

The Global Centre for Climate Action
BMO Climate Action Speaker Series



Playing Masquerade: Parading Radical Participation

Generously supported by:



Background photo supplied by Weibke Schroeder

Land Acknowledgement



OCAD University acknowledges the ancestral territories of the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Haudenosaunee, the Anishnaabeg and the Huron-Wendat, who are the original owners and custodians of the land on which we live, work, and create.



Monica Polo

Founder, mpolodesigns
Toronto Metropolitan University

Monica Polo is a leading interior design professional specializing in sustainable, health-focused environments. With over 30 years of experience in design and education, she works with methodologies promoting wellbeing and sustainability through creative art and play. Her Master's in Environmental Applied Science and Management at TMU helped shape Ecoapt – A Sustainable Living Lab. This immersive space helps guests explore eco-friendly alternatives and overcome the "inertia bump" of starting their sustainable journey. Leading by example, her Net Zero home, showcases urban sustainability retrofits. Through mpolo designs inc., she collaborates with institutions like Sunnybrook Green Task Force to drive strategic sustainability initiatives and mentor the next generation.



Leesa Hamilton

**Assistant Professor, Division of Craft, Textile/Fashion
NSCAD University**

Leesa Hamilton was born and raised in Kijipuktuk/Halifax and is of Filipino-Canadian ancestry. Leesa is a costume designer, textile artist, community arts facilitator and consultant. Through her practice and research, she explores textiles, costume and fashion as tools for community building, storytelling and social change. Leesa studied costume with Dalhousie University, Fashion with George Brown College and holds a Master of Arts in Education from OISE/University of Toronto. Leesa's current research falls under NSCAD's Sow to Sew and Art Factory Programming where she works with students and community to co-develop community-based programming that explore identity, representation and allyship through textiles and garment making. Programs take the form of residencies, mentorships, free schools and camps.



Michael Lee Poy

**Assistant Professor, Faculty of Design
OCAD University**

Michael Lee Poy is an Afro-Caribbean artist-activist and architect from Trinidad and Tobago and Canada. His practice and interests are centered on post-colonial Caribbean design and fabrication in the festival arts – specifically Carnival. He is currently developing pedagogy to address the absence of masquerade design, construction, and presentation in curriculum through the Carnival Architectonics course. Michael has been incubating Moko Jumbie (stilt dancer) Mascamp workshops in Trinidad, Cleveland and Toronto for the last decade. Similar to a studio learning ecosystem, mascamps are socially conscious design build fabrication laboratories for innovation. The Moko Jumbie Mascamp focuses on the sustainable design and fabrication of costumes (regalia) in a co-creative and safe environment.

Remembering
expression through
play - Burningman
learnings to a playful way
over the inertia bump



Barriers to engagement and play

Real vs self imposed

- Imposter syndrome
- Worry of public acceptance
- Making time for expression



When we were young

We didn't have these fears, it was part of how we moved, engaged, learned



Ways back to expression

Overcoming the inertia bump

It starts with letting go, and remembering that expression is completely yours



But how?!?

We start to find ways to engage in spaces that help us with our prosocial behaviours and this gets more important as we get older

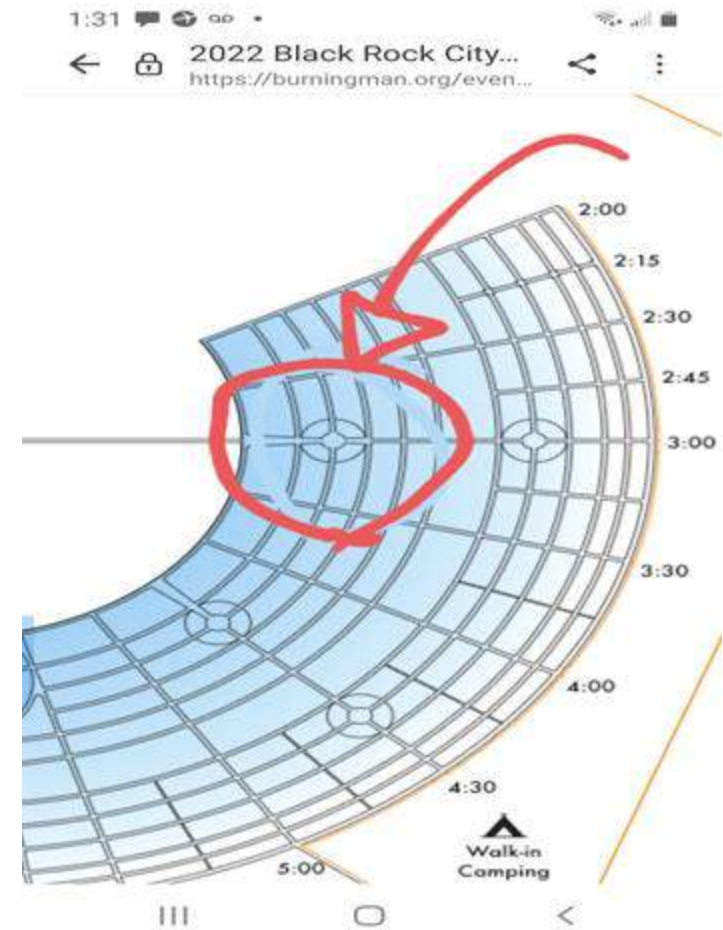


Prosocial behaviour align us with our peers and provide brave spaces to express,
open and play.

