



Vanessa Godden

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Curriculum Vitae

Statement

I am an Indo-Trinidadian and Euro-Canadian artist and academic based in Toronto, Canada. My artistic practice uses performative gestures to explore how personal histories of sexual assault, racism, cultural heritage, and the body in relation to geographic space can be conveyed through material engagements with the body.

Education

PHD (ART) / [EMBODYING ENTANGLEMENT](#) / 2020

Victorian College of the Arts (Melbourne, Victoria, Australia)

Supported through the Melbourne International Research Scholarship and Melbourne International Fee Remission Scholarship

MFA / [SOMATIC DISSONANCE](#) / 2014

Rhode Island School of Design (Providence, USA)

BFA / 2012

University of Houston (Houston, USA)

Selected Exhibitions, Screenings, and Residencies

ARTPOP MONTREAL / 2022

'Trudging Congealed Seas (Pilot)' is being screened as part of the POP Montreal's Visual Art component. The film screening features artworks that focus on notions of placemaking within diasporic contexts in relation to ecological allegories in relationality. The film screening is curated by Bettina Pérez Martínez and Tyra Maria Trono (Montreal, Canada)

CAPSIZING//TOGETHER: BUILDING COLLECTIVE FUTURES / 2022

'Galvanized Suns in Retrograde', a collaborative [video and sound](#) piece by Adrienne Matheuszik and I was featured in this group exhibition curated by Diane Hau Yu Wong at Articule (Montreal, Canada)

LACUNA / 2021

My work 'Reburying My Navel String' is included in an online exhibition showcasing five artists of the Indo-Caribbean diaspora situated around the world. The [exhibition](#) is curated by [Maya Mackrandilal](#) and supported by the South Asian Womxn's Creative Collective (Digital Space)

ARCHIVAL AFFECTIONS / 2021

I am participating in a 3-month long artist residency at Trinity Square Video (TSV) to produce a new artwork. The residency culminates in an online exhibition at TSV (Toronto, Canada)

FEMINIST ART FESTIVAL / 2020

Art festival hosted by the Ontario College of Art and Design (Toronto, Canada)

EMBODYING ENTANGLEMENT / 2019

Solo exhibition at Margaret Lawrence Gallery (Melbourne, Australia)

CONTEMPORARY ART FESTIVAL "VIDEOPARK" / 2018

Video art screening in front of the Center for Visual Research and Gallery Reflektor (Užice, Serbia)

CARTOGRAPHY | PURGE / 2018

Live performance at Women* Art and Feminism Symposium hosted by the Victorian College of the Arts (Melbourne, Australia)

EMBODYING ENTANGLEMENT / 2018

Solo exhibition at Kings Artist Run Initiative (Melbourne, Australia)

IDENTITY INTERSECTION / 2017

A group exhibition of Triple F Collective members. Curated by Tassia Joannides and exhibited at Counihan Gallery (Melbourne, Australia)

THE LINES IN BETWEEN / 2017

A group exhibition at SEVENTH Gallery curated by feminist art collective Triple F Collective (Melbourne, Australia)

FEMINIST ART COLLECTIVE RESIDENCY / 2017

Two-week long artist residency culminating in a group exhibition. Funded through the Faculty Small Arts Grant through the Victorian College of the Arts (Toronto Island, Canada)

YOUKOBO ART SPACE AIR / 2016

Month long artist residency culminating in a solo exhibition (Tokyo, Japan)

EXTREMELY SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL / 2015

Film festival screening juried by Jolene Pinder. Event organized and hosted by Aurora Picture Show (Houston, USA)

STEAL THIS ART / 2014

A group exhibition curated by Jessica Palinkski. Exhibited at The Granoff Center (Providence, USA)

500X EXPO / 2014

Juried group exhibition. Juried by Alison Hearst and exhibited at 500X (Dallas, USA)

WHO ARE YOU? / 2014

Group exhibition curated by Joseph C. Roberts. Event hosted by Center On Contemporary Art (Seattle, USA)

SEVEN STORIES TALL / 2014

Group exhibition curated by Brian Clamp. Exhibition was hosted by ClampArt (NYC, USA)

