

MELISSA JOHNS

MELISSAJOHNSART@GMAIL.COM | MELISSAJOHNS.COM | @LEMISMA

EDUCATION

2019-2022	OCAD University, MFA - Interdisciplinary Art, Media, & Design
2016-2019	Humber College, Advanced Diploma, Honours - 3D Animation
2017	Humber College, Certificate - Teaching Effectiveness
2011-2016	University of Waterloo, BA Honours Arts & Business Co-op

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

2026	Indigenous Mentor, Artworks TO: Youth, Toronto Arts Foundation Sessional Instructor, Indigenous Digital & Visual Media, Ontario Tech University
2025-2026	Administrative Director, Native Women in the Arts
2025	Workshop Instructor, ArtWorksTO: Youth, Toronto Arts Foundation Open Studio Critique, Indigenous Student Centre, OCAD University Conference Presenter, 15th Annual Storyteller's Conference, University at Buffalo Sessional Instructor, Indigenous Digital & Visual Media, Ontario Tech University Artist in Residence, Centre for Art Tapes Mentor, Initiatives IBPOC Fellowship, PXR Conference Fellow, Caring Cultures, ArtsPond Toronto
2023-2025	Steering Committee Member, PXR Conference, Single Thread Theatre Company
2024	Development Producer (Sunalimat), Parks Canada
2022-2023	Project Manager (Sunalimat), National Film Board of Canada
2023	Lead, Indigenous Incubator, Video Pool Media Arts Centre Assessor, Indigenous Immersive Incubator (Indigenous Screen Office / MIT)
2020-2022	Digital + Interactive Manager, imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival
2022	Artist in Residence, aabijjiwan New Media Lab Workshop Instructor, Wii Chiwaakanak Indigenous STEAM Summer Camp Workshop Instructor, iNdigital Youth Collective Assessor, Chalmers Arts Fellowships, Ontario Arts Council Founder & Facilitator, LAND JAM+, imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival
2021	Artist in Residence, The Ou Gallery Conference Presenter, Losing One's Bearings, University of Sherbrooke

	Workshop Instructor, Connected North
	Workshop Instructor, iNdigital Youth Collective
	Workshop Instructor, imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival, Toronto, ON
	Founder & Facilitator, LAND JAM+, imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival
2019-2020	Teaching Assistant, Visual Culture, OCAD University
2018-2019	Teaching Assistant, Design Foundations, Humber College
	Design Instructor, Youth Transition Program, Humber College
	3D Artist & Level Designer, Humber VR Team, Humber College
2014-2018	E-Learning Development and Design, Humber College
2015, 2017	Workshop Instructor - Digital Painting/Media Arts, Notre Dame C.S.S.
2014	Graphics Editor, Imprint Publications Staff Reporter, Imprint Publications
	Intern, Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery (KWAG)
	Intern, David Jensenius Art
2013	Graphic Design & Marketing Co-op, Weston Expressions Inc.
	Graphic Designer, ChickAdvisor Inc.
	Graphics Editor, Imprint Publications

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

2026	<i>Smoke Signals x Reflections</i> , Market Gallery, Toronto, ON
	<i>Sky & Bone: Realities Unbound</i> , Market Gallery, Toronto, ON
	<i>Hope Chest</i> , Cambridge Art Galleries, Cambridge, ON
2025	<i>tewaká:wes</i> , Meridian Arts Centre, North York, ON
	<i>ACHIMOK</i> , Beaver Lodge Art and Culture Centre, Beaverlodge, AB
	<i>Smoke Signals x Reflections</i> , Gallery TPW, Toronto, ON
	<i>flashDRIVE</i> , Interaccess, Toronto, ON
	<i>Landmarks</i> , imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival, Toronto, ON
2024	<i>hand-me-downs</i> , Urban Shaman, Winnipeg, MB (Solo Exhibition)
2023	<i>Focal Points</i> , Trinity Square Video, Toronto, ON
2022	<i>Here I Stand, Still Guarded</i> , OCADU Black Box Gallery, Toronto, ON (Solo Exhibition)
2021	<i>LINGER WITH ME</i> , CICA Museum NMAC, Gimpo-Si, South Korea (Solo Exhibition)
	<i>Here. Within.</i> , Charles Street Video, Toronto, ON
	<i>Ri'ken:'a</i> (my younger brother), imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival, Toronto, ON
2019	<i>Multi-Sensory Museum Pop-up</i> , Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, ON
	<i>POPOP Boudoir</i> , OCAD University, Toronto, ON (Solo Exhibition)

ACCOLADES

2025	Official Selection, imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival (<i>Landmarks</i>)
2023	Emerging Digital Artist Award (EDAA), EQ Bank + Trinity Square Video
2023	Official Selection, imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival (<i>Between Us</i>)
2022	Official Selection, imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival (<i>Here I Stand, Still Guarded</i>)
2021	Official Selection, imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival (<i>The Docks, Ri'ken:'a</i>)
2019	OCAD U President's Scholarship
2016	People's Choice Award, Techsthetic
	Office of the President Curator's Choice Award, UWAG - Zenith
	Third Place, Aboriginal Arts and Stories 2015
	Finalist, JHM awards 2014 Finalist, Canadian Aboriginal Writing and Arts Challenge