

MICHÈLE PEARSON CLARKE

b. 1973, Trinidad and Tobago

michelepearsonclarke@gmail.com | www.michelepearsonclarke.com | @mpclarke

EDUCATION

- 2015 Master of Fine Arts, Documentary Media, Ryerson University, Toronto, ON
- 2001 Master of Social Work, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON
- 1996 Bachelor of Arts (Honours), Psychology, Queen's University, Kingston, ON

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 *Quantum Choir*, MOMENTA Biennale de l'image, Montreal, QC
- 2023 *Quantum Choir*, Plug In ICA, Winnipeg, MB
- 2022 *The Animal Seems to Be Moving*, Centre CLARK, Montreal, QC
- 2022 *Muscle Memory*, Art Gallery of Hamilton, Hamilton, ON
- 2020 *Suck Teeth Compositions*, Forest City Gallery, London, ON
- 2019 *Suck Teeth Compositions*, The New Gallery, Calgary, AB
- 2018 *A Welcome Weight on My Body*, Gallery 44, Toronto, ON
- 2017 *Parade of Champions*, Studio XX, Montreal, QC
- 2015 *Parade of Champions*, Ryerson Image Centre, Toronto, ON

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 *Sobey Art Award Exhibition*, National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, ON
- 2023 *As We Rise: Photography from the Black Atlantic*, Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, MA
- 2023 *As We Rise: Photography from the Black Atlantic*, Polygon Gallery, Vancouver, BC
- 2022 *As We Rise: Photography from the Black Atlantic*, University of Toronto Art Centre
- 2022 *There are no parts*, Blackwood Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 2022 *Politics of Sound*, Two Rivers Gallery, Prince George, BC
- 2021 *Critical Proximity*, OBORO, Montreal, QC
- 2020 *Migration and Meaning(s) in Art*, MICA, Baltimore, MD
- 2019 *The Gender Conspiracy*, Art Gallery of Burlington, Burlington, ON
- 2019 *Here We Are Here: Black Canadian Contemporary Art*, Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Halifax, NS
- 2019 *Are You My Mother*, Dunlop Art Gallery, Regina, SK
- 2018 *Time Has Gone*, LagosPhoto Festival, Lagos, Nigeria
- 2018 *Through lines*, The Koffler Centre of the Arts, Toronto, ON
- 2018 *RAGGA NYC*, Mercer Union, Toronto, ON
- 2018 *Here We Are Here: Black Canadian Contemporary Art*, Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, Montreal, QC
- 2018 *at; into; across*, Ulrich Museum of Art, Wichita, KS
- 2018 *All That is Left Unsaid*, Itd los angeles, Los Angeles, CA
- 2018 *Here We Are Here: Black Canadian Contemporary Art*, Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, ON
- 2018 *If You've Got It, Flaunt It*, McIntosh Gallery, London, ON
- 2017 *Visitor Information*, Robert McLaughlin Gallery, Oshawa, ON
- 2017 *All That is left unsaid/at the very point where words fail us*, Centre[3], Hamilton, ON
- 2017 *Fugitive Desires*, 198 Contemporary Arts & Learning, London, UK
- 2017 *Universal Loss*, Gallery 101, Ottawa, ON

- 2015 *Complex Social Change*, Doris McCarthy Gallery, Scarborough, ON
- 2015 *10x10*, The Gladstone Hotel, Toronto, ON
- 2015 *There Is Always More than What We Perceive*, OCADU Graduate Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 2015 *Surf Club*, Vox Populi, Philadelphia, PA
- 2014 *Under New Management: Video Store*, Third Space, St John, NB
- 2014 *We Can't Compete*, University of Lethbridge Art Gallery, Lethbridge, AB
- 2013 *That's So Gay*, The Gladstone Hotel, Toronto, ON