Ulrich Mayr, Taren Rohovit, Alexandra M. Freund,
Increases in prosociality across adulthood: The pure-
altruism hypothesis, Current Opinion in
Psychology, Volume 55, 2024, 101782, ISSN 2352-250X,
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.copsyc.2023.101782>.

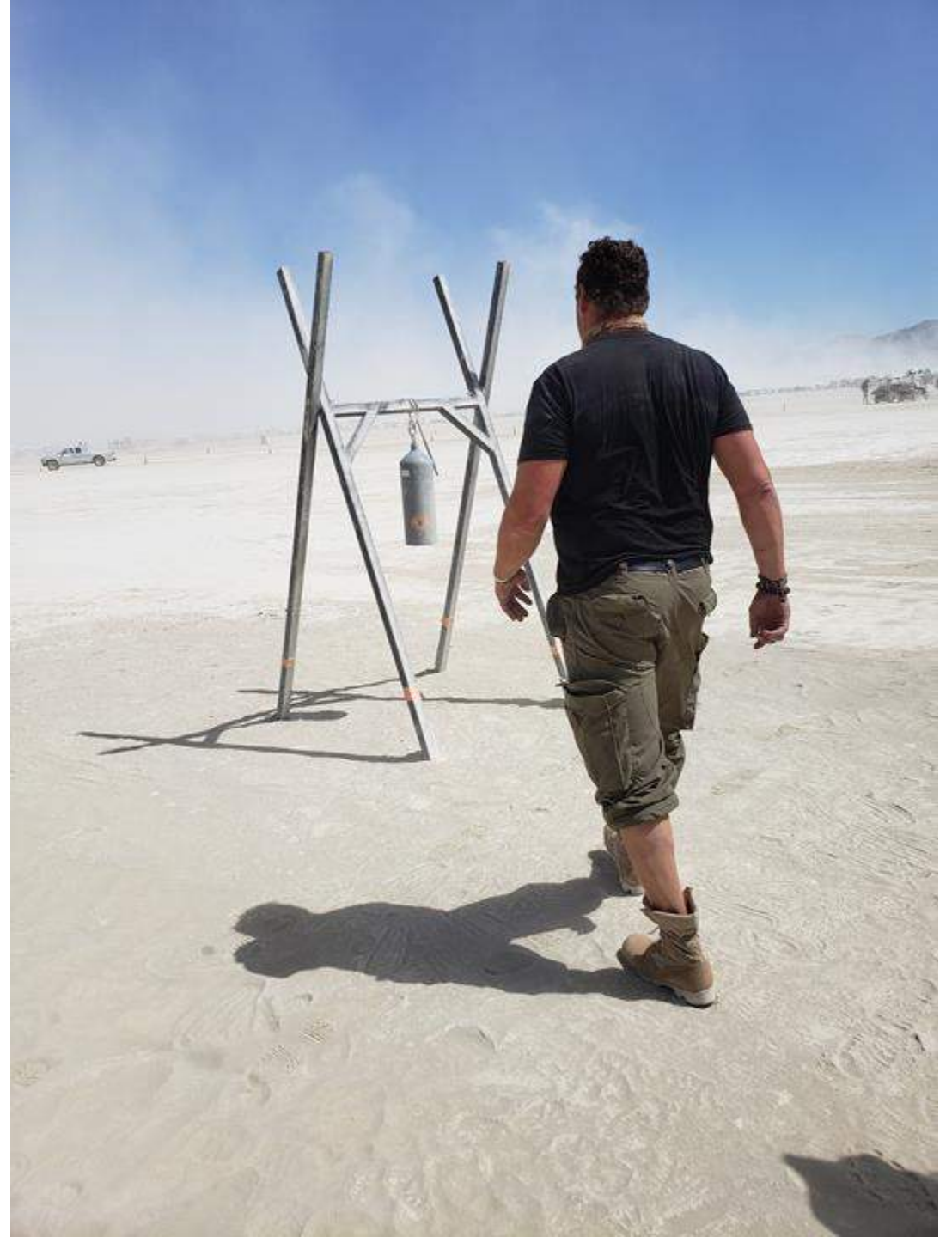


Burningman



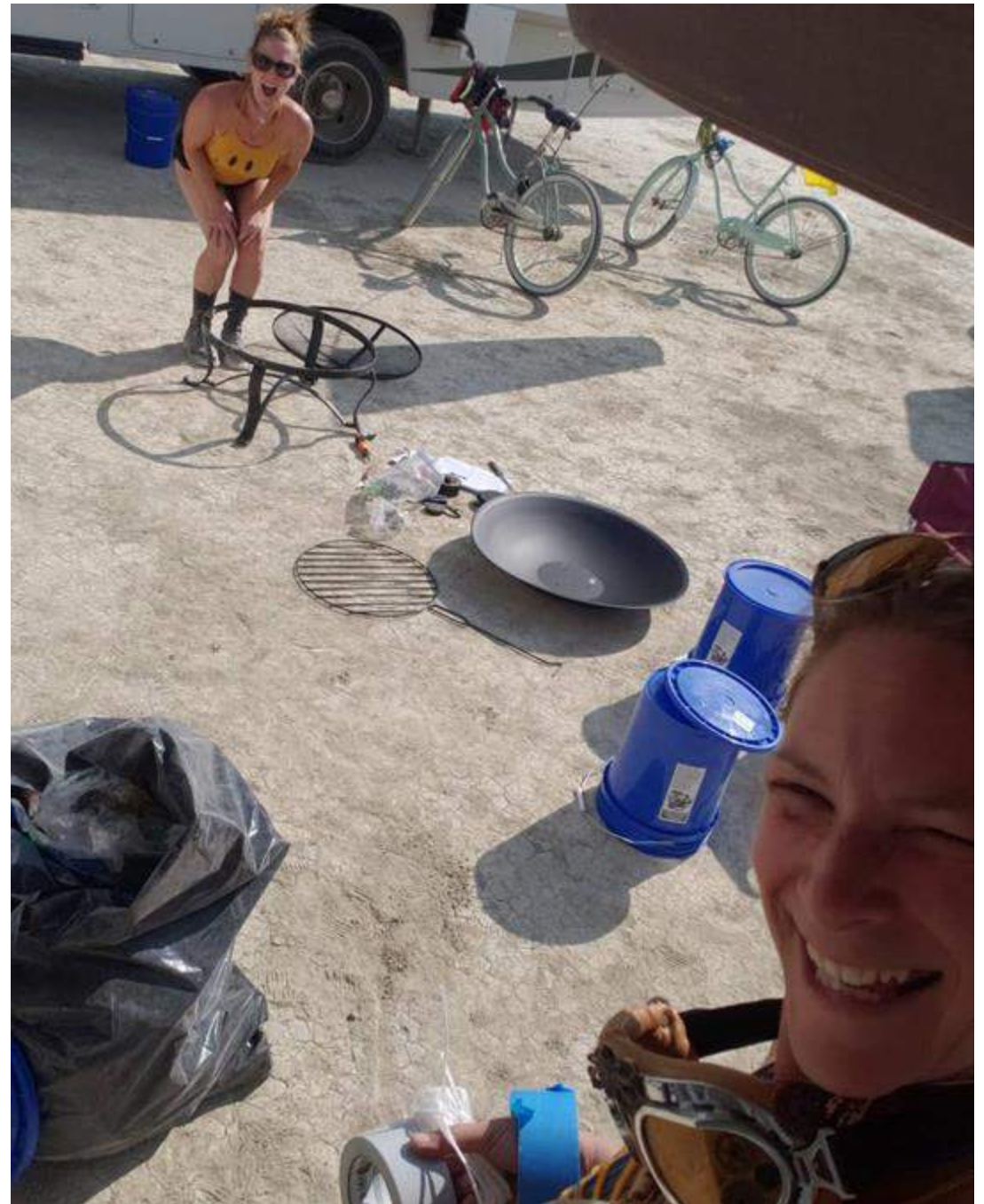
Get yourself there - the journey being a challenge is part of the gift

Radical self-reliance



Renegade Burn 2021

Ecolog ?!?!..!?



