. This project pieces together materials from these events within the space of the artist's studio/office to consider how these institutions have or have not supported people of visible minorities within the frame of academia. This series is meant to commemorate the legacy of figures who have publicly spoken out about their experiences and considers how they have made space for future BIPOC workers within academic institutions in Canada.



Join **Zinnia Naqvi** at the opening reception.

Refreshments served.

Attend the exhibition on a **Sunday afternoon** and visit with members of ACLA and Mayworks.

Opening Reception Sunday, May 7, 1-4PM

Storefront window exhibition May 4-31, viewable 24/7

ACLA afternoon Sunday, May 21, 1-4PM

Mayworks afternoon Sunday, May 28, 1-4PM

at Whippersnapper Gallery



In Conversation: Join Professor Kin-Yip Chun, artist Zinnia Naqvi, and organizer Chris Ramsaroop for a talk on challenges faced by visible minorities as well as their struggles for justice that have made space for future BIPOC workers within academic institutions in Canada.

Wednesday, May 24, 7-8PM
Dr. Chun Resource Library
- OPIRG Toronto
RSVP at mayworks.ca

TTC billboard art Viewable in May outside Spadina Station



All-Seeing Work, Forever Work by Kamika Peters



Co-presented with **Trinity Square Video**

Developed through **Mayworks' Labour Arts Catalyst** in conversation with **Rising Tide Toronto** activists.

Rising Tide Toronto engages in environmental activism through Indigenous solidarity work.

All-Seeing Work, Forever Work is an installation serving to visually express, through found objects, images and industrial materials, the artist's primary focus to overcome isolation and build relationships while sharing a glimmer of the abundance of creative power found at the centre.



"So you want to make a difference?"

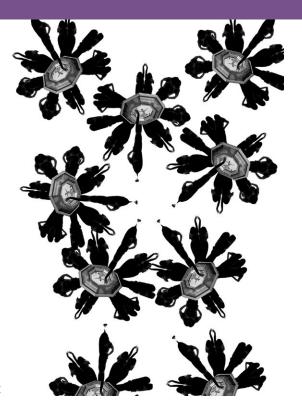
- Benjamin Clementine

Bridging sound and body movement, join artist Kamika Peters for a workshop exploring environmental destruction, individual capacities, and collective justice.

Through movement, this workshop is an opportunity for participants to connect with their bodies and work through questions that are deeply personal and inherently communal such as: What does a satisfying life look like? What are the barriers? And how do we embody action and resistance?

All are welcome. No particular movement experience necessary. Open to those with limited movement capacity.

Refreshments served.



Workshop Saturday, May 6, 2-4PM RSVP at <u>mayworks.ca</u>

Installation
May 5 - June 2
Tuesdays - Saturdays, 12-6PM
at Trinity Square Video



'Amali wa Baladi (My Country & My Work)



With Waard Ward, curated by Nashwa Lina Khan

What happens to the artists who migrate to Canada, are abandoned after settlement and find only work options that do not recognize their craft? Abd Al-Mounim worked in the floral industry for over 15 years in Syria yet his techniques and skills do not enable him to do this work in Canada. 'Amali wa Baladi (My Country & My Work), explores the ways that labour does not always translate across borders. More specifically, the project engages newcomers' experiences with Canada's point based immigration system and how it fails people with training in creative industries.



A photography exhibit presented in the centre of Dentonia Park, this collaborative public art project interweaves the floristry of Abd Al-Mounim and the socially engaged practice of Ward Waard, the artist collective in which he is a member.

Join curator Nashwa Lina Khan, floral artist Abd Al-Mounim and cultural worker Hanen Nanaa for a hands-on bouquet-making workshop. Participants will collectively reckon with the question: what happens to the artists when they come to Canada as refugees? Learning about floristry and flowers, participants are invited to design a small bouquet they can take home.



Exhibit
May 5-31, viewable 24/7
Workshop
Saturday, May 27, 2-4PM
RSVP at mayworks.ca
at Dentonia Park



Infrastructure of Dissent

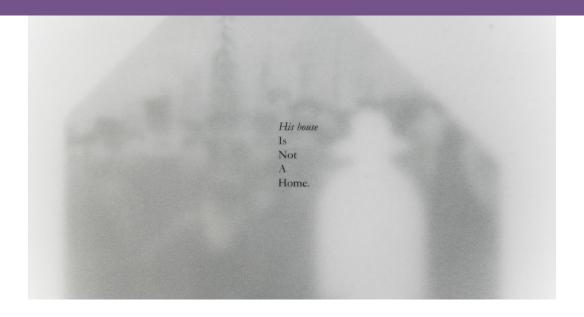


Tings Chak, Hannia Cheng, Rana Nazzal Hamadeh, Lynn Hutchinson Lee & Ingrid Mayrhofer, and Anthony Youssef with Alan Sears, curated by Tara Bursey and Mitra Fakhrashrafi

