

# Annual Report

## Neutral Ground Artist–Run Centre

For the period covering September 1, 2023 – August 31, 2024

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## ABOUT NEUTRAL GROUND:

Launched in 1982, Neutral Ground Artist-Run Centre is a non-profit organization dedicated to developing opportunities for artists and engaging the public with emerging, experimental, multidisciplinary artistic practices. Neutral Ground is located in oskana ka-asastēki, also known as Regina, Saskatchewan. Primarily a public gallery, Neutral Ground operates on Treaty 4 land, which encompasses the territories of the nēhiyawak, Anihšināpēk, Dakota, Lakota, and Nakoda, and the homeland of the Métis/Michif Nation.

### Vision, Mission, and Values

#### VISION

Neutral Ground aims to create an equitable and inclusive experience for artists, the membership and community stakeholders, in our collective pursuit of a greater public understanding and appreciation of multidisciplinary art.

#### MISSION

Neutral Ground is a member-driven organization that proudly engages diverse audiences with contemporary visual and multidisciplinary art by:

- Providing resources and support to artists that enable the realization of new work

#### VALUES

Art + Decolonization,  
Anti-Racism &  
Anti-Oppression

Art + Juried through  
Open Calls

- Providing venues for exhibitions and other programming, such as artist talks, workshops and critical writing opportunities
- Engaging audiences in responsive critical dialogues that consider art as it relates to social, political and cultural forces.

Art + Experimentation

Art + Respectful  
Collaboration

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## Context & Community



Archival Image: September 26, 1982. Pictured: Nida Home Doherty and Christa Donaldson.

Neutral Ground was founded in 1982 by Nida Home Doherty, Christa Donaldson and Roger Lee for the presentation of experimental and alternative art practices. Neutral Ground's first public activity was a site-specific performance on a sod-laden raft floating on Regina's Wascana Lake suggesting both the notion of a "neutral space," and contestations of the existence of such a space.

Today, Neutral Ground's Gallery and offices are located in the F.W. Hill Pedestrian Mall at 1835 Scarth Street, in the heart of Regina's Downtown Business District. The Main Gallery maintains regular open hours from noon to 6:00 pm Wednesday through Saturday, with Neutral Ground's Window Gallery remaining visible around the clock from the Scarth Street pedestrian walkway.

Neutral Ground recognizes that many people in our communities face systemic forms of oppression due to intersecting imbalances of power. Neutral Ground values lived experiences and non-Western ways of knowing and being as powerful sources of knowledge. The organization addresses imbalances through the representation of diverse identities within its programming, informed through a juried artwork selection process. Neutral Ground is committed to promoting, exhibiting and presenting the work of systemically underrepresented artists inclusive of race, religion, national or ethnic origin, colour, education, gender, age or physical or mental disability, or any intersections of and beyond these identities.

**Leadership**

Neutral Ground is governed by a Board of Directors, elected by the membership and composed predominantly of practicing artists, academics, and other cultural workers, who oversees staff members who manage the day-to-day operations of Neutral Ground.

**Neutral Ground 2023–2024 Board of Directors:**

<p><b>Mika Abbott, Vice-Chair</b> elected November 26, 2022</p>	<p><b>Cady Judge, Secretary</b> elected December 2, 2023</p>
<p><b>Marnie Archer</b> elected November 26, 2022</p>	<p><b>Bree Tabin</b> elected December 2, 2023</p>
<p><b>Lins Demchuk, Treasurer</b> elected December 2, 2023</p>	<p><b>Carrie Smith</b> elected December 2, 2023</p>
<p><b>Aislin MacDougall</b> elected December 2, 2023</p>	<p><b>Nic Wilson, Chair</b> elected November 26, 2022</p>
<p><b>Samuel Heinrichs</b> elected November 26, 2022</p>	

**Staffing in 2023 - 2024**

During the 2023-2024 year NG excitedly welcomed Emily Nestor into the role of Director/Curator commencing on September 1st, 2023. In November NG was pleased to hire Narges Porsandekhial into the role of Gallery Assistant; we welcomed Narges at the end of January for her start in the position.

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE:

Dear Neutral Ground Membership,

The last year has seen a lot of growth for the organization and I am happy to see a new generation of artists step into leadership roles with the organization. Emily Nestor has continued to grow as the Director-Curator and we have welcomed Narges Porsandekhial into the role of Gallery Assistant. Both have shown significant dedication and growth as arts administrators over the last year.

With the change in organizational structure, the board wanted to empower staff to take a more active role in defining the direction of programming, policy, and visioning. This has been another step on the road to shifting Neutral Ground to a centre that can offer more creative opportunities to staff and respond more directly to the needs of artists. In that spirit, Emily has replaced the usual call for submissions with a process for soliciting work from interested artists that is less labour-intensive for staff, jury members, and, most importantly, prospective exhibiting artists. These changes have been part of a general commitment to 'right-sizing' the organization and trying to better work within our means.

For the most part, the past 12 months have seen the board and staff navigating more day-to-day problems rather than the large existential issues that have plagued the organization over the past decade. Overall, it has been a period of stability which would be somewhat unimaginable when I first joined the organization eight years ago. I believe, barring any significant upset, we are entering a period that will see NG retuning its energy to our major objective which is fostering experimental practice in the early stages of artistic careers.

I would like to thank Emily and Narges for their dedication and rigour. I would also like to thank outgoing board members Marnie Archer, Carrie Smith, and Sam Heinrichs. As I move on from the organization, I am confident that Neutral Ground will find new ways to serve the communities of *oskana ka-asastēki*/Regina.

Best,

Nic Wilson (chair)

**Nic Wilson (outgoing Chair) on behalf of the Exec Team: Mika Abbott (Vice-Chair), Lins Demchuk (Treasurer) and Cady Judge (Secretary)**

## 2023–2024 PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS:

### Programming Highlights

#### Main Gallery Exhibitions



Installation view of *NOT A GIRL, NOT YET A WOMAN (I Used To Think I Had The Answers To Everything)* by Molly JF Caldwell - Photo by Hooria Rajabzadeh

### ***Locutions : Fragments out of a Deluge***

1-person Exhibition: Chukwudubem Ukaigwe

September 23 - November 11, 2023

Reception: September 23rd

*Locutions: Fragments out of a Deluge* is an interchanging system of video, ceramic, and sound installations that look to quotidian rituals as a scheme for examining notions of identity, community, place, class, and diaspora.

Ukaigwe traverses the landscape of media as generative, simultaneous, and multiple; the installations in this exhibition are conceived as embodiments and documents of dynamic social scenarios, often produced in response to his own lived experience, as well as collective experiences of home, migration,

isolation, and dislocation. *Locutions* is a collaborative effort, the artist worked closely with, and shares authorship with cross-continental communities.

**Chukwudubem Ukaigwe** (b. 1995, Lagos, Nigeria) is a Nigerian born artist, curator, and writer [passing through] Winnipeg, Canada. Exercising material as an experimental device for cross-examining plural themes, his interdisciplinary practice is an inquiry into semiotic dissonance. Chukwudubem participates in the creation of immersive audiovisual scapes for fecund contemplation, bringing to centre facets of everyday life to generate active conceptual trans-media interconnections pertaining to global aesthetics.

