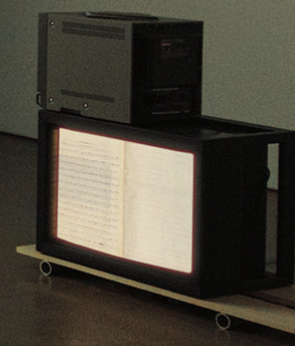


# ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT FY2023-2024



Mercer Union  
a centre for contemporary art

Parastoo Anoushahpour, Faraz Anoushahpour,  
and Ryan Ferko: *Lovers' Wind*  
Installation view: Mercer Union, 2024.  
Courtesy the Artists. Photo: Vuk Dragojevic.





Rochelle Goldberg: *Sun Moon Stars*. Installation view: Mercer Union, 2023. Courtesy the artist. Photo: Vuk Dragojevic.

## SUPPORT FOR ARTISTS

In 2023-24, Mercer Union reached new heights with a full year of commissions initiated through our *Artist First* platform. Now in its third year, our vital program delivers significant career milestones for artists through each commission and exhibition. We continue to build momentum for our artists' practices through ongoing collaborations and partnerships. Our exhibitions and programs supported:

**22** CREATIVE PRACTITIONERS

**19** COMMISSIONED ARTWORKS

**\$29K** ARTIST, PRODUCTION, & WRITER FEES

This year's artistic programming benefitted from sponsorship and project support from TD Bank Group; RBC Insurance; the Canada Council for the Arts; and the Vega Foundation. In addition, our commissions were made possible with the generous support of:

**16** INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES

**\$28K** COMMISSIONING CONTRIBUTIONS

## ARTIST FIRST COMMISSIONS

**Rochelle Goldberg: *Sun Moon Stars***  
9 September–11 November 2023

First institutional solo exhibition in Canada by the Berlin-based Canadian artist. *Sun Moon Stars* toured to Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver in Summer 2024.

**Parastoo Anoushahpour, Faraz Anoushahpour, and Ryan Ferko: *Lovers' Wind***  
20 January–23 March 2024

First major institutional solo exhibition in Canada by the Toronto-based artists. Their commissioned films were presented at Western Front, Vancouver, and screened at Doclisboa International Film Festival in Fall 2024.

**Danielle Dean: *Out of this World***  
13 April–15 June 2024

First institutional solo exhibition in Canada, and an international co-commission with The Vega Foundation and Spike Island, Bristol, where the project will travel in 2025. Dean's commissioned film *Hemel* screened at the New York International Film Festival; BFI London Film Festival; and Viennale in Fall 2024.





Danielle Dean: *Out of this World*. Installation view: Mercer Union, 2024. Courtesy the Artist. Photo: Vuk Dragojevic.

## PARTICIPATION & REACH

We offered diverse entry points for our communities to engage with contemporary art, delivering a suite of hybrid programs, artist-led video walkthroughs, interpretive aids, and events to animate each exhibition.

**3.9K** IN-GALLERY VISITORS

**14.4K** ONLINE VIEWERS

**7** TALKS, SCREENINGS & WORKSHOPS

**312** PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

**6** COMMUNITY EVENTS

**668** EVENT ATTENDEES

**6** COMMISSIONED ESSAYS & TEXTS

**3.8K+** WORLDWIDE READERS

Partnerships with Images Festival and Oakville Galleries engaged expanded local audiences; and we delivered guided tours to 330 visitors from 15 educational and community groups. Our exhibitions received press coverage from publications including *Artforum*; *Border Crossings*; *Camera Austria*; *Esse*; *Frieze*; and *Mousse*.

## NETWORKS OF SUPPORT

This year's program exemplifies how Mercer Union builds momentum for artists' practices, leveraging our Canadian and international relationships to increase the reach and impact of commissioned projects beyond their presentation in Toronto. Each of our *Artist First* Commissions continue to flourish through national and international tours, exhibitions, and screenings.

In February, we partnered with TIFF Cinematheque and LUX Scotland to present the first triple-bill screening in North America of *A Trilogy of Films* by the Scottish artist Charlie Prodger. This event included the first screening of *SaFO5* (2019) in Toronto, a major commission developed with support from Mercer Union for the 58th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia.

Our annual SPACE Billboard Commission received international reach for the first time, with two of Sukaina Kubba's *Jealousy* works included in her solo exhibition *Turn Me Into a Flower* at Dundee Contemporary Arts (UK). We partnered with DCA to bring together our commissioned texts into an accompanying publication, and additionally co-published *Afterfeather*, a pair of limited-edition laser etchings Kubba created at DCA Print Studio.

# THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR MISSION

*Artist First* commissions are made possible with the generous support of:

Femi & Aminat Adeyinka  
Kaye & Paul Beeston  
Rebecca Carbin  
Jane Corkin  
Sue & Larry Dime  
M. Victoria Foley & Paul Fredricks

Joanna & Meric Gertler  
Catriona Jeffries  
Christie Kirchner  
Nancy McCain & Bill Morneau  
Margaret McNee  
David & Erica Neligan

Donna & Robert Poile  
Frances & Tim Price  
Lauren Charyk Silverberg  
Victoria Taylor  
Morden Yolles

We gratefully acknowledge our 2023-2024 Sponsors, Donors and Funders:

## Visionaries \$10,000+

The Vega Foundation

## Partners \$500+

Miles Gertler  
Sarah Heim  
Bruce Palmer  
Marina Shepaksov

## Catalysts \$250+

Matt Brown  
Maggie Dickson  
Karen Mills  
Erica Russell  
Michael Salem

## Sustainers \$100+

Alice Adelkind  
Peter Blendell  
Therese Bolliger  
Nicholas Boshart  
Roger Chaplin  
Robert Fones  
Rebecca Gimmi  
Ken Goldberg  
Mimi Joh  
Megan Kalaman & Wil Carlos  
Farah Kurji  
Christof Migone  
Julia Paoli  
Jennifer Simaitis  
Derek Sullivan

TD Programming & Engagement Assistant is made possible with Leading Support from TD Bank Group



Mercer Union thanks our Beverage Sponsor, Burdock Brewery



Mercer Union acknowledges the support of its staff, volunteers and members, the Canada Council for the Arts, the Government of Ontario through the Ontario Arts Council, and the City of Toronto through the Toronto Arts Council.



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CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO  
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Ontario



Mercer Union is a non-profit, artist-run centre dedicated to commissioning and producing new works of contemporary art, and providing an engaging program that encourages critical inquiry and conversation. We champion ambitious exhibitions that empower diverse Canadian and international artists in formative and established stages of their practice.



Mercer Union  
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TD Programming & Engagement Assistant: Abby Kettner  
Lead Exhibitions Preparator: Vanessa Rieger

Board of Directors: Femi Adeyinka, Matt Brown, Miles Gertler, Sarah Heim, Christie Kirchner, David Neligan, Philip Leonard Ocampo, Erica Russell, Marina Shepaksov, Emma Steen, Erica Russell, Farnoosh Talae