
Melissa Joakim



Melissa Joakim is a light artist and composer working in Toronto, Canada. She holds a BFA Specialized Honours from York University. In her artworks she creates sculptures that interplay with light and shadow to call attention to the natural world. Her artistic practice includes installation art; elevating spaces with light, sound and shadow. Along with her art practice as a sculptor, she has extensive experience in lighting and projection design for live theatre, dance performance and concerts. She is a Dora Mavor Moore Award recipient for Scenic Design and she is actively touring internationally. Her solo work primarily focuses on lighting and sound as waveforms that occupy space, fostering a holistic connection to self, others, and the Earth.

Experience

Artist, Researcher (2020-Present)

- Research and development for LAMP (Lighting for Analogue Missions Project)
- Studying the physiological and psychological effects of lighting in Analogue environments used in researching outer space habitation
- Designing dynamic and responsive lighting that speaks to the human condition, circadian rhythms, and mental health

Architectural Lighting Designer and Technologist (2020-Present)

- Lighting and AV system design with EOS Lightmedia and WSP Canada
- Artistic and schematic design for arts institutions, museums, public art installations, experience centres and more
- Technical renderings, drafting and related paperwork

Installation Artist (2019-Present)

- New-media based installation art
- Immersive lighting, video and sound
- Large-scale projection mapping
- Live and recorded music
- Midi-operation, networking and interactive elements

Lighting and Production Design (2009-Present)

- Lighting, projection and scenic design for theatre and dance production

- National and International work with companies including The Theatre Centre, Soulpepper, Canadian Stage and Soundstreams
- Programming dynamic lighting, video and sound
- Creative and technical renderings, drafting and related paperwork

Awards

Dora Mavor Moore Awards

- Winner: Outstanding Scenic Design for Prophecy Fog, 2020
- Nominee: Outstanding Scenic Design for Isitwendam, 2019
- Nominee: Outstanding Lighting Design for Taken by Night, 2016

Pauline McGibbon Award - Nominee: 2020, 2017