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Installation view of *Locutions: Fragments out of a Deluge* by Chukwudubem Ukaigwe, Photo: Mika Abbott

## ***Tides***

1-Person Exhibition: Julie Oh

January 20 – February 24, 2024

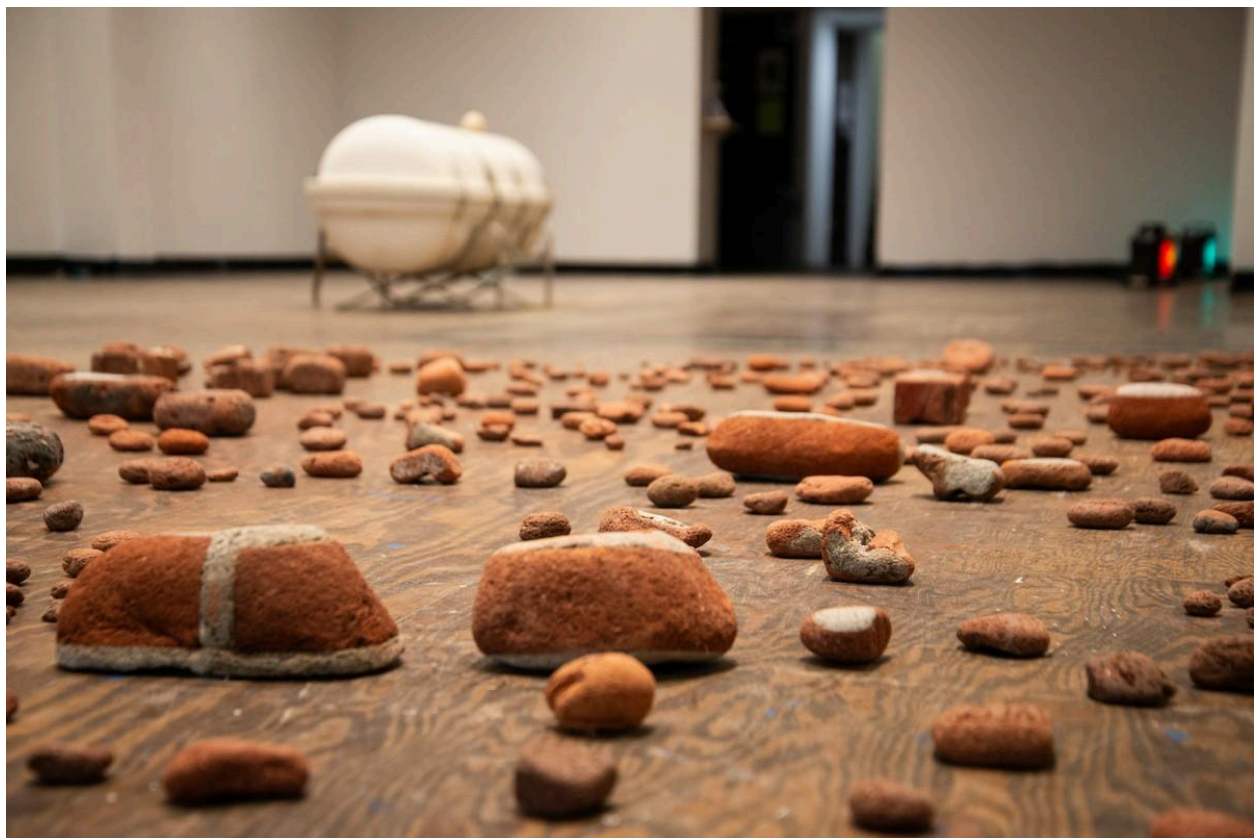
Reception: January 20th

*Tides* brings together a series of found objects related to change and navigation – slow and fast, seasonal and episodic. Bricks that wash up on shore, transformed from sturdy building blocks to worn pebbles. Water trapped in ice for 10,000 years. A capsule that can sustain you for 30+ days on the open ocean. The smallest bone of the largest mammals body, developed over millennia for seeing in sound

under water. These objects reflect Julie Oh's new surroundings in rural Newfoundland, far from the Prairie environs of her formative years. Being in this new place challenged the limits of her practice, which often draws on source materials from familiar, urban environments. This body of work reflects a year of re-orientation, of finding a new way to work, from a different place. The simple daily act of returning to one fixed point on earth, the beach closest to her house, to look for bricks was a way of grounding. An act, arbitrary at first, that formed a path forward. She combed through the "Marine" section in *NL Classifieds*, waiting until warmth arrived, and found other things to salvage, things that led the way. The belief in, and pursuit of, the next object remains constant. Together, the works in *Tides* continue Oh's exploration of the emotional and conceptual power of objects. Objects that comfort, attract, puzzle, guide and resonate with our interior states and searches for meaning.

**Julie Oh** works in conceptual sculpture and installation, drawing on both industrial and personal objects to playfully examine notions of labour, mortality, and faith. She holds an MFA from School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and a BFA from the University of Saskatchewan. Recent solo exhibitions of her work include *Tides* (2023) at YYZ Artist's Outlet; *Sesame, open yourself* (2022) at Kenderdine Art Gallery; *Tunnel, Air, Mother* (2019) at Dunlop Art Gallery; *Your Hog Has Arrived* (2019) at PAVED Arts; and *lines* (2018) at Remail Modern. Her work has been the subject of articles and reviews in *Public Parking*, *Peripheral Review* and *BlackFlash* magazine. She lives in rural Newfoundland.

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Detail of *Tides* by Julie Oh. Photo: Hooria Rajabzadeh



# ***NOT A GIRL, NOT YET A WOMAN (I Used to Think I Had The Answers To Everything)***

1-person Exhibition: Molly JF Caldwell

March 9- April 20 2024

Reception: March 9th

*It's 2004. You're in your bedroom, collaged in pages from YM and Teen People. You're listening to a Destiny's Child CD on your Sony discman. You hear the doorbell ring, it's your best friend. They want to go to the mall and check out the earrings at Claire's.*

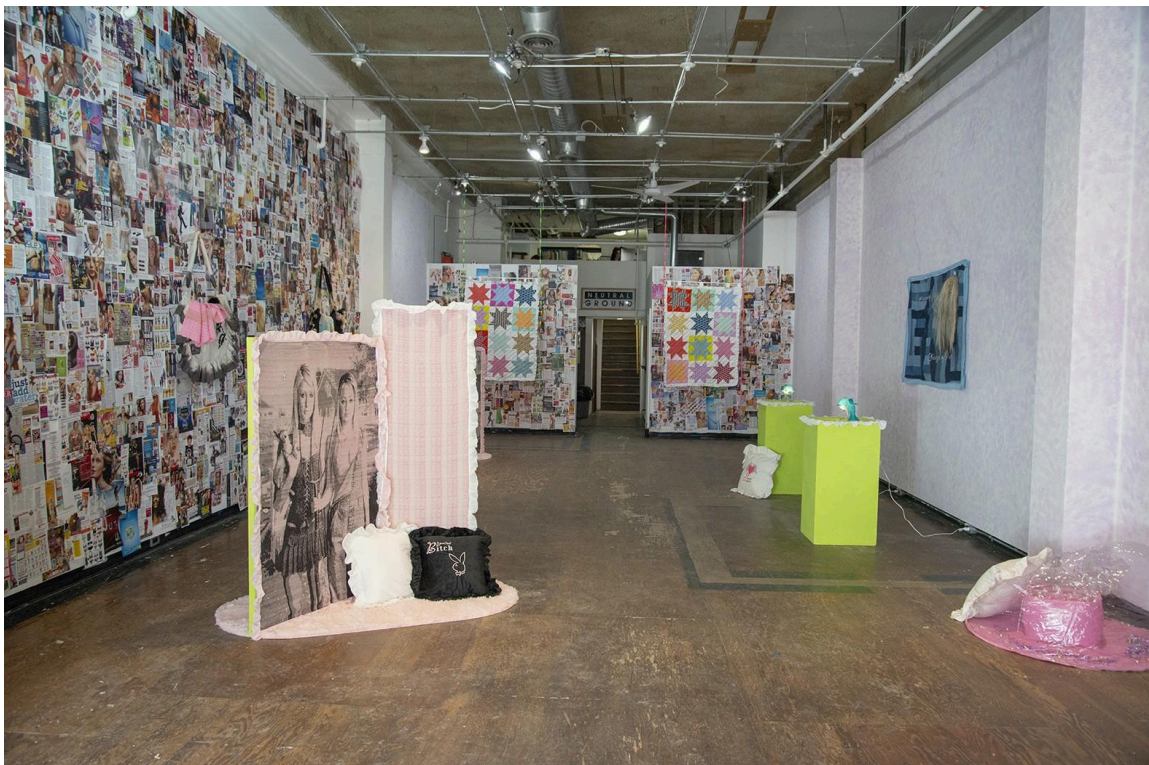
*Covid-19? Kylie Jenner? Tik Tok? Housing crisis?*

