FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: APRIL 25, 2022

The Power Plant’s Summer 2022 exhibitions spark conversations on global displacement, the environment, and structural inequalities

Presenting solo exhibitions by Paulo Nazareth and Hiwa K alongside group exhibition BREATHELESS, as well as public sculptures by Sandra Brewster and Paulo Nazareth on Toronto’s waterfront


On view from May 20, 2022, The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery is excited to announce its Summer 2022 season, which includes solo exhibitions by Paulo Nazareth and Hiwa K; BREATHELESS, a group exhibition within an outdoor pavilion; and a series of public artworks by Paulo Nazareth and Sandra Brewster outside The Power Plant and along the waterfront.

With exhibitions that encompass sculpture, installation, video, photography, sound, and performance, The Power Plant seeks to engage visitors this season in conversations on global displacement, the environment, and structural inequalities.
Paulo Nazareth and Hiwa K both stage collaborative, multidisciplinary projects that examine the colonial construction of the “Other.” Paulo Nazareth travels on foot throughout the Americas and the African continent, cultivating relationships with the people he encounters, while Hiwa K traces the powerful connections between migration, geopolitics, and armed conflict through the lens of his own migratory path.

Urgent contemporary issues are further explored in BREATHELESS, with an ecosystem of artworks and temporary architecture concerning today’s air crises. By contrast, Sandra Brewster’s first public sculpture offers an antidote in the form of a place to rest, reflect, and unburden oneself.

“As we celebrate The Power Plant’s 35th Anniversary, we are delighted to announce our Summer 2022 exhibitions, which offer a broad spectrum of global artists engaging with pressing contemporary debates. Working in partnership with ArtworxTO, we look forward to presenting public artworks for visitors along the waterfront this summer, as well as inside the gallery.”

—Gaëtane Verna, Director & Artistic Director

Paulo Nazareth: STROKE
Curator: Carolin Köchling, Nuyten Dime Curator-at-Large
Assistant Curator: Jacqueline Kok, Nancy McCain & Bill Morneau Curatorial Fellow, 2021–23

STROKE, Nazareth’s first solo exhibition in Canada, presents a selection of long-term projects and a new body of work. The works highlight Nazareth’s reflections on the lasting effects of the colonial construction of the “Other,” stemming from slavery and rooting itself in structural racism, capitalist systems, and migration politics today. In addition to a selection of major works that will be on display both inside and outside the gallery, The Power Plant has also commissioned a body of work that extends Nazareth’s research into the discrimination against Black communities throughout the Americas, particularly in the context of public swimming pools.

Paulo Nazareth (born in Borun Nak [Vale do Rio Doce], Minas Gerais) lives and works in Palmital (Belo Horizonte) and throughout the world. His most recent institutional solo exhibitions include those at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami (2019); Pampulha Art Museum, Belo Horizonte (2018); Institute of Contemporary Arts, London (2014); and Museu de arte de São Paulo (2013).

Major Sponsor, Mendes Wood DM, Waterfront BIA; Major Donor, Dr. Paul Marks and Family; Support Donor, Arcana Restoration Group, Giant Containers

Hiwa K: Do you remember what you are burning?
Curator: Noor Alé, Associate Curator

Do you remember what you are burning? is a survey exhibition that gathers installations, sculptures, photographs, and films that relate to themes of belonging and displacement by Iraqi Kurdish artist Hiwa K. Rooted in his life story, the works reflect on his experiences of exile and asylum during the Gulf War (1990–91), the disorientating conditions of being uprooted from his country, and his political participation in Iraq’s pro-democracy uprisings of the Arab Spring (2010–13). Through spontaneous and staged collaborations, the artist engages in performances that position him in the role of activist, bandleader, interviewer, or cook.

Hiwa K: Do you remember what you are burning? is an exhibition conceived as a three-venue collaboration with the artist Hiwa K by Jameel Arts Centre, Dubai; Hugh Lane Gallery, Dublin; and The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery, Toronto.

Support Donors, Hirbod Human & Farnoosh Talae

**BREATHELESS: Flaka Haliti, Marguerite Humeau, Donna Kukama, and Julius von Bismarck**
Guest Curator: Ala Roushan
Assistant Curator: Jacqueline Kok, Nancy McCain & Bill Morneau Curatorial Fellow, 2021–23

**BREATHELESS** arises from today’s urgent air crises and concerns for our shared atmospheres—including the current global pandemic, racial injustice (“I can’t breathe”), forest fires, and carbon emissions—all of which create a sense of uncertainty about our futures. A conceptual ecosystem, **BREATHELESS** manifests as a specially designed public pavilion with integrated artworks that address the vulnerabilities of the breath. Animated by a circadian rhythm, the pavilion exhibits itself as an interior experience during the daytime and transforms by nightfall into a public projection. In 2021, The Power Plant published an accompanying book, **BREATHELESS**, which is available from the gallery shop.