Dealing
with your
choices



It is the challenges that
provide us insight to
our strengths and
abilities

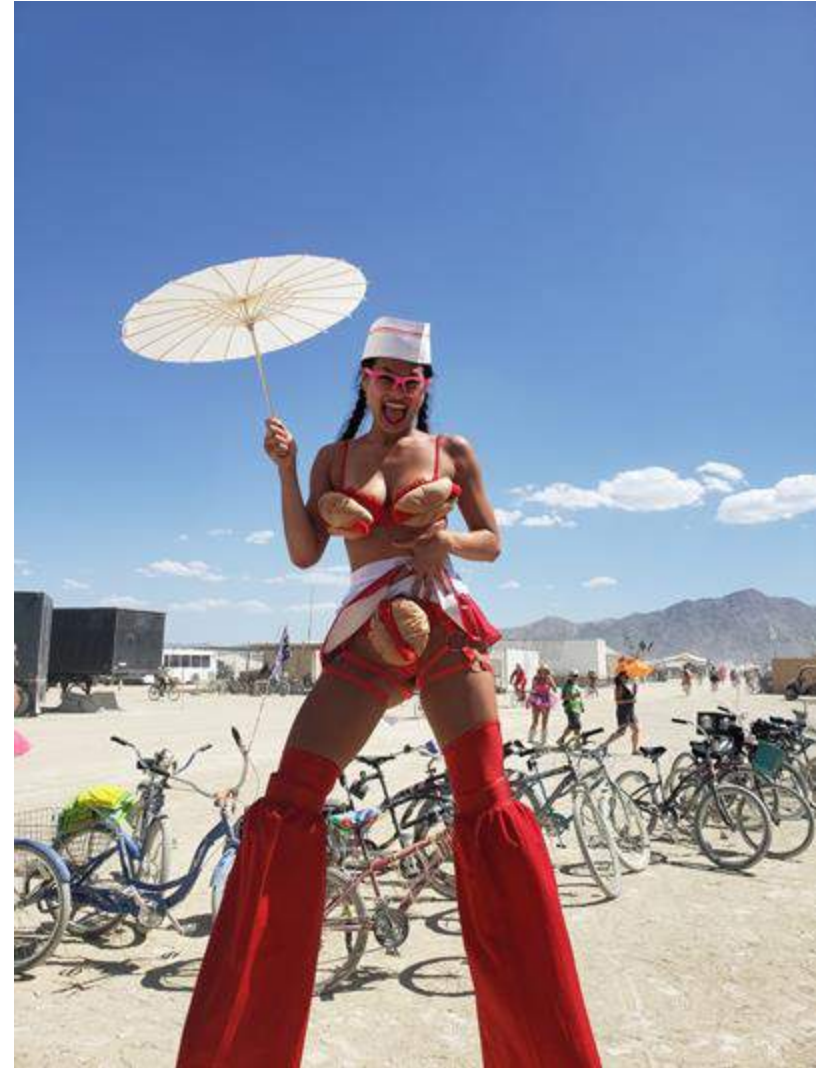


Make a statement

Radical self expression



In so many ways...