*You put some butterfly clips in your hair, grab your Steve Madden platform slides, and tell your mom you'll be home before it gets dark. Time for shopping and an Orange Julius.*

*Life is good.*

**Molly JF Caldwell** is a Yonsei visual artist and cultural worker based in Mohkinstis ("Calgary, AB") She graduated from the local art school in 2017 with a bachelor of fine arts. Some of her interests include Marxist Feminism, Mariah Carey, and textiles.

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Installation view of *NOT A GIRL, NOT YET A WOMAN (I Used To Think I Had The Answers To Everything)* by Molly JF Caldwell - Photo by Hooria Rajabzadeh

## Programming Highlights

### Window Gallery Exhibitions



Detail of *Total Sunshower* by Hea R. Kim. Photo: Nic Wilson

## **Softer**

Window Gallery Exhibition: Biofeedback Collective

September 30 – November 11, 2023

Softer encompasses two works by Biofeedback Collective members, Kelsey Ford, Lauren Warrington and Emily Zdunich. Cotton Candy Chain; a collaborative soft sculpture composed of up-cycled fabric and stuffing, as well as natural dye, and acrylic paint. A textual object which explores interpersonal and community connections and participation.

**Biofeedback Collective** resides and practices on Treaty 6 Territory in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. The collective's three members, Kelsey Ford, Lauren Warrington, and Emily Zdunich are graduates of the University of Saskatchewan. Between them, they explore a range of mediums including painting, drawing, sculpture, printmaking, textiles, virtual and augmented reality. What unites them as a collective is an overarching interest in conceptual and responsive approaches to art making. The collective is focused on creating relational and feedback-based programming for underrepresented and emerging

artists. Exploring how we relate to one another, our bodies, the places in which we inhabit, and how our unique histories and ancestries come together.

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Detail of *Softer* by Biofeedback Collective, Photo: Mika Abbott

## ***Total Sunshower***

Window Gallery Exhibition: Hea R. Kim  
November 25, 2023 – January 6, 2024

*Total Sunshower* offers a glimpse into an environment frozen at a point of transformation. Kim attempts to construct utopian landscapes ripe with mystery, beauty, and play, which simultaneously reveal their composition from material waste, and represent the path of a planet in a climate crisis, grotesque and morphing from the results of human impact. The processes and materials Kim uses to speak of the desire for a sustainable practice and meaningful change in the ways that engage with the Earth. The work consists of various sculptures ranging from ceramics to paper and fabric formations that have been constructed with everyday materials collected from thrift stores and recycling organizations in Montreal.

**Hea R. Kim** Drawing inspiration from her childhood and diasporic experiences, South Korean cultural heritage, literary references, and a variety of other sources, Kim attempts to thoughtfully mesh the fantastical with the mundane, the heroic with the cute, and the bubbly of popular culture with deeper social concerns. Her artistic technique equally mixes media employing fibers and ceramics that

she combines with mass-produced objects. Engaging the philosophical limits of both craft and art, as well as reality and fantasy, Kim intentionally stretches established boundaries, bringing subversive notions into sustained harmony.

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Installation view of *Total Sunshower* by Hea R. Kim. Photo: Nic Wilson

## **FIXED IT**

Window Gallery Exhibition: HOT 4 THE MOMENT

March 9 - April 20, 2024

HOT 4 THE MOMENT will be taking over the Neutral Ground Window Gallery with their FIX-ITS quilted construction site. THE FIX-ITS is a parody performance, video and installation work assuming the characters of a multi-talented duo of contract workers who critique systems of oppression and misogyny within professional spaces through hard work, physical labour and community care. This installation consists of the signage used in our FIX-ITS performances. Getting to work as THE FIX-ITS required the proper OHS approved signage, designating safe spaces to be soft and silly with yourself. Together this collection of soft sculpture and screen printed signs use the visual identity of construction signage combined with the tenderness of quiltmaking.

THE FIX-ITS is a playful interrogation of gender roles in labour, looking at what we value as paid labour vs. what goes mostly unrecognized and unpaid. These signs act as a protest and interruption to people's normal work days. While they are eye-catching in their easily recognisable fonts and bright

colours; the phrases encourage a humorous and tender moment for the viewer, as well as a thoughtful reflection on ideas of work and labour within our society.

**HOT 4 THE MOMENT** Drew Parady and Georgia Dawkin are the two halves of the friendship heart necklace that is HOT 4 THE MOMENT. HOT 4 THE MOMENT is a creative collective that uses love, silliness, play, and humour to explore themes of feminism, care and play, to “women’s work” under the patriarchy. Artist duo Drew Parady and Georgia Dawkin both use play within their art practices as a means to explore difficult topics and humour as a vessel for change. Both Georgia and Drew are currently based in St.John’s, NL and have received their BFA from Grenfell Campus, Memorial University.

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Street View of *FIXED IT* by HOT 4 THE MOMENT, Photo: Hooria Rajabzadeh

## ***Colonized Land***

Window Gallery Exhibition: Karlie King

May 4 – June 1, 2024

Many years ago, when I was taking Fine Arts classes at the U of R, one of my professors (who was from away) commented that southern Saskatchewan was the most colonized land in Canada. At the time, having not been to many other parts of Canada, I was taken aback by this statement, and a little offended. I had spent much time in rural southern Saskatchewan and viewed the wide open spaces as free and ‘natural.’ But, with time and travel, and education, I soon came to realize that this somewhat

offensive comment was true. Almost all of southern Saskatchewan has been sectioned off into neat little squares, for production and ownership. The original landscape and the indigenous plants have been colonized and fenced into submission, growing only where they are allowed to grow.

These papier-mâché vases and plant arrangements speak to the situation. The maps, which show the extensive colonization of land, bind the indigenous plants that once covered this un-colonized land.

**Karlie King**, BA, MA and three years of a PhD, has received a variety of grants and awards, including a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Grant, Saskatchewan Arts Board Indigenous Pathways Initiative Grant, and a SaskArts Independent Arts Grant.

King's artwork covers a broad range – from a functional line of pottery, to large-scale community projects, to street art. King's artwork has been commissioned by the City of Regina and is also included in the SaskArts Permanent Art Collection. Plus, her artwork has been featured in numerous solo and group exhibitions across the country.

