Summer 2023 Exhibitions

Ron Terada: WE DID THIS TO OURSELVES

Jen Aitken: The Same Thing Looks Different in parallel

Let’s start our adventure at The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery. Follow along with this guide during your visit to find four artworks in the Summer 2023 exhibitions. Let’s look, listen, feel, and learn about how these artworks communicate with us.

Observe Together

When you find the works of art listed in this guide, look at each one for sixty seconds in silence.

Discuss two details that you notice with your group while looking at each work.

What questions would you ask the artist if they were here with you?

Is there a story being told?

What do you want to remember about this artwork?

If you could ask this artwork a question, what would you ask?

In the Galleries

Ask a Gallery Attendant if you have any questions about the artworks.

Remember to use your inside voice.

Keep a little distance from the artworks. They are fragile and your touch can harm them.

Read this guide online at bit.ly/powerkids
Let’s look at the paintings in the Royal LePage Gallery.

Terada collected news headlines from a website called The Verge. He changed the **typeface** in the headlines to the recognizable one used by the **New York Times** and then painted the letters, words, and sentences with brushes and acrylic paint. The **New York Times**, founded in 1851, is an award-winning daily print and digital newspaper based in New York City, covering global and American news. The **Verge**, founded in 2011, is an American news website publishing stories, reviews, guidebooks, and podcasts about technology, media, and entertainment.

Why do you think Terada changed the font? Why do you think he painted the news headlines instead of printing them or showing them on a digital screen?

**Typefaces** are a set of printable or displayable text characters in a specific style. Designers spend a lot of time designing typefaces for different projects. Each typeface’s style can make us feel differently about the text.

If you want to write about facts, you will probably choose a clean, simple, and legible typeface. On the other hand, you might select a playful typeface to type a happy note on a greeting card.
If you have a picture of your pose, share it with us on social media, tagging #ThePowerPlantTO
Second Stop!
Jen Aitken’s Balopine in the McLean Gallery

The buildings and structures in the city inspire the shapes and forms in Jen Aitken’s artworks, such as Balopine, 2015. These inspirations may come from the small corner of a broken concrete step outside an old house or a big highway bridge and its underpass. On your way out of The Power Plant, pay attention to the steps and the ramp in the lobby. The steps are square-shaped, and the ramp is a beautiful, perfect curve. Look at the concrete lobby floor and notice the shapes, colours, and patterns. Walking out of the building, can you spot the CN Tower or the Rogers Centre? Enjoy the view while sitting on Ontario Square’s concrete garden benches. All of these corners, structures, and buildings have their own story. They exist around us in interesting shapes, forms, and colours—waiting for us to get to know them.

Pictured on the left is one of the structures that Jen Aitken has looked at carefully in the urban areas of Toronto, and it sits in Lake Ontario! The Western Breakwater was made in the early twentieth-century to protect the area from stormwaters, rough waves and erosion. By stopping the waves, it creates a calm space for people to swim, play or picnic. It was advantageous when the Sunnyside amusement park and beach were opened in 1922. You can compare the Breakwater in the pictures above.
Shaheer Zazai was born in Afghanistan and raised in Pakistan before settling in Canada. Zazai first designed the carpet, MBTCN1, 2022 and Carpet No. 3, 2022 in Microsoft Word using letters, symbols, typeface, numbers, punctuations, and colours. He then sent the design to weavers in Kabul, Afghanistan to make the carpet. This collaboration is a beautiful example of a connection between the three places Zazai calls home. It also connects his memories from the past to the present time in which he creates the designs. From afar, it looks like a traditional Afghani carpet. Looking more carefully, we realize that contemporary digitized shapes replace classic geometric or natural forms.

**QUADRILATERAL**

**IS A TWO-DIMENSIONAL SHAPE WITH FOUR SIDES AND FOUR ANGLES**

**HOW MANY QUADRILATERALS DO YOU FIND IN THIS SHAPE?**

**HOW MANY TRIANGLES CAN YOU FIND?**

REMEMBER, THERE ARE NO WRONG ANSWERS. DIFFERENT PEOPLE SEE DIFFERENT NUMBERS OF SHAPES.
Last Stop!

Micah Lexier’s Scavenger Hunt
in the North Gallery

The fourth stop is a map of The Power Plant building by the Toronto artist and curator Micah Lexier. The map is only the beginning of a journey that involves text, discovery, and architecture. Lexier sends us on a tour of the building to find five letters of the alphabet. The artwork begins with a map and continues with language and discovery. Each dot on the map corresponds to a specific location on the building. If you are alert, you will notice five white metal letters placed on the building - one letter per dot. Once you find all five letters, alter their order to spell one or more words. Later, before leaving the gallery, tell the front desk attendant your word or words, and you will be given a prize.


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JOIN US THIS SEASON FOR POWER KIDS

On Sunday, September 3, 2023, after closely examining Jen Aitken’s wood pieces, Outline 1 and Outline 2, participants will make 3-D sculptures using wire, beads, and branches. This activity is inspired by how Aitken’s wood pieces resemble drawn lines in the exhibition space.

For upcoming family programming, please see the next page.
For more information, email powerkids@thepowerplant.org.
ALL YEAR, ALL FREE

PRESENTED BY
BMO Financial Group

GALLERY HOURS
MONDAY - CLOSED
TUESDAY - CLOSED
WEDNESDAY - 11 AM - 6 PM
THURSDAY - 11 AM - 8 PM
FRIDAY - 11 AM - 8 PM
SATURDAY - 11 AM - 6 PM
SUNDAY - 11 AM - 6 PM
* 11 AM - 6 PM ON HOLIDAY MONDAYS

INFORMATION
+1 416 975 4949
info@thepowerplant.org
thepowerplant.org

LOCATION
251 Queens Quay West
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
M5J 2G8

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORTERS

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Become a Member
As Canada’s leading contemporary art gallery, The Power Plant provides you and your family with exceptional opportunities to access, engage with, and exchange ideas regarding the best artworks of our time by world-renowned artists.

Your membership directly supports artists and the opportunities they have to develop and present new work.

ANNUAL FAMILY/DUAL MEMBERSHIP ($100) INCLUDES:

Two membership e-cards
15% discount on publications, artist editions, and merchandise (in person and online)
Reciprocal admission to public galleries in Ontario (GOG) for two adults and up to four children
Reciprocal admission to North American Institutions (NARM and ROAM) for two adults and up to four children

For more information about membership levels and benefits, please visit our website or ask one of our friendly and knowledgeable Gallery Attendants how you can join The Power Plant family today!

Power Kids
THE POWER PLANT
FREE
For children aged 7-12 years with parents or guardians (and younger siblings). Caregivers must remain with their children during these programs.

Tours and workshops are led by Nilou Salimi, Power Kids and Outreach Coordinator, with Rose Maagdenberg, Power Kids Teaching Assistant.

Visit bit.ly/powerkids or email powerkids@thepowerplant.org for more information.

GROUP VISITS
The Power Plant offers group visits for K-12 students, including hands-on art-making options. To schedule your group, please email tours@thepowerplant.org or call 416-975-4949

News and Paper
Sunday, July 16, 2023, 3 PM

Caring Caricatures
Sunday, July 30, 2023, 3 PM

Plaster Cast
Sunday, August 13, 2023, 3 PM

Stacked Boxes
Sunday, August 27, 2023, 3 PM

Draw in Space
Sunday, September 3, 2023, 3 PM

Special Events:
Harbourfront Centre
West Campus
Saturday, May 20, 2023, 11 AM-6 PM

Toronto Outdoor Art Fair
July 8 and 9, 2023, 11 AM-6 PM