SELECTED SCREENINGS

- 2020 *Happy Birthday, Toni! A Celebration of Black Women*, Brooklyn Academy of Music, New York, NY
- 2019 *NFB Five@50*, Toronto, ON
- 2017 *Ann Arbor Film Festival*, Ann Arbor, MI
- 2016 *Arte Multimedia Canadiense*, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 2016 *Black Radical Imagination*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL
- 2016 *Strangoscope Experimental Film/Video & Performance Festival*, Florianópolis, Brazil
- 2015 *Experimenta India*, Bangalore, India
- 2015 *MIX NYC Queer Experimental Film Festival*, New York, NY
- 2015 *Festival des Cinémas Différents et Expérimentaux*, Paris, France
- 2015 *Transoceanic Visual Exchange*, Bridgetown, Barbados
- 2015 *Transoceanic Visual Exchange*, Auckland, New Zealand
- 2015 *Inside Out Toronto LGBT Film and Video Festival*, Toronto, ON
- 2015 *Queer City Cinema*, Regina, SK
- 2015 *International Short Film Festival Oberhausen*, CFMDC Screening, Germany
- 2015 *Images Festival*, Toronto, ON
- 2015 *Independent Visions: Bad Feminism*, Regina, SK
- 2015 *International Film Festival Rotterdam*, CFMDC Screening, The Netherlands
- 2014 *New Toronto Works*, Pleasure Dome, Toronto, ON
- 2014 *Trinidad+Tobago Film Festival*, New Media Program, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad
- 2014 *Bent Lens: Pride on Screen*, TIFF/Inside Out Toronto LGBT Film Festival, Toronto, ON
- 2008 *International Women's Film Festival Dortmund/Cologne*, Cologne, Germany
- 2007 *Newfest: The New York LGBT Film Festival*, New York, NY
- 2007 *Frameline: San Francisco International LGBT Film Festival*, San Francisco, CA
- 2007 *Inside Out Toronto LGBT Film Festival*, Toronto, ON
- 2006 *Fraternité Themed Commission Program*, Trinity Square Video Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 2006 *Festival du Nouveau Cinema*, Montreal, QC

PUBLIC PROJECTS & PERFORMANCES

- 2020 *Black August Book Club*, conversation series in collaboration with BLM Toronto
- 2015 *EXILE (part of I SEE WORDS, I HEAR VOICES)*, curated by Chantal Pontbriand, The Power Plant, Toronto, ON
- 2015 *(art)work(sport)work(sex)work*, YES! Association/Föreningen JA, The Power Plant, Toronto, ON
- 2015 *How Many Performance Artists Does It Take to Change a Light Bulb (For Martha Wilson)*, invited by Jess Dobkin, The Images Festival, Toronto, ON
- 2012 *Axe Grinding Workshop*, curated by (FAG) Feminist Art Gallery, Conference on Feminist and Queer Curating, Tate Modern, London, UK
- 2012 *Cinenova: All Hands on the Archive – Framing Lesbian Fashion*, The Feminist Art Gallery (FAG)/The Power Plant/AGYU, Toronto, ON

CURATORIAL PROJECTS

- 2022 *Shine On: Photographs from the BIPOC Photo Mentorship Program*, Nathan Phillips Square, Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival, Toronto, ON
- 2021 *We Buy Gold*, Gallery TPW, Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival, Toronto, ON