She was the Artist-In-Residence at Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park, SK; and in January 2021 she was the first virtual Artist-In-Resident at Wanuskewin Heritage Park (Saskatoon SK).

She currently is Coordinator of SaskGalleries. And teaches pottery at Cathedral School of Art.



Street View of *Colonized Land* by Karlie King, Photo: Hooria Rajabzadeh

## Programming Highlights

### Members' Residency

**Featuring: Maya Humpheries, Yuji Lee, Jera MacPherson, Miles Nowhere**

May - August 2024

Neutral Ground was pleased to welcome four local artists to our space during the summer months to participate in our first iteration of the member residency. A member residency had been highly requested in our member survey for 2022-2023, and NG ecstatic to build it into our programming this year. Participating artists work in our main gallery space which functioned as a studio for the summer months. Artists produced, developed and experimented on a variety of work including video, painting, drawing, installation, and textiles.



Installation View of Member's Residency Open Studio, *Miles Nowhere* - Photo: Narges Porsandekhial

## Programming Highlights

### Partnerships & Events

#### ***Perforumatorium: Artists Roundtable Discussion & Performances***

Partnership with Queer City Cinema

Featuring Jaye Kovach, Lou Sheppard, Nic Wilson, and Hannah Godfrey

September 15–16, 2023

Perforum: Artists Roundtable Discussion, hosted at NG, provided the opportunity for QCC's 2023 performance artists to discuss topics and issues relevant to their work and for audiences to listen in. NG also acted as a venue for two of the festival's performances on Thursday and Friday.

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#### ***Art & Intuition***

Partnership with YWCA

Featuring : Sara McCreary

October 6, 2023

Sarah worked with several youth who attended the YWCA's Power of Being You! Conference. She led them in a workshop focused on practicing intuition and freely creating something from start to finish by using random prompts and any drawing style, from stickmen to variations of their favourite cartoon.

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#### ***Voice***

Partnership with Scott Collegiate

Student in Residence

Featuring : Roan Imhoff

October 11 – November 2, 2023

Roan Imhoff joined the Neutral Ground's team for four weeks as our student in residence. On top of Roan's help with daily gallery happenings, they also spent their time with Neutral Ground creating digital art works that intuitively responded to Neutral Ground's space and library to document Roan's experience in residence. Roan's approach is marked by their openness for discussion and care for accessibility to the conceptual roots of the work they made. Utilizing various inanimate objects, references to literature, and music Roan followed a process of looking to the space around him to find grounding and inspiration for the path of this series of works.



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## **Sound, Interactive, and Performance Art**

Art's Birthday Mini-Fest, 2024

Partnership with University of Regina Creative Technologies Students

Facilitated by Lindsey French

January 13, 2024

As part of Art's Birthday 2024, afternoon audiences enjoyed a variety of performances, sound, and spatial art created by several emerging student artists from the University of Regina.

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## **Art's Birthday Party**

Rhinestone Cowboy

Featuring MILESHIGH, DJBADCARLOTTA, Hilarey Cowan, and Ember Wareham.

January 13, 2024

In the evening of Art's Birthday, Neutral Ground hosted a glittery western cowboy celebration, featuring an artist-made playable video game experience by Ember Wareham, performance art by Hilarey Cowan, a live set by MILESHIGH, and DJBADCARLOTTA kept the tunes going all night with her DJ skills.

### **Ember Rayne |the 'B' stands for BOTHERED**

Ember Rayne (they/she) is a white, queer, nonbinary, and disabled settler artist living and learning in Treaty 4 Territory. They are currently studying Women and Gender studies and are interested in challenging and queering understandings of art, play, and videogame design. Ember Rayne enjoys using needlework and digital technology to creatively explore and showcase significant influences on their identity.

### **Hilarey Cowan**

is an artist and cultural worker currently based in Treaty 4 Territory in Saskatchewan, working between sculpture, video and performance. She holds a degree in architecture from Carleton University, as well as a BAC in Sculpture and Media from The Académie Royale des Beaux-Arts in Brussels. Her work explores ideas around labour, care, alienation, networks, geography and touch.

### **djbadcarlotta**

badcarlotta is a Regina-based DJ and radio host at 91.3fm CJTR Regina Community Radio where she currently serves as President. You're as likely to hear her spin the newest track as an unearthed soundcloud or tumblr gem from her 2013 harddrive. Hip-hop and dance are her favourites to play in sets, however her inspiration spans many genres. Community is the driving force behind her creative endeavours, and she is always eager to connect with others who are actively working to make Regina a great place to live.

### **mileshigh**

mileshigh is a non-typical, mixed-media recording, performing, and visual artist based in the midwest of Canada.

## ***Opulence: We Bead Everything Too!***

Partnership with Sâkêwêwak Artists' Collective

Window Gallery Exhibition

Featuring: acâhkos child calf-dubois, Shana Pasapa, Lucille Fisher, Brenna Pacholko, Dani LaValley, Connie Mussell & Sadi-Rose Vaxvick

January 28 – March 13, 2023

“Opulence: We Bead Everything Too!” unfolded over four months, featuring seven local beadwork artists in a series of weekly sessions enriched by guest artists Dorothy Joyea, Tammy Ratt, and Joseph Sayer. Facilitated by Program Coordinator Brianna LaPlante, Sâkêwêwak’s beadwork program provides a nurturing space for Indigenous artists to create. The Opulence group explored hide, tufting, and fur techniques, incorporated into new Individual projects. The weekly gatherings mirrored the cultural ideology of the kitchen table, serving as a backdrop for skill development through intention setting, workshops, collaborative group sharing, and peer-driven skill exchange.

This dynamic environment fostered a vibrant and supportive artistic community. Exploring the rich Indigenous Collections housed at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum, participants found inspiration in historic and traditional art, including tangible artifacts and photographs – this critical viewing offered profound insights into shared patterns and motifs. These visual archives showcased the opulent craftsmanship of past Indigenous artists, highlighting beadwork, quillwork, stitching, and sewing across a spectrum of items, from personal adornments to essential household artifacts. The visual narrative woven by these photographs underscored the centrality of community in Indigenous artwork.

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Detail of *Standing in my Power*  
Shana Pasapa, Beaded Pillow (2023–2024)



## ***Opulence: We Bead Everything Too!***

Partnership with Sâkêwêwak Artists' Collective

Artist Roundtable

Featuring: acâhkos child calf-dubois, Shana Pasapa, Lucille Fisher, Brenna Pacholko, Dani LaValley, Connie Mussell & Sadi-Rose Vaxvick

February 15, 2024

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## ***Girl Space Camps***

Partnership with YWCA

Workshop

Featuring: Yvonne Niegas

February 22 2024

Yvonne led a workshop in printmaking to the attendees of the YWCA's Girl Space camps. Participants got an introduction to the practice of printmaking and went home with prints they made from Yvonne's thoughtful instruction.

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## ***Walk With Me***

### ***A Soulo-centred action by Gary Varro***

Partnership with New Dance Horizons

Held at Wascana Hill

February 24, 2024

Neutral Ground Artist-Run Centre and New Dance Horizons are thrilled to announce the next iteration of ***Walk With Me*** – A soulo-centred action by Gary Varro.

Bipedal your body through Wascana Park – surrendering to the visual, aural and sensorial pleasures of walking in silence and in individual and collective states of mind – by following Gary on a gentle, meditative and soulful journey.

