
Tonya Hart



Tonya Hart is a Canadian artist currently based in Toronto. She creates art inspired by light, energy and magnetism to form a connection with the natural world. Nature and magnetism manifest in a vast array of articulations in her artwork and continue to facilitate the conceptual nature of her work. Her light-based sculptures vary in scale from intimate to monumental in an aim to pair the energy within us to the energy found within natural phenomena to discover experiences with light that offer insight and connection.

In 2011, Tonya entered the public art realm with INFRA commissioned by the city of Toronto for Scotiabank Nuit Blanche, becoming the first of three exhibitions for Nuit Blanche Toronto. She has since worked with cities across Canada including four commissions with the National Capital Commission in Ottawa, Canada to create public art installations. Other notable exhibitions include the Venice Biennale of Architecture in 2018; Canadian Sculpture Centre in 2009 and group shows with 4heads arts group in New York City for Portal Art Fair in SoHo and Governor's Island Art Fair both in 2017. In 2019-20, she took part of a studio residency at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Toronto.

Education

1998 Bachelor of Fine Arts with Honors, Visual Arts Major, York University Toronto

Solo Exhibition

2020 Light is Magnetic, presented by DesignTO, Toronto CA
2018 The Venice Biennale of Architecture, presented by European Cultural Centre
Palazzo Bembo, Venice, Italy
2012 The Myomere River ArtBar, Toronto, CA
2010 The Pull of the Moon Paul Petro Special Projects Space. Toronto CA
2009 Sleeping with the Muse Canadian Sculpture Centre, Toronto CA

Public Art

2023	Lumiere: The Art of Light, Toronto CA
2023	Hamilton Winterfest, Hamilton CA
2022	Burlington Waterfront Sculpture Trail, Burlington CA
2021	Elora Sculpture Project, Elora, CAN
2020 & 2019 & 2018	Ontario Place Winter Light Exhibition, Toronto CA
2020 & 2013 & 2012	Winterlude, Ottawa CA
2017	CAMH Development Project Finalist, Toronto, CA
2015-16	Nanaimo Public Art Exhibition, Nanaimo CA
2015	Ron Joyce Children's Hospital Project Finalist, Hamilton, CA
2014, 2012 & 2011	Scotiabank Nuit Blanche, Toronto CA
2014	igNIGHT, Wood Buffalo CA C.V. TONYA HART
2014	Winterfest Hamilton, CA
2013	Placemaker City of Saskatoon, CA
2013	National Capital Commission Public Art Initiative, Ottawa, CA
2008	Fahrenheit Festival hosted by Artcite Inc. Windsor CA

Selected Group

2023, 2022 & 2021	Oeno Sculpture Garden Exhibition, Bloomfield, CA
2021	CICA Museum, Circle, Gimpo-si, Korea
2021	The Gladstone Hotel Project, Toronto, CA
2020	Towers for a Beam, Artist Project Art Fair Front Entrance, Toronto CA
2019	TD Thor Wealth Management Juried Exhibition, Midland, CA
2019	Haliburton Sculpture Exhibition, Haliburton CA
2019 & 2018	The Other Art Fair Brooklyn presented by Saatchi Art, NYC, USA
2017	Governor's Island Art Fair hosted by 4heads, New York City, NYC, USA
2017	Portal, 4Heads Art Collective New York City, NYC, USA
2016	Walnut Contemporary Art Gallery, Toronto, CA
2009	Kingsbrae Gardens Kingsbrae Gardens, St. Andrews, CA
2008	SculptArt The Royal Botanical Gardens, Burlington, CA
2000-2009	The Canadian Sculpture Centre, Toronto, CA (over 20 exhibits)
2005	Triple X VAO 30th Anniversary Exhibition Visual Arts Ontario Touring Exhibit
2001-2008	John B. Aird Gallery, Toronto CA Annual Member Exhibitions
1995	Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition Toronto CA

Residencies

May 2023 Can Serrat Visual Artist Residency El Bruc, Spain Sept 2019 – November 2020
Akin/MOCA Studio Residency program, Museum of Contemporary Art, Toronto

Grants and Awards

2023	Canada Arts Council Arts Abroad Grant
2020/21	Toronto Artscape Foundation Launchpad Bursary
2018	Canada Arts Council Travel Abroad Grant
2010	Ontario Art Council Emerging Artist Grant
1991	Kingston Art Council Student Award

Curated

In 2006 Tonya founded The Sculpture Garden, an initiative to promote Canadian sculpture created for the landscape. With twenty-five sculptors and artisans in her portfolio, the following is a list of the shows she curated until 2009.