CLOAKED AND CRASHING / 2013

A group exhibition curated by Hao Ni and Gail Dodge. Exhibited at Expose (Providence, USA)

TRAVELING FATHERHOOD / 2013

Ongoing screening of my short film 'Traveling Fatherhood', curated by Sophia LaCava-Bohanan. Screened at The Living Rooms: Granoff Center (Providence, USA)

ALL THE DIRE MOTIVES / 2013

Group exhibition curated by Mark Moscone. The exhibition took place at Gelman Gallery (Providence, USA)

TALK: BODY / 2013

Group exhibition curated by Namwoo Bae and Ahrong Kim. Exhibition hosted by Gelman Gallery (Providence, USA)

EXPERIMENTAL EYE / 2012

Video art screening curated by Kelly Sears. Hosted by Aurora Picture Show (Houston, USA)

UNBLOCKED / 2012

f/16 Collective group exhibition curated by Mary Magsamen. Exhibition hosted by Aurora Picture Show (Houston, USA)

Scholarships and Grants

EXPLORE AND CREATE: RESEARCH AND CREATION / TRUDGING CONGEALED SEAS / 2021 - 2023

The Canada Council for the Arts (Toronto, Canada)

VISUAL AND MEDIA ARTS PROJECTS / DIASPORIC FUTURISMS: NEBULOUS STRAITS / 2021

THE CANADA COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS (TORONTO, CANADA)

Toronto Arts Council (Toronto, Canada)

EXPLORE AND CREATE: FROM CONCEPT TO REALIZATION / DIASPORIC FUTURISMS: TEMPORAL TEMPEST / 2021 - 2022

The Canada Council for the Arts (Toronto, Canada)

DIGITAL ORIGINALS / DIASPORIC FUTURISMS: GALVANIZED SUNS / 2020

The Canada Council for the Arts (Toronto, Canada)

FACULTY SMALL ARTS GRANT / 2017

Victorian College of the Arts (Melbourne, Australia)

MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP / 2015

Victorian College of the Arts (Melbourne, Australia)

MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FEE REMISSION SCHOLARSHIP / 2015

Victorian College of the Arts (Melbourne, Australia)

Symposiums, Panel Discussions, Forums, and Publications

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

CONFERENCE PAPER

UNCOMMON SENSES III: THE FUTURE OF THE SENSES/ MAY 2021

I presented a 20-minute presentation on my PhD research at this conference hosted by Concordia University (Montreal, Canada)

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

INTERSECTIONS | CROSS-SECTIONS/ MARCH 2021

Myself and Adrienne Matheuszik will be delivering a keynote presentation for the annual graduate conference at Ryerson University on our collaborative work for the curatorial project *Diasporic Futurisms* (Toronto, Canada)

PANEL DISCUSSION

KEEPING IT CORPOREAL / 2020

During the Feminist Art Festival, I spoke alongside artists Samantha Lyn Aasen, Jessie Eoin, and Sarah Mo and Adwoa Toku from the Las Lobas Collective on an artist panel on the political agency of corporeality in art (Toronto, Canada)

PANEL DISCUSSION

THE GREAT DIVIDE: FEMINIST ART PRACTICE ACROSS GENERATIONS AND GEOGRAPHY/ AUGUST 11, 2018

I participated on a panel of feminist arts organizations and artists from different generations and cultural backgrounds. The event built a discussion between representatives for The Women's Art Register in Melbourne and (RE)Present in New York City to foster a broad dialogue of contemporary feminist art across generations and cultures. Hosted by Women's Art Register at the Richmond Theatre (Melbourne, Australia)

FORUM

AGAINST THE ODDS: WOMEN IN ART FORUM / OCTOBER 14, 2017

As part of this forum, I gave a 15-minute presentation of my PhD research and participated in a panel discussion. *Against the Odds: Women in Art Forum* brought together a diverse and cross-generational range of local women artists to explore issues of place, community, gender and practice within contemporary art. Hosted by Women's Art Register at the Richmond Theatre (Melbourne, Australia)

SYMPOSIUM

SOME ARTISTS AND PHILOSOPHERS WALKED INTO A ROOM / JULY 11, 2017

I gave a 20-minute presentation of my PhD research at this symposium. The symposium was centred on the intersections of art and philosophy at the Victorian College of the Arts and hosted by Sean Lowry and Jenny McMahon (Melbourne, Australia)