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## ***Hanging Your Artwork***

Featuring: Larissa Berchsley

Workshop presented in partnership with CARFAC Sask

June 8, 2024

Handling and installing your own artwork is a fundamental experience of exhibiting at artist-run centres, DIY spaces, and artist collectives. Moreover, an informed relationship to technical practices of displaying art objects will benefit any artist throughout their career.

Join Larissa Berschley MacLellan as she shares the lessons she's learned over nearly 10 years working as a professional art preparator: Look forward to learning basic art handling techniques intended to keep both you and your artworks safe and and become acquainted with the common tools of the trade. Don't be surprised if discussing the largely unseen labour that goes into the crating, handling, and display of artworks doesn't expand the way you conceive of your artwork in relation to larger museum practices.



Larissa Berchsley leading a workshop on artwork installation, Photo: Jera MacPherson

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## Emergent

Featuring: emergence collective, Cyril Chen, Nicole Mae, Joviel Buenavente, Gabriel Coloma, Greta Peart

Screening and Show presented in partnership with emergence collective

August 7, 2024

Five artists participated in screening their work, ranging from video, short film, music, games, and animation, following a panel, and showcase of media art artefacts created by the participating artists.

**emergence** is a (multi)media artist collective that supports early-stage artists, with attention to bipoc, queer, and marginalized voices from the Canadian prairies. We are headquartered in Regina, Saskatchewan, treaty four territory.



*Emergent Screening - emergence collective - Photo: Ali Shahidi*

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## **The “other” | Quilted Connections**

Featuring: Yuji Lee and Maya Humpheries

Artist Roundtable presented in partnership with Nuit Blanche Regina

August 24, 2024

In partnership with Nuit Blanche Regina, two of the artists that participated in Neutral Ground’s Membership Residency came together for a roundtable discussion to share their insight on their practices and work during the residency.

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## **Touch the AI Sublime**

Featuring: Eric Hill

Presented in partnership with Nuit Blanche Regina

August 24, 2024

Using a mixture of AI programs, Eric created a series of interweaving videos which featured humanoid figures reaching out towards the camera. These videos ran on a loop for the entire evening of Nuit Blanche Regina. People were encouraged to step up to the display and mimic the video, resulting in both real and AI-generated individuals seemingly having their hands pressed together. This work created perfect moments for a friend to grab a photo or video!

**Eric Hill** is a local filmmaker and digital media maker. He is often setting up projections for live-music events or digital art installations. He is a co-founder of local music festival Swamp Fest and one of the minds behind annual subversive holiday video Shit Fireplace.

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*Touch the AI Sublime* – Photo Credit: Eric Hill

## Programming Highlights

### Artist Workshops and Talks

#### ***Locutions: Fragments out of a Deluge***

Artist Talk by Chukwudubem Ukaigwe

September 24, 2024, Hosted In-Person at The Hampton Hub

*Locutions: Fragments out of a Deluge* is a big sea of sociological sediments for contemplating notions of being.

**Chukwudubem Ukaigwe** (b. 1995, Lagos, Nigeria) is a Nigerian born artist, curator, and writer [passing through] Winnipeg, Canada. Exercising material as an experimental device for

cross-examining plural themes, his interdisciplinary practice is an inquiry into semiotic dissonance. Chukwudubem participates in the creation of immersive audiovisual scapes for fecund contemplation, bringing to centre facets of everyday life to generate active conceptual trans-media interconnections pertaining to global aesthetics.

Tapping into a diverse spectrum of influences – from jazz music, to poetry, to African mythology and futurism – Ukaigwe approaches his art practice as a double gesture. On one hand, his work is a way of annotating, augmenting, defacing, transposing, and rewriting in the margins of a palimpsestic history. On the other hand, his paintings, installations, and video works are an attempt to assemble and compose a speculative sensorium that permits hearing in a different tempo; one that collapses the subject-object divide and maps out both new and revised sociographies. A compositional practice that is fabulated out of the choice to meander in extant modes of being: fugitive, improvised, ongoing and otherwise.

His social practice is established on the foundations of splintered or shared authorship, community input, fracturing time, and relativity. On obtaining a BFA (Hons.) from the university of Manitoba in Canada, Chukwudubem has presented exhibitions and effectuated artist residencies locally and intercontinentally.

Ukaigwe is a founding member of the curatorial force, Patterns collective.

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## **Yes, Bestie!**

Artist Talk by HOT 4 THE MOMENT

March 31, 2024, Hosted via Zoom

Hey Bestie! Are you free May 31st?

Yes Bestie!

sleepover and talk  
about platonic romance or?

Yesssss Bestie!

K, cute. should we invite neutral ground???

loves it! ttyl 😊

c u soon!! 😊

**Drew Parady** and **Georgia Dawkin** are the two halves of the friendship heart necklace that is **HOT 4 THE MOMENT**. HOT 4 THE MOMENT is a creative collective that uses love, silliness, play, and humour to explore themes from feminism, care and play, to “women’s work” under the patriarchy. Artist duo Drew Parady

and Georgia Dawkin both use play within their art practices as a means to explore difficult topics and humour as a vessel for change. Georgia and Drew are currently based in St.John's, NL, and have received their BFA from Grenfell Campus, Memorial University.

With their first body of work as HOT 4 THE MOMENT, Georgia and Drew use playfulness, humour, and softness as an act of resilience and protest against systems of oppression within professional spaces as THE FIX-ITS. In collaboration, they dissect these themes through performing soft and hard labour while skill sharing.

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## ***PROMISCUITY AS PRAXIS (Or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Being A Massive Slut)***

Artist Talk by Molly JF Caldwell

March 31, 2024, Hosted via Zoom

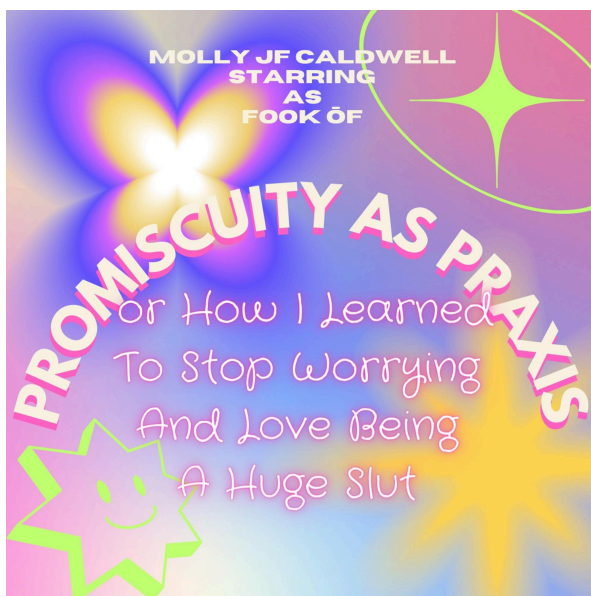
Steal your man kind of shit, fuck your dad kind of shit,

take your bitch kind of shit, slap my ass kind of shit,

suck your dick kind of shit, fuck your bitch kind of shit,

OnlyFans kind of shit, don't need hands kind of shit.

**Molly JF Caldwell** is a Yonsei textile artist interested in soft materials, soft experiences, soft approaches, and soft futures. Graduating from the Alberta University of the Arts in 2017, she lives and works in Mohkinstsis (Calgary, AB). She is passionate about Marxist feminism, dogs, and Mariah Carey.