SELECTED ARTIST TALKS, PRESENTATIONS & PANEL DISCUSSIONS

- 2023 Artist Talk. MOMENTA Biennale de l'image, Montreal QC
- 2023 Artist Talk. Moving the Landscape to Find Ground, Concordia University, Montreal QC
- 2023 Artist Talk. OCADU SGS Speaker Series, Toronto, ON
- 2022 Panelist. ReMIX History Panel II: Allegories of the Present, Griffin Art Projects, Vancouver, BC
- 2022 Panelist. Bad Singers: A Conversation on Michèle Pearson Clarke's Quantum Choir, Art Gallery of Hamilton, Hamilton, ON
- 2022 Panelist. Deconstruction of Being, School of Art Gallery, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB
- 2021 Moderator. Art in the Spotlight: Talking Queer Photography, Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, ON
- 2021 Moderator. Golden Touches: A Conversation on Queer Curating, Bonham Centre, Toronto, ON
- 2020 Artist Talk. Uniqlo Tate Lates: Zanele Muholi, Tate Modern, London, UK
- 2020 Artist Talk. Art Now! Speaker Series, Western University, London, ON
- 2020 Artist Talk. Conversations in Contemporary Art, Concordia University, Montreal, PQ
- 2020 Interviewer. Art In The Spotlight: The Montgomery Collection of Caribbean Photographs, in conversation with Julie Crooks, AGO, Toronto, ON
- 2020 Panelist. Representation and Photography: Subjectivity, Collaboration and Ethics, Converge Lecture Series, Toronto, ON
- 2019 Panelist. Ways of Caring, Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, ON
- 2019 Public Tour. The Way She Looks: A History of Female Gazes in African Portraiture, Ryerson Image Centre, Toronto, ON
- 2019 Artist Talk. Temple Contemporary, Tyler School of Art, Philadelphia, PA
- 2019 Panelist. Queer Commons, Queer Conflicts, Goethe-Institut, Mexico City
- 2019 Panelist. Artistic Ethics in an Age of Social Consciousness, Hart House Debates, Toronto, ON
- 2018 TEDx Talk. Future Proof, TEDxPortofSpain, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad
- 2018 Artist Talk. Ryerson FCAD Graduate Student Lecture, Toronto, ON
- 2018 Artist Talk. Through lines Artist Panel, Canadian Art Gallery Day, Toronto, ON
- 2018 Artist Talk. In Conversation with Lily Cho and Leila Timmins, Gallery 44, Toronto, ON
- 2018 Artist Talk. ROM Daytime: Here We Are Here, Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, ON
- 2017 Interviewer. Visibility Symposium, in conversation with Nelson Morales, AGO, Toronto, ON
- 2017 Lecture. A Dark Horse in Low Light: Black Visuality and the Aesthetics of Analogue Photography, Gallery 44, Toronto, ON
- 2017 Panelist. The Idea of History, presented by Canadian Art at Art Toronto, Toronto, ON
- 2017 Artist Talk. Black Women Film! Leadership Program, Toronto, ON
- 2017 Workshop. Reconstructing Blackness: On Portraiture & Identity, Gallery 44, Toronto, ON
- 2017 Artist Talk. DMG/Studio Visit Artist Lecture, Doris McCarthy Gallery, Scarborough, ON

- 2017 Artist Talk. Universal Loss Artist Roundtable, Gallery 101, Ottawa, ON
- 2016 Conference Paper. Black Portraiture[s] III, Johannesburg, SA
- 2016 Conference Paper. Decoloniality: National Women's Studies Association, Montreal, PQ
- 2016 Artist Talk. Sex Salon, Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies, Toronto, ON
- 2016 Introduction. Stephen Winter's Jason and Shirley, Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, ON
- 2015 Artist Talk. Lunch n' Learn, Nia Centre for the Arts, Toronto, ON
- 2015 Panel Moderator. Black Radical Imagination, with Amir George and Erin Christovale
- 2015 Artist Talk. LGBTQ studio class, Richard Fung, OCADU, Toronto, ON
- 2015 Conference Paper. Black+Queer+Human: A Conversation, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON
- 2015 Artist Talk. In Conversation with Deanna Bowen, Ryerson Image Centre, Toronto, ON
- 2014 Panelist. Queer Perspectives, Regent Park Film Festival, Toronto, ON
- 2014 Guest Lecture. 3rd year photography class, Dr. Gabrielle Moser, OCADU, Toronto, ON
- 2014 Artist Talk. Creativity and Failure after Michelangelo, AGO, Toronto, ON
- 2014 Public Tour. Akram Zaatari's The End of Time, The Power Plant, Toronto, ON
- 2014 Artist Talk. State of Blackness, OCADU, Toronto, ON
- 2013 Co-facilitator. No Looking After the Internet: Jason Lazarus's Too Hard To Keep, with Gabrielle Moser, Gallery TPW, Toronto, ON
- 2013 Artist Talk. In Conversation with Elisha Lim, The Gladstone Hotel, Toronto, ON
- 2010 Public Talk. A Participant's Take on the Work of Zanele Muholi, The Gladstone Hotel, Toronto, ON