PANEL DISCUSSION

IDENTITY INTERSECTION | WOMEN ART AND CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES / JUNE 17, 2017

This was a panel discussion unpacking various perspectives on the ways art can explore the complexities of gendered and cultural subjectivities. The panel of speakers comprised of myself, Sofi Basseghi, Lisa Hilli, and Frances Tapueluelu and the discussion was moderated by Paula van Beek at *Counihan Gallery* (Melbourne, Australia)

WRITTEN WORKS

EXHIBITION REVIEW

'EVERYTHING SLACKENS IN A WRECK' CURATED BY ANDIL GOSINE/ FEBRUARY 2023

This review examines the exhibition in relation to the legacy of Caribbean indentureship. It is being published in vol. 8, issue 1-2 of *Asian Diasporic Visual Cultures and the Americas*.

ARTICLE

'MATERIALIZING VOICE: A DIASPORIC LINEAGE OF FLOUR, SPICE, AND HAIR' / DECEMBER 2020

My essay on the relationship between diasporic bodies and food has been published in a special issue of the *Middle Atlantic Review of Latin American Studies* on Indian Caribbean Visual and Performing Arts titled 'From Indenture to Double Diaspora: Music, Film, and Visual Art in the Indian Caribbean'

CREATIVE WRITING

'SOUCOUYANT' AND 'CARTOGRAPHY' / AUGUST 2, 2017

A short essay and photographic documentation of one of my performances extracted from my PhD research published in *Yes Ma'am Zine* (San Antonio, USA)

CREATIVE WRITING

'MY MOTHER PERFORMS EXORCISMS IN HER SLEEP' / JUNE, 2017

A short essay extracted from my PhD research published in *Pfir Magazine: The Happiness Issue* (Helsinki, Finland)

ARTWORK PUBLICATIONS

PUBLICATION

'PURGE' / FALL, 2018

Artwork documentation published in *Carnation Zine* (Winnipeg, Canada)

PUBLICATION

'BITE YOUR TONGUE' AND 'CHIMERA COLLABORATION' / SUMMER, 2017

Artwork documentation published in *Whiny Femmes Zine* (Winnipeg, Canada)

PRESS

ESSAY

'ARCHIVAL AFFECTIONS' / SEPTEMBER 16, 2017

Essay by Julia Huynh on a group exhibition including my video work 'Trudging Congealed Seas (Pilot)' on the Archival Affections website (Toronto, Canada)

ESSAY

'TRIBULATIONS AND WESTERN HALLUCINATIONS' / MAY 5, 2017

Essay by Diego Ramirez on my performance work 'Cartography' published in *The Article* (Melbourne, Australia)

ARTICLE

'SEVEN STORIES TALL' / JULY 16, 2014

Essay by Cory Rice on group exhibition including my video work '19 Slip Knots' published in *Musée Magazine* (NYC, USA)

Professional Experience

SESSIONAL LECTURER

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO (TORONTO, CANADA)

Winter Semester (January 1 – April 30) 2023

I am teaching *Performance Art* again on Tuesdays from 5pm to 8pm in the John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design. Please see below (Winter Semester 2021) for details and duties of this course.

SESSIONAL LECTURER

TORONTO METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY (TORONTO, CANADA)

Fall Semester (September 9 – December 16) 2022

I am teaching *Technology, Identity, and Creativity* on Fridays between 12pm and 3pm in the Faculty of Communication and Design. This course examines how media technologies relate to racialized, gendered and sexualized bodies. Students consider scholarly and popular works ranging from cinematic representation of Frankenstein to current studies of cyborgian bodies in order to produce creative work that responds to modern and postmodern ideas about the body.

SESSIONAL LECTURER

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO SCARBOROUGH (TORONTO, CANADA)

Summer Semester (May 10 – August 2) 2022

I am teaching *The Documentary Image* on Tuesdays between 10am and 1pm in the department of Arts, Culture and Media. This course is designed to introduce students to the role of the documentary image in contemporary art practice, through personal, conceptual, and photo-journalistic projects accomplished outside of the studio.