*PROMISCUITY AS PRAXIS* – Artist Talk

Photo Credit: Molly JF Caldwell



## Programming Highlights

### Critical Writing

#### ***Women's Perils***

Sophie Daschuk  
Exhibition Response  
April 2024

#### **[Exhibition Essay](#)**

#### ***Locutions: Fragments Out Of A Deluge***

Sage Wosminity  
Exhibition Review  
June 2024

#### ***Published in BlackFlash Issue 41.1***

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## Call for Proposals - Window Gallery & Member Residency

In February and March 2024, Neutral Ground's Director/Curator, with the help of the Programming Committee circulated a call for proposals to exhibit with NG in the 2025-2026 programming season, in the window gallery and for our pilot member residency. In the following months, the Programming Jury was overseen by Director/Curator Emily Nestor, Gallery Assistant Narges Porsandekhial and Programming Committee members Mika Abbott, Carrie Smith, and Cady Judge.



Image Credit: Negar Devine-Tajgardan, [extended] Family Storage, 2022. Photo taken by Daniel Paquet

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## YEAR IN REVIEW:



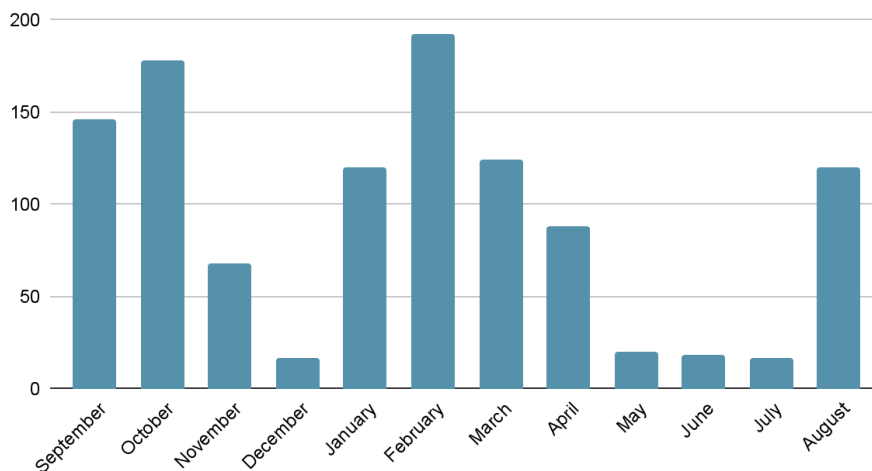
Detail of *FIXED IT* by HOT 4 THE MOMENT, Photo: Hooria Rajabzadeh

During the 2023-2024 year, NG was pleased to host three Main Gallery exhibitions, five Window Gallery exhibitions—including a partnership exhibition with Sākēwēwak Artists' Collective, three artist workshops—including partnerships with YWCA and CARFAC SASK, 6 performances - including partnerships with New Dance Horizons, Queer City Cinema, and University of Regina Creative Technologies Students, six artist talks -including a partnership with Nuit Blanche Regina, three opening receptions, 1 fundraising event, and 2 Member-Use-of-Spaces.

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## Gallery Attendance

Gallery Attendance by Month



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## Artist Feedback

The shipping, accommodation and the install all went smoothly. I appreciated the hospitality starting from airport pick up to the final delivery of works back to Saskatoon.

-Julie Oh

Thank you so much for this opportunity. It was a great way for me to experience being paid for an art gig and I really appreciate the artistic freedom given in the project. I'm glad that my first experience like this was with Neutral Ground, stepping into the art world for other opportunities doesn't seem as intimidating after all your support! :)

-Ember Rayne

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be a part of the first iteration of the member residency! Finding (and affording) a studio space can be a challenge, so getting the chance to use the gallery space in this way was awesome! :)

-Yuji Lee

I thought there were a good mix of performers and artists! The overall vibe of the night was really good and the decorations were on point. Also the compensation was generous and very much appreciated.

-DJ BADCARLOTTA

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## MEMBERSHIP & SUPPORT:

### Membership

Special thanks to the **88** individuals and organizations that supported Neutral Ground through Membership in the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year. Additional thank you to those who chose to support at the Patron level: **John Hampton, Robin Barclay, and Deborah Floden**. Members listed alphabetically by last name:

Mika Abbott

Neil Adams

WL Altman

Marnie Archer

<b>Robyn Barclay</b>	<b>William Bessai-Saul</b>	<b>Sheldon Brown</b>	<b>Joviel Buenavente</b>
<b>acâhkos calf child-dubois</b>	<b>John Cameron</b>	<b>Katherine Cameron</b>	<b>Jonathan Carroll</b>
<b>Jason Cawood</b>	<b>Britt Council</b>	<b>Jordan Cousins</b>	<b>Hilarey Cowan</b>
<b>Benjamin Davis</b>	<b>Lindsey Demchuk</b>	<b>Ernie Dulanowsky</b>	<b>Danielle Dumelie</b>
<b>Linda Duvall</b>	<b>Holly Fay</b>	<b>Anastasia Feguson</b>	<b>Lucille Fisher</b>
<b>Deborah Floden</b>	<b>Lan Florence Yee</b>	<b>Lindsey French</b>	<b>David Garneau</b>
<b>Girlynn Gascon</b>	<b>Marz Gebhardt</b>	<b>Shelly George</b>	<b>Brian Gladwell</b>
<b>Jesse Goddard</b>	<b>Eric Gyug</b>	<b>John Hampton</b>	<b>Carla Harris</b>
<b>Sam Heinrichs</b>	<b>Rey Hesterman</b>	<b>Emma Holt</b>	<b>Nida Home Doherty</b>
<b>Risa Horowitz</b>	<b>Maya Humphries</b>	<b>Kelly Husack</b>	<b>Donald Jedlic</b>
<b>Tomas Jonsson</b>	<b>Cady Judge</b>	<b>Ali King</b>	<b>Dalton Lam</b>
<b>Roger Lee</b>	<b>Yuji Lee</b>	<b>Frans Lotz</b>	<b>Mai Ly</b>
<b>Jera MacPherson</b>	<b>Amin Malakootikhah</b>	<b>Aislinn McDougall</b>	<b>Sara Michelle McCreary</b>
<b>Elian Mikkola</b>	<b>Alison Molaro</b>	<b>Melanie Monique Rose</b>	<b>Sandee Moore</b>
<b>Audie Murray</b>	<b>Kendall Nestor</b>	<b>Yvonne Niegas</b>	<b>Erickka Patmore</b>
<b>Greta Peart</b>	<b>Helen Pridmore</b>	<b>Hooria Rajabzadeh</b>	<b>John Reichert</b>
<b>Barb Reimer</b>	<b>Jess Richter</b>	<b>Courtney Rink</b>	<b>Gerald Saul</b>
<b>Carrie Smith</b>	<b>Amy Snider</b>	<b>Sandra Staples Jetko</b>	<b>Manuel Strain</b>
<b>Bree Tabin</b>	<b>Negar Tajgardan</b>	<b>Rozhin Tayaraniyousefabadi</b>	<b>Larissa Tiggelers</b>
<b>Kelsey Ursu</b>	<b>Ulrike Veith</b>	<b>Mackenzzy Vida</b>	<b>Garry Wasyliw</b>

<b>Brenda Watt</b>	<b>Lisa Wicklund</b>	<b>Cameron Wiest</b>	<b>Nic Wilson</b>
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**Volunteers**

Special thanks to the 23 individuals that supported Neutral Ground by donating their time and talents in the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year:

<b>Cady Judge</b>	<b>Jillian Bader</b>	<b>Ali Shahidi</b>
<b>Marnie Archer</b>	<b>Jared Feuring</b>	<b>Giovana Nabarrete</b>
<b>Mika Abbott</b>	<b>Maya Humphries</b>	<b>Jane McCreight</b>
<b>Jayelle Schock</b>	<b>Jera MacPherson</b>	<b>Jack Nestor</b>
<b>Sam Heinrichs</b>	<b>Carrie Smith</b>	<b>Bree Tabin</b>
<b>Aislinn MacDougall</b>	<b>Courtney Rink</b>	<b>Lins Demchuk</b>
<b>Britten McGonigal</b>	<b>Abby Phair</b>	<b>Dean Bisenthal</b>
<b>Nic Wilson</b>		

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**Fundraising Events:**

***Portrait Fundraiser***

**Thank you Mika Abbott**

Hosted in person

June 9, 2024

With the generous volunteer labour of the very talented Mika Abbott, NG offered folks in our community an avenue to get professional headshots taken at our gallery space on June 9th. Those who registered received a variety of headshots that they continue to use in the coming years.