Social good

Breakfast club



Have fun



Gifting



Decommodification



Radical
inclusion





Acavallo Carousel

MAR 22 AT 2:05 PM



2

3 comments



Like



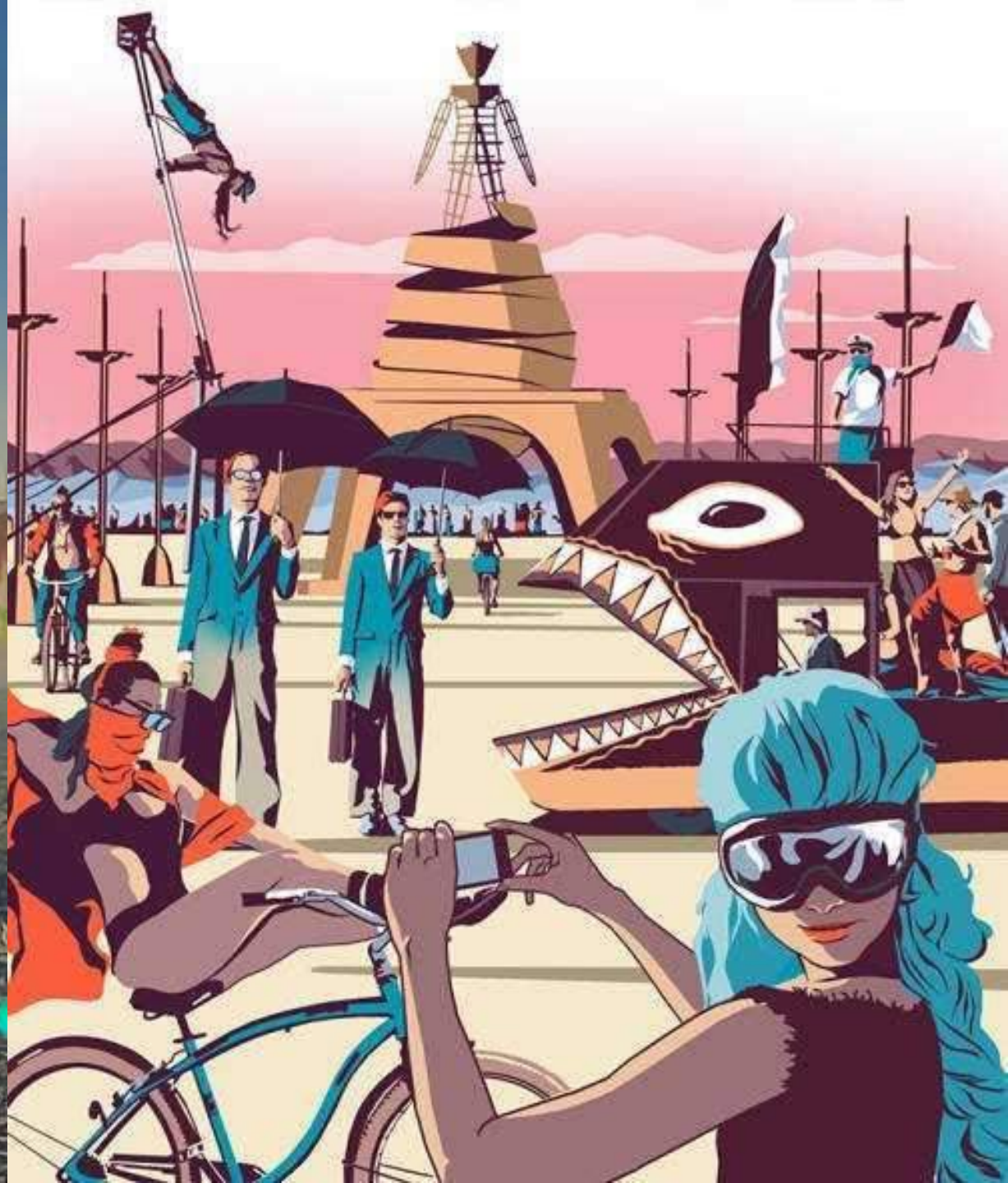
Comment



Share









Participation



Into the default







Connect





Photo Credit: Wiebke Schroeder

NSCAD Art Factory



Fashion Hacking



Fashion Hacking



Fashion Hacking





Art Factory: Embed, Embody and Adorn

Photo Credit: Wiebke Schroeder



Photo Credit: Wiebke Schroeder