Co-presented with Workers Arts & Heritage Centre

In 1945, Ford auto workers in Windsor went on a 99-day strike and won. Leading up to this historic win, workers and their families gathered in the nearby restaurants and cultural centres of Drouillard Road to learn, to dance, and to act. In his essay, Creating and Sustaining Communities of Struggles - The Infrastructure of Dissent, sociologist Alan Sears suggests it is these forged networks of solidarity and celebration that nurtured the militancy of the strikers.





Infrastructure of Dissent pays tribute to the parks, restaurants, shisha lounges and cafés, clubs, sanctuaries and union halls that have seeded both the formal organizing efforts and the informal knowledge exchanges that, across geographies and against all odds, lead to collective action. The artists ask: in what ways can we rebuild infrastructures of dissent and foster community power?

Join *Infrastructure of Dissent* artists and curators at the opening reception.

Refreshments served.

Opening Reception Friday, May 12, 6:30-8:30PM RSVP at mayworks.ca

Exhibit
May 12 - August 5
Wednesdays-Fridays, 10AM-4PM
Saturdays, 12PM-4PM
at Workers Arts & Heritage Centre



Canada, Stop Arming Saudi Arabia by Sonali Menezes

Co-presented with Hamilton Coalition to Stop the War

Developed through

Mayworks' Labour Arts Catalyst
in collaboration with

Labour Against the Arms Trade

This collaborative, riso-printed copy-left zine is designed as a no-nonsense introductory guide for everyday people to be introduced to the topic of the now 8 year war in Yemen and Canada's role as a major arms dealer to Saudi Arabia. With artwork and layout by Sonali Menezes and writing by organizers with Hamilton Coalition to Stop the War and Labour Against the Arms Trade, the zine will be available at select Mayworks events and via mail orders (while quantities last). On May 13, join us for the zine launch and silkscreen print your own anti-war poster drop-in style with Sonali.





A zine is an independently published mini-magazine or booklet. The word comes from the last few letters of the word 'magazine' and is a do-it-yourself method of sharing ideas with everyday people. Silkscreen printing is a quick and dirty printmaking process used widely in social movements to make posters and artwork. The process uses a thin screen made of silk, a squeegee and colourful ink.

Refreshments served.

Zine Launch + Silkscreen Workshop Saturday, May 13, 6-8PM Workers Arts & Heritage Centre RSVP at mayworks.ca

Pick up your free copy of the zine at the End of this World reading. (pg. 21) May 18, 7-8PM Another Story Bookshop

Order your free zine at mayworks.ca as of May 13, 2023.



Made in Bangladesh by Rubaiyat Hossain



A feature narrative film co-presented with the **Textile Museum of Canada** 95 minutes, Rated 14A, Bengali with English subtitles

Shimu works in a clothing factory in Dhaka, Bangladesh. After a fire in the factory results in the death of a co-worker, Shimu is approached by a union advocate who provides her with a crash course in women workers' rights — and the tools to enforce them. Interweaving worker's rights and feminist solidarity, Rubaiyat Hossain's Made in Bangladesh (2019) tells the story of women who fight and find a way. The film explores exploitative textile factory labour practices and the global trade apparatus supporting them.

Mayworks Festival and the Textile Museum of Canada are excited to present this Mother's Day screening. A tour of the museum's exhibit will be available prior to the screening.

Film screening + museum tour Sunday, May 14, 2-5PM

Film screening (without tour)
Sunday, May 14, 3-5PM
Textile Museum of Canada
RSVP at mayworks.ca



The End of This World Book Reading with Angele Alook

The climate crisis is here, and the end of this world—a world built on land theft, resource extraction, and colonial genocide—is on the horizon. Drawing on their work in Indigenous activism and the labour movement, the authors of *The End of this World: Climate Justice in So-called Canada* show that a 'just transition' from fossil fuels cannot succeed without the dismantling of settler capitalism in Canada. Their vision is decolonial, liberatory, and transformative.

On Thursday May 18 at 7PM, we invite you to attend a book reading from *The End of This World* with author Angele Alook. Angele has extensively researched Indigenous participation in the labour force of the oil and gas industry in Alberta, and looked at the gendered impacts of this work. She has also researched how members of Bigstone Cree Nation are keeping land-based economies and knowledge alive even as resource industries severely encroach on their territories. *The End of This World* promises that the next world is within reach and worth fighting for.