SESSIONAL LECTURER

YORK UNIVERSITY (TORONTO, CANADA)

Winter Semester (January 1 – April 30) 2022

I taught *Decolonization, Environment and the Arts* on Wednesdays between 2:30pm and 5:30pm in the Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change. In this course students explored the ways in which performers, artists, and writers have imagined decolonizing themselves, their societies, and environments across a range of geographic, historical, and contemporary sites. Students developed the skills and knowledge to name and debate key concepts emerging from the art and literature environmental decolonization. They researched and analyzed examples of visual art, literature, and performance and evaluate contradictory processes behind their production, reception, distribution, and exchange in the context of global structures and systems. Drawing on these examples and working with experimental processes, students developed, presented, and evaluated their own decolonial art projects.

SESSIONAL LECTURER

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO (TORONTO, CANADA)

Winter Semester (January 1 – April 30) 2022

I will be teaching *Visual Strategies* on Monday's from 9am to 12pm in the John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design. Duties of this course include providing lectures, studio assignments, facilitating critique sessions, evaluating the students work, and grading. This course in an introduction to diverse mediums and topics for exploration with an emphasis on experimentation and conceptual development. In addition to acquiring manual skills used in production of contemporary visual art, students are encouraged to explore their own individual creative process.

SESSIONAL LECTURER

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO (TORONTO, CANADA)

Winter Semester (January 1 – April 30) 2022

I will be teaching *Performance Art* on Tuesday's from 2pm to 5pm in the John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design. Please see below for details and duties of this course.

SESSIONAL LECTURER

MCMASTER UNIVERSITY (HAMILTON, CANADA)

Winter Semester (September 8 – December 9) 2021

I am teaching *Making Art & Understanding Technologies & Images* again on Wednesday's from 2:30pm to 5:20pm in the School of the Arts. Please see below for details and duties of this course.

SESSIONAL LECTURER

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO (TORONTO, CANADA)

Winter Semester (January 1 – April 30) 2021

I taught *Performance Art* on Tuesday's from 2pm to 5pm in the John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design. Duties of this course included providing lectures, studio assignments, facilitating critique sessions, evaluating the students work, and grading. In this course, practical and aesthetic concerns in the evolution of performance art were considered against the backdrop of critical and historical perspectives. Students explored a range of performance

possibilities, alone and collaboratively to develop the critical skills that informed both their performance work and their view of contemporary art.

SESSIONAL LECTURER

MCMASTER UNIVERSITY (HAMILTON, CANADA)

Winter Semester (September 8 – December 9) 2020

I taught *Making Art & Understanding Technologies & Images* on Wednesday's from 6pm to 9pm in the School of the Arts. This course asked students to create art utilizing a range of media, including digital tools and creative research. The goal of this course was for students to gain an understanding of art, images and cultures of technology. This was a non-major course, so all enrolled students come from programs outside of SOTA, providing them with the opportunity to gain a hands-on introduction to digital art making and media while engaging in critical analyses of digital art and visual culture online. Duties for this course included: providing weekly lectures, studio demonstrations, hosting class discussions and critiques, and grading.

PROJECT CONSULTANT AND CO-FACILITATOR

Unknowing Madness: Creative sound workshops exploring mental health and trauma (Melbourne, Australia)

February – August 2022

I have been a primary consultant on [this project](#) conceived by Dr. Thembi Soddell in partnership with the *felt Experience and Empathy Lab* and *Big Anxiety Festival*. This project is funded through the Australian Council for the Arts. In my role as consultant, I have aided in developing the project to adhere to inclusivity and equity initiatives. In addition to this, I have a co-facilitation role in this project wherein I will present my own content for one of the scheduled workshops.

CURATORIAL MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Subtle Technologies (Toronto, Canada)

April – August 2022

Adrienne Matheuszik and I (as part of the curatorial collective Diasporic Futurisms) are mentoring emerging curators through the summer incubator hosted by Subtle Technologies. In this role, we will be reviewing candidates for the curatorial mentorship program and advising them on the development of their projects.