NG is grateful to everyone who supported the Portrait Fundraiser, including our photographer Mika Abbott: and the several artists and community members who booked sessions. Thanks to everyone's contributions, the event brought in over 700 dollars.

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## Thank you!

Contributions from our membership and community are integral to NG's operations. Your participation in all forms—from being a member, attending exhibitions and events, participating in workshops, supporting fundraising initiatives, sharing your perspective, and volunteering your time and talents—make Neutral Ground what it is and guides the organizations forward. If you would like to get involved with Neutral Ground, our staff would love to hear from you:

**EMILY NESTOR**

Director/Curator

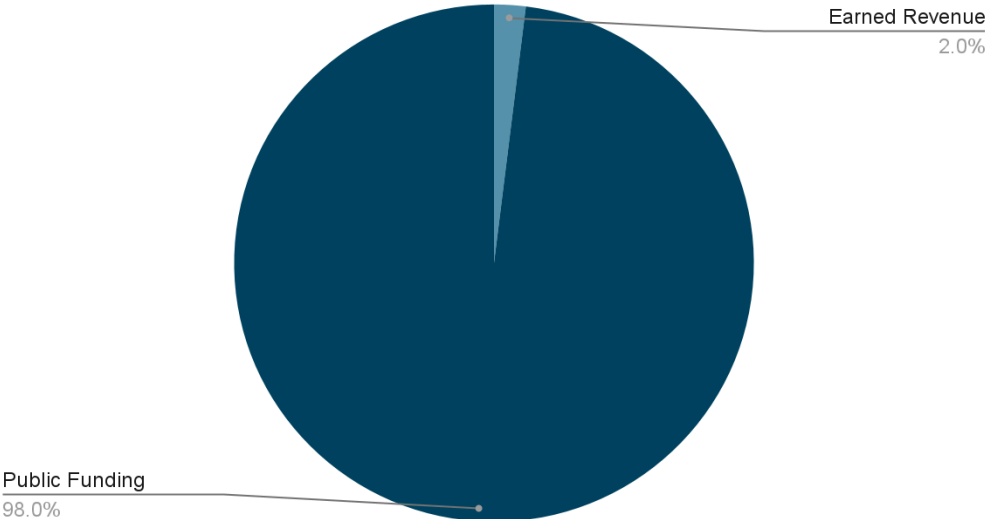
[program@neutralground.sk.ca](mailto:program@neutralground.sk.ca)

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## Financial Overview:

This section presents a summary of NG's finances in 2023-2024, at the time of writing Neutral Ground is awaiting final statements. The detailed presentation of Neutral Ground's 2023-2024 Review Engagement made by Grant Thornton LLP will conclude the presentation of this Annual Report, members will be updated as soon as the final statement is available, followed by a motion for its approval.

Revenues



# Revenue Snapshot

NG was pleased to see a significant increase in our fundraising revenue by almost 50% from last year. Concession sales decreased due to fewer openings with our reduced programming throughout the year. Membership revenues and rental income both saw slight increases. Art's Birthday, which returned in person for a second year in a row, landed on one of the coldest days of the year, which resulted in a slight decrease in our admission revenue.

# Major Funders & Grant Income

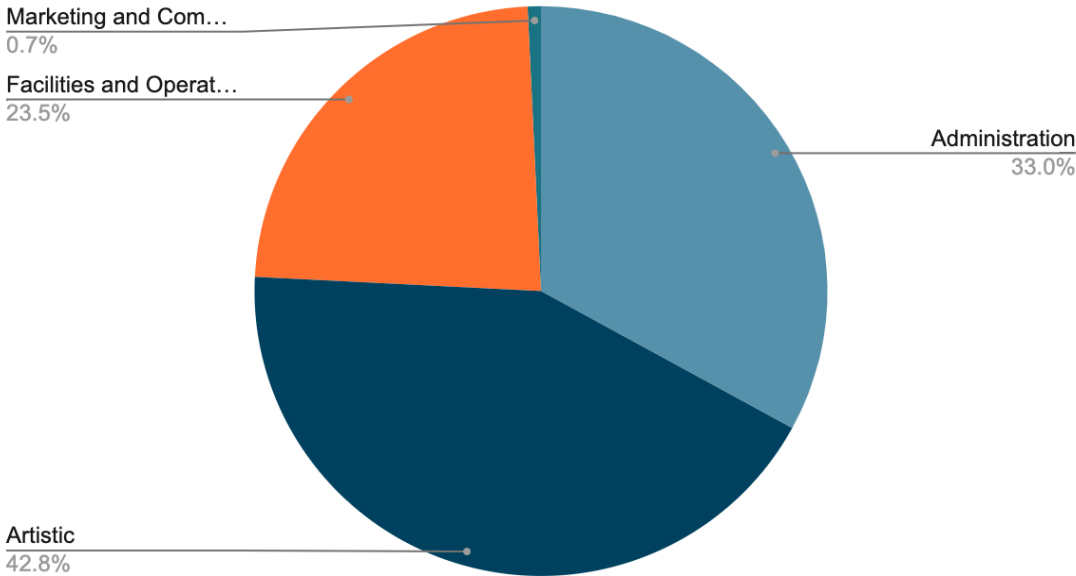
Being an artist-run centre; Neutral Ground continues to rely on Federal, Provincial, and Municipal granting agencies for the majority of the organisation's operating budget:

In 2023-2024 Neutral Ground received the following:

- \$67,500 from the **Canada Council for the Arts**
- \$92,500 from the **Saskatchewan Arts Board**
- \$17,500 from the **City of Regina**
- \$44,711 from **South Saskatchewan Community Foundation**

# Expense

## Revenues



## Expenses Snapshot

Administrative expenses remained comparable to those of the 2022-2023 fiscal year. Programming expenses slightly decreased from 2022-2023 year with the key differences being the reduction in programmed exhibitions. Comparable to previous years nearly 30% of the artistic budget goes directly toward the support of artists. Marketing and communication saw a slight decrease with a reduction in printing costs. Facilities and Operating expenses saw an increase due to the lease renewal which increased operational costs to market standard.

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## Looking Forward:

In the 2023-2024 year, Neutral Ground was pleased to expand our support for local artistic practices through the launch of our member residency. An additional highlight was the expansion of our collaboration with like-minded organizations which allowed NG to reach further into our community and provide more opportunities to our artists.