Photo Credit: Wiebke Schroeder



Photo Credit; Wiebke Schroeder



Photo Credit and Portraits: Wiebke Schoeder

نحن tuko apa wir sind hier هामी यहाँ छौ eimu 'tiek nous sommes ici
ما اینجا هستیم we are here aquí estamos eimu 'tiek wir sind hier ما اینجا هستیم we are here
نی یहाँ छौ aquí estamos we are here tuko apa نحن هنا aquí estamos
nd hier nous sommes ici wir sind hier eimu 'tiek we are here هामी यहाँ



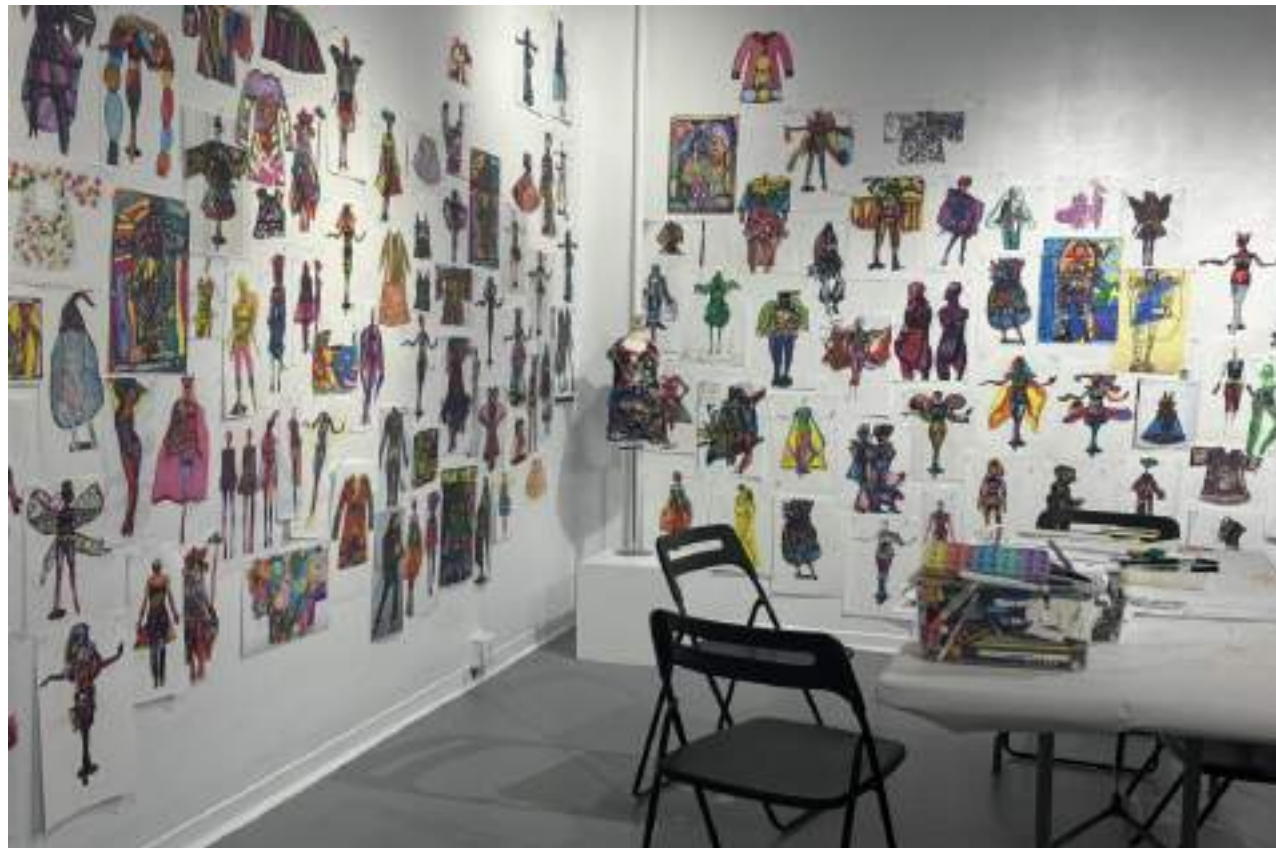
Brag Wear by Marie Webb, Residency and Internship