MASTER'S OF VISUAL STUDIES ADVISORY PANEL

University of Toronto (Toronto, Canada)

February – May 2022

In this role, I provided advisory support to MVS candidate Arezu Salamzadeh in the development towards completion of their degree alongside Maria Hupfield and Sanaz Mazinani. The support I provided is in the form of advising on exhibition installation formats, review and feedback on dissertation texts, and development of new works to be included in the final exhibition.

INDEPENDENT CURATOR

DIASPORIC FUTURISMS (TORONTO, CANADA)

June 2020 – ongoing

[Diasporic Futurisms](#) is a curatorial project in partnership with [Subtle Technologies](#) and in collaboration with Adrienne Matheuszik. Matheuszik and I are researching and curating a series of new media art events based on themes of diasporic futurisms.

- October 2020 – [Galvanized Suns](#)
- July - August 2021 – [Constellation of Oracles](#)

PRIVATE TUTOR

WILIN CENTRE FOR INDIGENOUS ARTS AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AT THE VICTORIAN COLLEGE OF THE ARTS
(MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA)

2018 - 2019

In this role I did advisory and copy-editing work with PhD candidate Brian McKinnon. I helped him prepare his written Confirmation of Candidature document and prepare for his public examination.

BREADTH COURSE INSTRUCTOR

VICTORIAN COLLEGE OF THE ARTS (MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA)

Semester 1 (February - June) 2017

I wrote and taught my own performance art elective course. The course, *Material Engagements with the Body: Performative Gestures*, looked at the ways materials assist bodies in voicing specific political forms of resistance.

PROFESSOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: INTRO TO DARKROOM PRACTICES

RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN (PROVIDENCE, USA)

Wintersession December 2013 to February 2014

During this course, I taught the fundamentals of darkroom practices alongside a brief history and theoretical framing of the field.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

DEPARTMENT OF FILM, ANIMATION, AND VIDEO AT VCA (HOUSTON, USA)

June – December 2017

Reported to the head of department, Nicolette Freeman. In this position, I organized prospective student files, scheduled department wide meetings, liaised between department faculty and university academic affairs, and organized materials relating to diversity and inclusivity outreach initiatives.

INDEPENDENT CURATOR

CULTURAL CROSSROADS (HOUSTON, TX)

2016 – 2017

Extending from my PhD research, I curated a video art screening, titled *Cultural Crossroads*, at Aurora Picture Show in Houston, Texas, featuring twelve international emerging artists. This exhibition considered how artists from marginalized communities around the world materially entangle their bodies with cultural space to poetically voice inequity and injustice.

EXPERIMENTAL FILMMAKING INSTRUCTOR

AUSPICES OF AURORA PICTURE SHOW (HOUSTON, USA)

2014 - 2015

Through Aurora Picture Show's media arts education program, I was contracted to teach elective course and afterschool media arts programming at the Young Women's College Preparatory Academy, Mickey Leland College Preparatory Academy for Young Men, Roberts Elementary School, and High School Ahead Academy.

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS

RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN (PROVIDENCE, USA)

2012 - 2014

I was a teaching assistant to professors Jesse Burke, Ann Fessler, and Jo Sittenfeld. My duties included assisting with class lectures, preparation of materials for class, grading papers, studio demonstrations, and assisting with class critiques.

GRADUATE DIRECTOR'S ASSISTANT

PHOTOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT AT THE RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN (PROVIDENCE, USA)

August - December 2012

Here, I did administrative work for the photography department's graduate director Lisa Young. I helped her organize critique schedules for the graduate students, send out emails to the department regarding important events, organize exhibitions in the Red Eye Gallery, and file the prospective graduate student pools' documents.

CURATORIAL APPRENTICE

AURORA PICTURE SHOW DESIGN (HOUSTON, USA)

January - August 2012

I undertook an apprenticeship at Aurora Picture Show at the behest of curator Mary Magsamen. In this role, I took on various administrative tasks such as, filing digital and archival films, assisting with selecting artist for programming, contacting artists for programming, updating the website, and organizing catering and sponsorships for programming.

STUDIO ASSISTANT

HILLERBRAND+MAGSAMEN STUDIO (HOUSTON, USA)

2012 - 2014

Through this role, I was a camera assistant for video and photo shoots.