2009 & 2008	Artists' Gardens 401 Richmond Roof Gardens, Toronto CA
2007, 2008, 2009	Beach Garden Society Tour, Toronto CA
2007	Canada Blooms, Toronto CA
2006	Artsweek TD Exhibition 2006 TD Court, Toronto, CA

Film

1996	Swann: A Mystery 1996 film adapted from Carol Shields' Canadian novel; nominated for five Genie Awards. Artwork appears on the main set.
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Volunteering

Canadian Sculpture Centre/ Sculptors' Society of Canada

2003-04: Served on Executive Board as Public Relations Officer

2004-08: Served on Executive Board as Secretary

Publications

2018 TIME SPACE EXISTENCE Exhibition Catalogue GAA Foundation Venice, Italy

2017 10th Annual Governors Island Art Fair, 4heads Artist Collective, NYC, NY USA

2016 20th Anniversary Placemaker Art Catalogue, City of Saskatoon, CA

Performance and Review

- PERFORMANCE & REVIEW Ontario Place, Artists on Light: a film by Ryan Bergmann
<http://immediategroup.ca/portfolio1/>
- Artist Talk in Saskatoon for Placemaker Program INFRA sculpture installation
http://youtu.be/1_ddfiBYvl4
- Fahrenheit Festival 2008 Large scale Fire Sculpture Event hosted by Artcite Inc
<https://artcite.ca/history-archive/2008/>

- Blog Review: 16 Sculptors from Toronto you should know about
<http://blog.piccsy.com/toronto-creatives/16-sculptors-from-toronto-you-should-know-about>

Press

- Designlines Feature article on light artwork 04/2022
<https://www.designlinesmagazine.com/tonya-hart-canadian-artist/?lkd>
- CBC Arts Exhibitionists feature in television and online 12/21/18
<https://www.cbc.ca/arts/exhibitionists/did-you-know-you-can-hug-a-light-you-can-atthe-winter-light-exhibition-1.4951392>
- Bay Street Bull Artwork on top ten list 02/20/19 from IDS Toronto
<https://www.baystbull.com/top-10-designs-for-your-office-at-ids-toronto/>
- Azure coverage of Ontario Place Light Exhibition 12/08/18
<https://www.azuremagazine.com/article/winter-lights-toronto-ontario-place/>
- Toronto Life coverage of the Ontario Place Winter Festival 2017
<https://torontolife.com/culture/art/ontario-place-covered-shimmering-lights-right-now/>
- CBC coverage of the Ontario Place Winter Festival 2017 <http://www.cbc.ca/arts/art-is-lighting-up-the-old-ontario-place-grounds-all-winter-andhere-s-what-it-looks-like-1.4437789>
- New York Times coverage of Governors Island Art Fair 2017
<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/30/arts/design/an-art-fair-for-the-99-percent.html>
- Artnet coverage of Governors Island Art Fair 2017
<https://news.artnet.com/market/governors-island-art-fair-2017-1066706>
- Ottawa Citizen Featured artist with cover image 02/03/2012
<http://blogs.ottawacitizen.com/2012/02/03/blizzart-blankets-winterlude-with-art/>
- CBC Radio One Saskatchewan with Craig Lederhouse
<http://www.cbc.ca/player/Radio/Local+Shows/Saskatchewan/ID/2419137181/>
- CBC Radio One, All in a day Ottawa interview, link:
<http://www.cbc.ca/player/Radio/Local+Shows/Ontario/All+in+a+Day/ID/2330100148/>
- The Montreal Gazette
<http://www.montrealgazette.com/news/Toronto+based+artist+Tonya+Hart>
- Global news <http://globalnews.ca/news/1034163/vandalized-artwork-in-saskatoon-relocated/>
- Fort McMurray TODAY September 30, 2014 Front Page image
<http://eedition.fortmcmurraytoday.com/epaper/viewer.aspx?noredirect=tru>