Neutral Ground continued to build meaningful relationships between artists and community through the expansion of events and auxiliary programming as demonstrated by our second annual expansion of Art’s Birthday into a mini-festival as well as the addition of workshops to our regular programming schedule.

Another major accomplishment from the 2023-2024 fiscal year is our enhancement of in-house support for our community, members, and artists. Through the generous support of the Community Services Recovery Fund, Neutral Ground purchased equipment that aims to support artists from production to display.

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## Upcoming Programming for 2024-2025

October 5- November 23	Main Gallery	<b>Sarah Mihara Creagen</b>	<i><b>Toxic Bodies</b></i>
November 2-November 23	Window Gallery	<b>MAP STUDENT -Sherry Farrell Racette</b>	<i><b>Cabinets of Curiosity</b></i>
December 14, 2024 - January 18, 2025	Window Gallery	<b>Joviel Buenaente</b>	<i><b>within the garden of shadows</b></i>



January 18, 2025	Special Event	<b>Featuring: Jess Ritcher, ka lok, and DJ Hendrika</b>	<b>Arts Birthday</b>
January 25 - March 22	Main Gallery	<b>Xiao Han, Kev Liang, Joni Cheung</b>	<b>TBD</b>
January 25 - February 8	Window Gallery	<b>Johnson High School STEAM</b>	<b>TBD</b>
February 22 - March 22	Window Gallery	<b>Margaret Joba-Woodruff</b>	<b>TBD</b>
March 9 - April 20	Main Gallery	<b>Whess Harman</b>	<b>TBD</b>
April 5- May 4	Window Gallery	<b>Danielle Corson</b>	<b>Family Dinner</b>
Spring / Summer	Membership Residency		<b>Membership Residency</b>
Spring	Window Gallery	<b>Rebecca LaMarre</b>	<b>TBD</b>
Summer	Window Gallery		<b>Summer Student Curated</b>

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## Board Nominations:

The NG Board of Directors advises on matters of policy and oversees the financial health and relevance of the organization to the community and in serving its mandate. NG Directors serve without remuneration for their services and must act honestly and in good faith in the best interests of the organization.

75% of the Directors are required to be self-declared, practicing visual or media artists or arts professionals. All Directors must have a commitment to the Corporation's Mission and Vision.

Nominations to the Board of Directors will be accepted in advance and may also be moved from the floor. Each nominee to the Board must receive a majority of votes cast by Members at a duly constituted Annual General Meeting. Elections of Directors shall always take place

by ballot.

The Neutral Ground Board of Directors consists of a minimum of six (6) and a maximum of twelve (12) Directors. Directors serve a two-year term.

The following Directors will continue for the 2024–2025 fiscal year:

- Lindsay Demchuk, Treasurer
- Bree Tabin, Member
- Cady Judge, Secretary
- Aislinn MacDougall, Member

Retiring/Retired Board Members::

- Nic Wilson, Chair
- Marnie Archer, Member
- Sam Heinrichs, Member
- Carrie Smith, Member

There are currently a maximum of eight (8) positions on the Board available to be filled. The following individuals are standing for election or re-election to the Board:

- Mika Abbott
- Sage Wosminity
- Savannah Downs
- Miranda Derkson
- Audie Murray
- Colton Bates
- Robin Lynch

No Director of the organisation may serve for no more than three (3) consecutive terms. Nominations from the floor will be accepted. Scrutineers will be selected from the floor by all present at the AGM to collect and count ballots.

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## Board Nominations Biographies:

Listed alphabetically by last name.

### **Mika Abbott**

Mika Abbott (she/her) is a Canadian lens-based artist and arts worker residing in Regina, Saskatchewan, Treaty 4 Territory. She graduated from the University of Regina with Distinction in 2020 with a Bachelor of Fine Art, where she specialized in photography and printmaking. Her film photography practice is conceptually driven by themes of identity, place, and the nuanced relationships between intimate spaces and cultural values. Mika has served in various positions across Regina's Art community, including Dunlop Art Gallery, Neutral Ground, Nuit Blanche Regina, and

Royal Saskatchewan Museum. She is currently supported by the 2024-2025 CARFAC Foundational Mentorship program under the guidance of Risa Horowitz.

### **Colton Bates**

Colton Bates grew up farming with his family in Saskatchewan on Treaty 4 Territory. In 2015 he completed a Masters in the field of Cinema Studies at the University of Toronto. With these experiences he has worked as a land-based educator, a lecturer on topics of popular culture and an independent programmer of screen-based media. He is, however more than the product of where he has lived, what he has done and how he writes about it. Colton Bates is a film writer

### **Miranda Derkson**

Miranda Derkson (She/Her) is an Accountant currently pursuing a Master's in Professional Accounting. She is a recent graduate of the University of Regina with a BBA in Accounting with Great Distinction. She casually works with ceramics and digital art, with focuses in feminist perspectives, agriculture, and nature.

Miranda works in agricultural accounting, providing tax and financial statement preparation services to farmers across southern Saskatchewan. As a woman who's passionate about promoting women's leadership, she founded the Women in Finance Initiative through the Hill School of Business

### **Savannah Downs**

My name is Savannah Downs (she/her). I hold a Bachelor of Arts in English with Great Distinction from the University of Regina and a Juris Doctor with Great Distinction from the University of Saskatchewan. I have been practicing law as a civil litigator with the Government of Saskatchewan for about a year and a half. During law school, I volunteered with community-based organizations, including a legal clinic for low-income individuals and a project aimed at raising awareness about sexual violence. As a 27-year-old who was raised in Regina and currently lives and works downtown, I have an interest in supporting arts and culture in my community (and preventing Scarth Street Mall from becoming a parking lot). Although I do not have prior experience on a Board, I believe my education, work, and volunteer experience, and desire to invest in my community would make me an asset to Neutral Ground's HR Committee, particularly in the area of policy development.

### **Robin Lynch**

Robin Lynch is a curator and arts worker based in Treaty 4. She has a PhD in Modern and Contemporary art history from McGill University and an MA in Curatorial Studies from Bard College, NY. She has had the privilege of working with folks from institutions including the Smithsonian American Art Museum, DC; National Gallery of Canada, ON; Grey Projects, Singapore; Henie Onstad Kunstsenter, Norway; Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, QC; Hessel Museum of Art, NY; Art Gallery of Grande Prairie, AB; Art Gallery of Regina, SK, and more.

### **Audie Murray**

Audie Murray is a visual artist who works with a multitude of mediums such as sculpture, media, beadwork and drawing. Her practice is informed by the process of making and visiting to explore themes of contemporary culture, embodied experiences and lived dualities. These modes of working assist with the recentering of our collective connection to bodies, ancestral knowledge systems, and relationality. Murray is Cree-Métis from the Lebret and Meadow Lake communities located on Treaty 4 & 6 territories and is currently based in Oskana kâ-asastêki (Regina, Saskatchewan). She holds a BFA from the University of Regina and an MFA from the University of Calgary. She is represented by Fazakas Gallery in Vancouver, B.C.

### **Sage Wosminity**

Sage Wosminity (she/her) is a local art writer who holds a Bachelor of Arts Honours in Art History from the University of Regina and is currently pursuing a second degree in Psychology. She has curated exhibitions at the University of Regina and Neutral Ground Artist Run Centre. She has several years of experience working for local arts organizations such as Neutral Ground and the Art Gallery of Regina. Sage's written work has also been featured in BlackFlash Magazine.

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## **Financial Statements:**

At the time of writing we are awaiting an audited financial statement. Grant Thornton LLP will present NG's Financial Statements for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.