Interpretation to Realization







Brag Wear Marie Webb

2024 Sow to Sew Artist-in-Residence
with Masoomeh Salimi Beni, Ruben Francis,
April Beattie and Weiming Du







PLAYING MASQUERADE

Parading Radical Participation

Friday June 5

Assistant Professor PJMichael Lee Poy, OCAD U





Peter Minshall. Photo Credit: Ayanna Kinsale.



2023



BLUE SEA DEVIL

2024

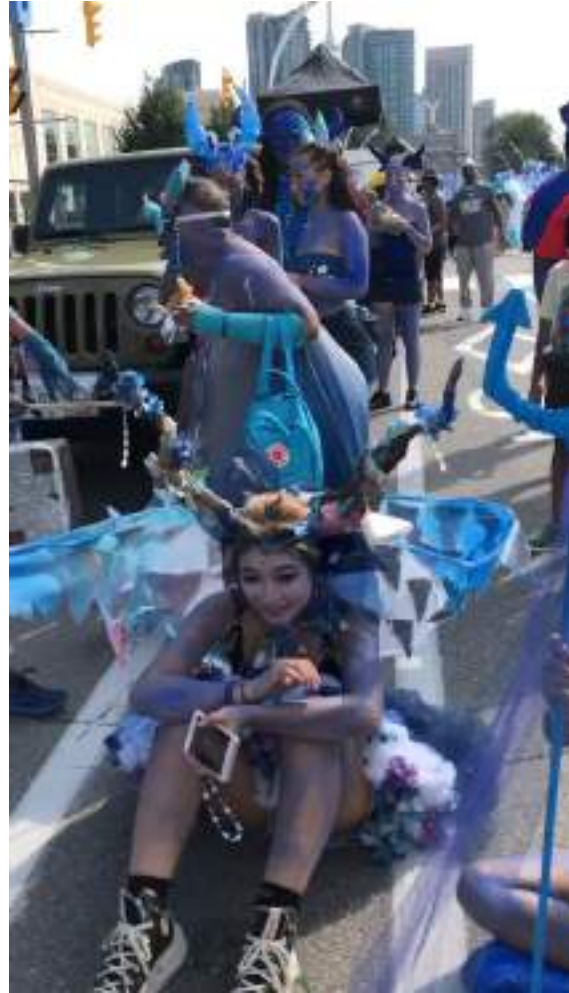


BLUE LAND DEVIL

2025



JUNGLE CREATURES OF THE NIGHT BU'NING FYAH





@BLUEDEVILMOKOJUMBIEMAS



@MOKO_JUMBIE_MAS_CAMP



Prior, Melton. *Carnival in Port of Spain, Trinidad, 1888*. Illustrated London News.

Carnival Architectonics

TERM: Spring 2025

COURSE CODE: TBA

COURSE LEVEL: 2000+

FACULTY: Design, ENVR

COURSE CREDIT: 0.5

DURATION: 6 weeks, twice a week

Carnival Architectonics investigates the Afro Caribbean Carnival design masquerade ecosystem in Trinidad. Post emancipation Black and Creole communities migrated and settled in urban environments throughout the diaspora. Port of Spain, the capital of Trinidad and Tobago became a principal site for the reenactment of emancipation for Black and multicultural communities. Each year since 1783, masquerade costumes and fantastic narratives have been designed and produced in mascamps - the studio innovation centres of Carnival. In the OCAD U mascamp, students will design, fabricate, produce and co-create a themed individual/group costume masquerades. The final assignment will be to participate in and perform a temporary urban masquerade activation procession through the Grange Park that is inspired by a GTA parade festival. (LGBTQ Pride, Caribana and/or any street festival).



Carnival Architectonics GDES-S2001

PRESENTS

SHARK BWAH & LAVA L'EAU

A masquerade (mas) procession celebrating tween superhero adventure fantasy culture, the elemental forces of nature, and the mystic presence of Mami Wata, the Afro-Caribbean mermaid and Papa Bois, the tropical greenman/bushman. This mas is a call to action—for collective care, circular economies, and the transformative power of fire as regeneration. We acknowledge bacchanal as necessary chaos where the ungovernable and the absurd collide in a joyous rebellion: a Carnival of divergent expressions and wild imagination.

