

MEDIA RELEASE

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\$73,100 OTF Seed Grant Created Opportunities for Emerging Arts Professionals at the Textile Museum of Canada

Toronto, ON – In 2019, the Textile Museum of Canada (the Museum) was thrilled to receive a \$73,100 Seed grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) to pilot an initiative, called the Creatives-in-Residence (CIR) program, for emerging arts professionals to develop timely, interdisciplinary, and community-oriented projects. The CIR program ran from November 2019 to June 2021 and featured three emerging arts professionals: Artist-in-Residence Petrina Ng, Educator-in-Residence Justice Stacey, and Curator-in-Residence Mitra Fakhrashrafi.

Thanks to the OTF grant, the Museum's CIR participants developed two exhibitions, interviewed three textile artists, and delivered five programs that were well attended by the Museum's digital audiences and visitors when open.

Petrina Ng's exhibition and publication *Distant water will not quench a nearby fire* looked at diasporic experiences of Hong Kong's colonial histories and ongoing political unrest. Ng engaged the local arts community with *Souped Up: Collective Pot*, a project which facilitated relationship-building between racialized arts practitioners through communal meals, and allocated funds to the local advocacy group, Friends of Chinatown.

Justice Stacey's two projects facilitated discussion and interaction between arts professionals and the Museum's audiences: *Terrific Textile Talks* delivered live interviews with arts workers and Museum staff, and *Curiously Crafting* interviewed three Canadian textile artists; Tau Lewis, Audie Murray, and Collette Boulet.

Mitra Fakhrashrafi's interactive workbook, *And other monuments*, invites audiences to engage with the Museum's digital collection of 'Oriental' rugs while considering questions of colonial trade, imperial bordering, movement, and mobility. The workbook will be available digitally and presented at the Museum in September 2021 alongside arts-based interventions by local artists.

The OTF Seed grant made it possible for the Museum to support and mentor emerging arts professionals in the cultural sphere of Ontario. The funding provided the opportunity for three participants to produce significant new interpretations of the Museum's existing collections, foster innovative interactions with Museum audiences during the COVID-19 pandemic, and reimagine Textile-based arts practices. To view the projects and learn more about the CIR program and its participants, visit our Blog at textilemuseum.ca, and search for the Textile Museum of Canada on YouTube.

[The Textile Museum of Canada](http://textilemuseum.ca) aims to inspire understanding of the human experience through textiles. We are the only museum in Canada delivering programs and exhibitions dedicated solely to textile arts. The Museum ignites creativity, inspires wonder, and sparks conversation through the stories held within our global collection of textiles, and active engagement with contemporary art practices. The Museum is currently producing a programming series called [Social Being](#), which

through the lens of textiles will explore the intersections of identity, health and well-being, sustainable design, family, diasporic experiences, and social matters.

The OTF is an agency of the Government of Ontario, and one of Canada's leading granting foundations. OTF awarded \$115 million to 644 projects last year to build healthy and vibrant communities in Ontario. For more information, please visit: otf.ca.

For more information, visit: textilemuseum.ca, [@textilemuseumofcanada](https://www.instagram.com/textilemuseumofcanada), and [#TextileMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/TextileMuseum) on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

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