GRANTS & AWARDS

- 2023 Sobey Art Award, Shortlist
- 2022 100 Accomplished Black Canadian Women
- 2022 Canada Council for the Arts, Concept to Realization
- 2021 Canada Council for the Arts, Concept to Realization
- 2020 Toronto Arts Council, Media Artist Grant: Mid-Career
- 2019 City of Toronto, Photo Laureate (2019-2022)
- 2019 Toronto Friends of the Visual Arts, Artist Prize Finalist
- 2017 Transition Magazine, 2018 Pushcart Prize Nomination
- 2017 Ontario Arts Council, Visual Artist Grant: Emerging
- 2016 Ontario Arts Council, Access and Career Development Grant
- 2015 Toronto Arts Council, Media Artist Grant: Emerging
- 2015 Ryerson University Board of Governors Leadership Award and Medal
- 2015 Ryerson Gold Medal for the Faculty of Communication + Design
- 2007 Best Canadian Female Short Award, Inside Out Toronto LGBT Film Festival

RESIDENCIES

- 2020 The Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies, 2020-2021 Artist-in-Residence
- 2019 Intergenerational LGBT Artist Residency
- 2018 EDA Residency in the Department of Arts, Culture and Media at UT Scarborough
- 2016 Gallery 44 Centre for Contemporary Photography, 2016-17 Artist-in-Residence
- 2016 Independent Imaging Retreat (Film Farm)

TEACHING & SELECTED PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2023 Exposure International Open Call Exhibition, Juror
- 2022 Toronto Metropolitan University, School of Image Arts, Assistant Professor of Photography
- 2021 Burtynsky Grant, Juror
- 2021 University of Toronto, Master of Visual Studies, Sessional Lecturer
- 2020 Ontario Arts Council, Media Arts Organizations/Projects, Jury Member
- 2019 Canadian Art, Black Canadian Editorial Advisory Committee (2019-2021)
- 2019 Images Festival, Jury Member
- 2017 Ryerson University, Documentary Media MFA program, Sessional Lecturer (2017-2019)
- 2017 Regent Park Film Festival, Expanding the Archives, Advisory Council Member
- 2017 Ontario Arts Council, Visual Arts Projects, Jury Member
- 2016 Toronto Arts Council, Mid-Career and Established Visual Artists, Jury Member
- 2016 Gallery TPW, Board Member (2016-2018)
- 2015 Art Gallery of Ontario, Exhibition Advisory Council Member
- 2014 Ryerson University, Graduate Teaching Assistant
- 2013 Gallery 44 Centre for Contemporary Photography, Board Member (2013-2016)
- 2010 Ontario Association of Art Galleries Awards, Jury Member
- 2008 Trinity Square Video, Board Member (2008-2009)
- 1999 Inside Out Toronto LGBT Film Festival, Board Chair/Member (1999-2008)

BOOKS AND CATALOGUES

- 2023 *Masquerades: Drawn to Metamorphosis*, MOMENTA Biennale de l'image
- 2022 *Muscle Memory*, exhibition catalogue, Art Gallery of Hamilton
- 2021 *As We Rise: Photography from the Black Atlantic*, The Wedge Collection, Aperture
- 2018 *Through lines*, exhibition catalogue, Koffler Gallery
- 2017 *Visitor Information*, exhibition catalogue, Robert McLaughlin Gallery

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2023 Leah Collins, "She became an artist at 40. Now, Michèle Pearson Clarke is a Sobey nominee at 50," interview, *CBC Arts*, July 27, 2023
- 2023 Dayna McLeod, "Queer Black Masculinities: Middle-aged Boyhood," essay, *Ciel Variable*, 123, Summer 2023
- 2023 Alison Gillmoor, "Michèle Pearson Clarke: Confronting fears and finding collective solace in song," review, *Galleries West*, April 10, 2023
- 2023 Sara Angel, "The Look of Love: 12 Canadian Works," *Art Canada Institute*, February 10, 2023
- 2022 Stephanie Vegh, "Michèle Pearson Clarke at the Art Gallery of Hamilton," review, *Akimbo*, July 7, 2022
- 2022 Kerry Manders, "An Artist's Video Choir Tells a Story about Black and Queer Visibility," interview, *Aperture.org*, June 3, 2022
- 2022 Jac Renee Bruneau, "Relevant Permission A Conversation between Michèle Pearson Clarke and Lou Sheppard," *C Magazine* 151, Spring 2022
- 2022 Sue Carter, "Making a statement about queer female masculinity by raising voices – and wrinkles," review, *The Toronto Star*, February 14, 2022
- 2021 Dr. Kristin Moriah, "Steups!: Examining Black Canadian Sound and Portraiture in Michèle Pearson Clarke's Suck Teeth Compositions (After Rashaad Newsome)," conference paper, *Black Portraiture[s]: Absent/ed Presence*, October 14, 2021
- 2020 Dr. Kristin Moriah, "A Rude Sound: Notes on Suck Teeth Compositions (After Rashaad Newsome)," article, *Canadian Theatre Review* 184, Fall 2020