JULY 4

BUTTERFIELD PARK

NOON



ODES-S2001 *Carnival Architectonics*
2026 GUEST LECTURERS

 **DANII MCLEITCH**
DE SUSTAINABILITY DESIGNER
CEO & CO-FOUNDER OF CARNIVELLE
SUSTAINABLE FASHION AMBASSADOR
GREENWICHVILLE

 **MICHAEL LEE POY**
BORN: 1986; FORD FOUNDER (2005)
ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/ARTIST
Education & Regulation
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF DESIGN,
ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN PROGRAM OCAU U

ODES-S2001 *Carnival Architectonics*
2026 GUEST LECTURERS

 **LILLIAN ALLEN**
POET/COMPOSER OF TORONTO
DUB POET & SPOKEN WORD ARTIST
EDUCATOR AND COMMUNITY ACTIVIST
RECIPIENT OF CREATIVE WRITING
OCAD U

 **COLIN HARRY**
MECHATRONIC DESIGNER & TECHNOLOGIST
TECHNICAL ART & DESIGN EDUCATOR
EDUCATOR & FACILITATOR
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF DESIGN,
INDUSTRIAL DESIGN PROGRAM OCAU U

ODES-S2001 *Carnival Architectonics*
2026 GUEST LECTURERS

 **LEESA HAMILTON**
CUSTOM DESIGNER & RESEARCHER
TEXTILE ARTIST
EDUCATOR & COMMUNITY DEVELOPER
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF U
DIVISION OF CRAFT, TEXTILES/FASHION

 **MONICA POLO**
SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIST
MONTREAL RESEARCHER & EDUCATOR
CLOTHING LABEL(ART) CRAFTSMAN
PLANNING & ECONOMIC DIRECTOR
MPOLO DESIGN, INC.

ODES-S2001 *Carnival Architectonics*
2026 GUEST LECTURERS

 **NATALIE WOOD**
TWO CANADIAN, YORK UNIVERSITY
ARTIST & EDUCATOR
PLUS DUBS, POEM, FORDISM
GEORGE BROWN POLYTECHNIC
PROFESSOR AND RESEARCHER

 **LAURENCE RICHARDSON**
LECTURER, THE UTM DCA 1989-2000
CARRIAGE WARD CAMPUS FACULTY
DESIGNER/STUDIO DESIGNER
THE HARRISON CALLAGHAN COMPANY,
PETERborough

ODES-S2001 *Carnival Architectonics*
2026 STUDENT PRESENTERS

 **TARA FISHER**
ILLUSTRATION/OCAD U
DESIGNER OF TRADITIONAL MEDIA
ADVANCED ANIMATION

 **MARIA GEORGIOU**
INDUSTRIAL DESIGN/OCAD U
PLASTIC AND TEXTILE ARTIST
FURNITURE

 **XICA DIERFFENTHALER-LEE POY**
LIFE STORIES/OCAD U
SUSTAINABILITY OUTREACH MONITOR
CREATIVE DIRECTOR FORD JAMES
INDUSTRY