Join us and receive a copy of *Canada*, *Stop Arming Saudi Arabia* zine by **Sonali Menezes** made in collaboration with **Labour Against the Arms Trade** and the **Hamilton Coalition to Stop the War**.

Thursday, May 18, 7PM (Doors open at 6:30PM) Another Story Bookshop RSVP at mayworks.ca



Black Girl and Borom Sarret by Ousmane Sembène

A feature narrative and a short film screening.

Black Girl (1966, 59 minutes, French and Wolof with English subtitles) tells the story of a young Senegalese woman who moves to France to work for a wealthy white family and finds that life in their small apartment becomes a prison, both figuratively and literally. The film is a layered critique of the lingering colonialist mind-set of a supposedly postcolonial world. It has been described as "a harrowing human drama as well as a radical political statement—and one of the essential films of the 1960s".

Borom Sarret (1963, 18 minutes, French with English subtitles) is a short, stark masterpiece chronicling a day in the life of a Dakar cart-driver. The frustrating day of this "borom sarret" (a Wolof expression for cart-driver) leaves him cheated out of his wages and deprived of his cart. Sembène conveys the toll of natural loss, poverty, and the stain of European colonization on Africa.



Mayworks Festival is excited to present two films by **Sembène**, a visionary filmmaker and novelist. We invite you to join us for an evening of classic labour films.

Thursday, May 25, 7PM (Doors open at 6:30PM)
Canadian Filmmakers
Distribution Centre

CONTENT WARNING: This film includes subject material that some audiences may find disturbing, including suicide.



Mayworks Closing Ceremony

Join us in the park for an afternoon featuring live music, a photography exhibition, and a hands-on workshop.

Our closing celebration is an opportunity to join together in community and celebrate labour arts.

- View the works of Waard Ward.
- Participate in a hands-on bouquet-making workshop and take home a bouquet. **See pg. 15**
- Enjoy refreshments.
- Listen to the music of the **Sistema Toronto Choir*** and others to be announced.





FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE

APRIL 28, 12-1PM

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MAY 6, 2-4PM

All-Seeing Work, Forever Work workshop Trinity Square Video Page 12-13



MAY 4, 7-9PM

Here & Home opening reception Riverdale Hub Page 6-7



MAY 6, 2-4PM

Diversity and Community:

opening reception
James Rottman
Fine Art
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MAY 5, 7-9PM

Days of Action: Then and NowUnited Steelworkers
Building





MAY 7, 1-4PM

The Professor's Desk

opening reception Whippersnapper Gallery

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MAY 12, 6:30-8:30PM

Infrastructures of Dissent

opening reception Workers Arts & Heritage Centre Page 16-17



MAY 18, 7-8PM

The End of This World book reading

Another Story Bookshop

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MAY 13, 6-8PM

Canada, Stop Arming Saudi Arabia

Zine launch
Workers Arts &
Heritage Centre

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MAY 21, 1-4PM

The Professor's Desk gallery visit with ACLA

Whippersnapper
Gallery

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MAY 14, 2-5PM

Made in Bangladesh

film screening

+ museum tour

Textile Museum of Canada

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MAY 22, 1-3PM

Here & Home

closing reception

Artscape Gibraltar's

Point

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FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE

MAY 24, 7-8PM

The Professor's Desk

In Conversation

Dr. Chun Resource Library

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MAY 27, 2-4PM

'Amali wa Baladi

workshop

Dentonia Park

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MAY 25, 7-9PM

Black Girl and **Borom Sarret**

film screening

Canadian

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MAY 27, 12-4PM

Mayworks Closing Ceremony

Dentonia Park

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MAY 28, 1-4PM

The Professor's Desk gallery

visit with Mayworks

Whippersnapper Gallery

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MAY 12 - AUGUST 5

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MAY 4-31

The Professor's Desk Whippersnapper Gallery Page 10-11





THANK YOU

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THANK YOU

FESTIVAL SUPPORTERS

























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THANK YOU

We are grateful for the support we receive from the Canadian Union of Public Employees

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FESTIVAL SUPPORTERS







Mayworks is a unionized workplace. Our staff are members of CUPE 1281.



Friday May 26 & Saturday May 27

Stop the privatization of our public hospitals to for-profit hospitals & clinics



Our communities have spent a hundred years fundraising & volunteering to support our local public hospitals & build services closer to home.

Now the Ford government is planning to take thousands of surgeries & diagnostic tests <u>out</u> of our local public hospitals and <u>privatize</u> them to for-profit hospitals & clinics...

unless we stop them.

Please vote in the citizen-led referendum May 26 & 27

www.ontariohealthcoalition.ca