- 2020 Conor Garel, "Artist Michèle Pearson Clarke questions the status quo," article, *Ryerson University Magazine*, June 5, 2020
- 2019 Maeve Hanna, "Michèle Pearson Clarke at The New Gallery, Calgary," review, *Akimbo*, October 16, 2019
- 2019 Letticia Cosbert, "A Habit of Tenderness: Michèle Pearson Clarke on Vulnerability and Black Visuality," cover story, *BlackFlash Magazine* 36.2, Summer 2019
- 2019 Sky Gooden, "Where Does Art Get To Live?": A Conversation Between Anique Jordan and Michèle Pearson Clarke, interview, *Momus*, May 30, 2019
- 2019 John Nyman, "Through Lines," review, *Border Crossings* 149, March 2019
- 2019 Christina Knight, "Unspoken, But Seen: Gesture and Beauty in the Work of Michèle Pearson Clarke," conference paper, College Art Association Conference
- 2018 Letticia Cosbert, "Critic's Picks," review, *Akimbo*, December 12, 2018
- 2018 RM Vaughan, Critics' Pick, review, *Artforum*, September 27, 2018
- 2018 Felicity Tayler, "Emeka Ogboh, The Song of the Germans – Here We Are Here: Black Canadian Contemporary Art, Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto," review, *esse arts + opinions* 94, Fall 2018
- 2018 Tiana Reid, "We Aren't a We," essay, *Canadian Art*, July 25, 2018
- 2018 Rupert Nuttle, "Esmaa Mohamoud: THREE-PEAT; Oreka James: If the Other Does Not See Me, I do See Myself; Michele Pearson Clarke: All That is Left Unsaid," review, *C Magazine* 138, Summer 2018
- 2018 Kelsey Adams, "Black is Canadian," review, *Canadian Art*, April 10, 2018
- 2018 Sharon Mizota, "Sweat lodge, Audre Lorde, magical holograms: Three stellar art shows that pull you to another place," review, *Los Angeles Times*, March 10, 2018
- 2018 Murray Whyte, "New show returns ROM to African-Canadian issues – and scores a provocative success," review, *The Toronto Star*, January 28, 2018
- 2017 Ricky Varghese, "Black Queer Grief in Michèle Pearson Clarke's Parade of Champions," essay, *esse arts + opinions* 91, Fall 2017
- 2015 Jacqueline Valencia, "Images Festival, 2015," review, *Mubi*, April 18, 2015

CRITICAL WRITING

- 2023 "On Sucking Teeth," *Making History: Visual Arts and Blackness in Canada*, UBC Press
- 2020 "Isolation Portraits," *Canadian Art*, April 21, 2020
- 2018 "Pinning Whiteness to the Wall: The Violent Theater of Rosalind Fox Solomon," *Momus*, October 3, 2018
- 2017 "Parade of Champions: The Failure of Black Queer Grief," *Transition Magazine* 124 (2017), 91-98
- 2017 "Free Black North," *Canadian Art*, Fall 2017

COLLECTIONS

Brock University, St. Catharines, ON
 McGill University, Montreal, QC
 National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, ON
 OCAD University, Toronto, ON
 Queen's University, Kingston, ON
 Two Rivers Gallery, Prince George, BC
 Ulrich Museum of Art, Wichita, KS
 Wedge Collection, Toronto, ON