ODES-S2001 *Carnival Architectonics*
2026 GUEST LECTURERS

 **NATASSIA MORRIS (SHE/HER)**
HMS MOVEMENT CO-FACILITATOR
CULTURAL EDUCATOR
CREATIVE CONSULTANT
ARTIST & STORYTELLER

 **JA. MARIE (SHE/HER)**
HMS MOVEMENT CO-FACILITATOR
PERFORMING ARTIST
MOVEMENT FACILITATOR
CONCRETE

ODES-S2001 *Carnival Architectonics*
2026 GUEST LECTURERS

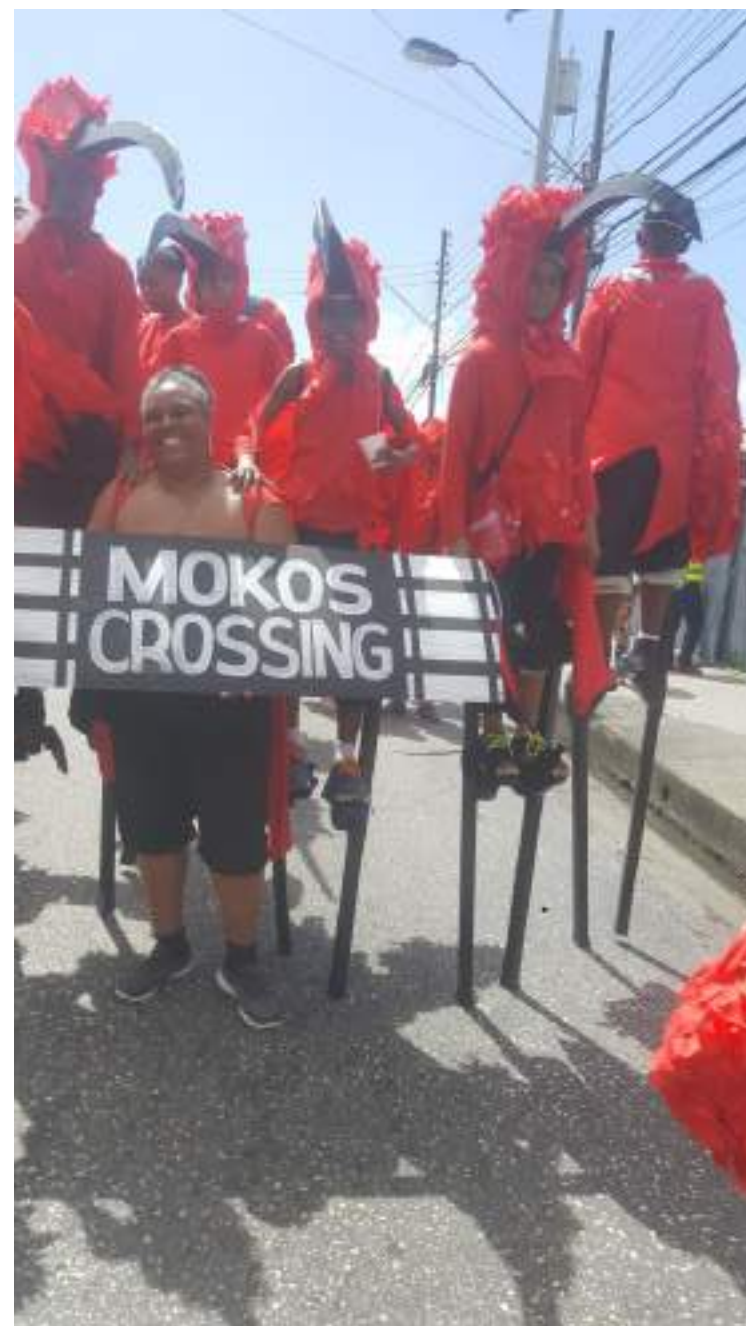
 **DR. LESLEY-ANN NOEL**
DESIGN SOCIETY OF DESIGN OCAU U
ARTIST
EDUCATOR
DESIGNER

 **CHERYL-ANNE ROBERTS**
DESIGN TO BORO, CARNIVAL EXPERT
DESIGN TO BORO EDUCATOR & FACILITATOR
ARTIST
BUILT IN THE HARRISON HALLWAY
CO-CONSTRUCTOR



@CARNIVAL_ARCHITECTONICS









MARIA GEORGHIOU

OCADU's

PLASTIC STUDIO CLUB

s sustainable initiatives



M. G.

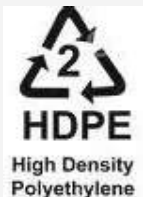
What we do

Learning Opportunities	Furthering fabrication skills, more advanced materials, machines, techniques, speciality workshops etc.
Business Management	Offer business management based workshops, teach students ways to profit off their art, and help expand resumes, cv, portfolio.
Sustainability	In house plastic recycling, and affordable plastic injection molding

Recycling via Injection Molding

PLASTIC COLECTION

Collaborating with shops, classes, and other studios, compiling select plastics from the school, and partnering with local businesses to collect stock of single-use and discarded polypropylene and polyethylene



PLASTIC PROCESSING

Once the plastic is cleaned and shredded, we utilize Sustainable Design Studio's *Injection Mini* alongside a collection of their standard molds. Additionally, our students have the opportunity to create their own cost-effective injection molds by using blank aluminum molds with 3D printed inserts.





The new plastic products are later re-sold or donated. All funds go back into the club, expanding our mold collection, and furthering our research.



Reach Out

EMAIL

psc.ocadu@gmail.com

maria@georghiou.com

SOCIAL MEDIA

[@PLASTICSTUDIOCLUB](#)

The Global Centre for Climate Action
BMO Climate Action Speaker Series



Discussion and Q&A

Generously supported by:



Background photo supplied by Weibke Schroeder

Future GCCA Events

Sign up for updates!



A poster for an event titled 'LET 'EM COOK'. The poster features a large, stylized illustration of a black frying pan with a yellow globe of the Earth inside it. The text on the poster includes: 'PRESENTS: LET 'EM COOK', 'A CLIMATE SOLUTION RECIPE WORKSHOP', '6 June 2026', '1:00pm', 'OCAD University', '100 McCaul St, Toronto, ON THE GREAT HALL', and 'POWERED BY:'. At the bottom, there are logos for 'OCAD University Global Centre for Climate Action is generously supported by 1843', 'Sun Life', 'Lift 360 Foundation', and 'ENVIRO STEWARDS'.

The Global Centre for Climate Action
BMO Climate Action Speaker Series



Thank you for attending!
Join us for our workshop -
outside in Butterfield Park!

Generously supported by:



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