Flaka Haliti (born in Pristina, Kosovo, 1982) lives in Munich and represented her home country Kosovo at the Venice Biennale in 2015. She has exhibited internationally, was a scholarship holder of the Villa Romana in Florence in 2017, and is a recipient of the Ars Viva Prize and the Henkel Award.

Marguerite Humeau (born in France, 1986) lives and works in London, UK. Humeau’s work stages the crossing of great distances in time and space, transitions between animal and mineral, and encounters between personal desires and natural forces. Among many exhibitions and public collections, Humeau is a participating artist in the 2022 Venice Biennale.

Donna Kukama (born in South Africa, 1981) is an interdisciplinary artist whose work is informed by performance-based research processes. Kukama has exhibited and presented performances at several notable institutions and museums, including Tate Modern, London, and the South African National Gallery, Cape Town.

Julius von Bismarck (born in Breisach am Rhein, Germany, 1983) grew up in Riad, Saudi Arabia, and currently lives in Berlin. Associating visual arts with other fields of research and experimentation, von Bismarck’s artistic practice is defined by an in-depth and complex exploration of the phenomena of perception, or the representation and reconstruction of reality.

**BREATHELESS** is presented in partnership with ArtworxTO: Toronto’s Year of Public Art 2021–2022. The architecture and exhibition design are conceived by Ala Roushan in collaboration with Charles Stankievech, University of Toronto.

Lead Donor, Nuyten Dime Foundation; Major Donors, Jack Weinbaum Family Foundation, The Ira Gluskin & Maxine Granovsky Gluskin Charitable Foundation; Support Donors, Masoud Borumand, Rozeta Ghatari, Liza Mauer, Susan and Larry Dime, Andrew Chisholm and Laurie Thomson Fund at Toronto Foundation. Supported by Canada Council for the Arts, Partners in Art, and Panasonic.

**Sandra Brewster: By Way of Communion**
Curator: Joséphine Denis, TD Curator of Education & Outreach Fellow, 2021–23

Facing Lake Ontario, *A Place to Put Your Things* is Toronto-based artist Sandra Brewster’s first public sculpture. A swing set with a seat in the form of two figures donning afros in an embrace, the piece invites participants to “a place to rest and be at peace, to unburden oneself, and simply sway at one’s own pace and rhythm,” according to Brewster. *A Place to Put Your Things* is a continuation of Brewster’s Smith
series (2004–ongoing), which refers to the common surname and points to the absurdity of assumptions that rely on stereotypes and systems of classification, including those endured by members of the Black community. A part of ArtworxTO: Toronto’s Year of Public Art 2021–2022, the swing set, which celebrates the public expression of Black love, will be on display until September 30, 2022.

Sandra Brewster is a Canadian artist based in Toronto. She has recently shown her work in solo exhibitions at the Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto (2019); Or Gallery, Vancouver (2019); and Never Apart Gallery, Montreal (2017). Brewster holds an MA in Visual Studies from the University of Toronto, and a BFA from York University, Toronto.

Presenting Sponsor, TD READY Commitment; Support Donors, Anonymous, Susan & Larry Dime, Susie & Vahan Kololian; Donors, Dr. Kenneth Montague & Ms. Sarah Aranha, Roula & Jad Shimaly, Bita Doagoo & Mazyar Mortazavi, Adam Vigna. In partnership with ArtworxTO: Toronto’s Year of Public Art 2021–2022.

Download advance images here.

Opening Weekend Events
Press Preview: Thursday May 19, 2022, 2–4 PM (RSVP to rmoss@thepowerplant.org)
Public Opening Reception: Thursday May 19, 2022, 8–11 PM
Artist Talk with Paulo Nazareth: Friday May 20, 2022, 6.30 PM
Artist Talk with Hiwa K: Saturday May 21, 2022, 4 PM

About The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery
The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery is Canada’s leading public gallery devoted exclusively to contemporary visual art. It is a vital forum for the advanced artistic culture of our time and offers an exceptional facility and professional support to diverse living artists, while also engaging equally diverse audiences. The Power Plant pursues its activities through exhibitions, publications, and public programming that incorporate other areas of culture when they intersect with visual art. For more information, please visit thepowerplant.org.

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Press Contacts:
Rebecca Moss
Communications & Marketing Coordinator
rmoss@thepowerplant.org

Beverly Cheng
Head of Communications & Marketing
bcheng@thepowerplant.org