

MARIA LEGAULT - Toronto, Canada

Maria Legault is an inter-disciplinary artist that has hidden in a brown paper bag, gotten married to a life-size puppet and stuffed crevices with pink icing.

She holds a BFA from Concordia University and a MFA from the University of Guelph and is currently a PhD candidate at UQAM.

Her work has been exhibited nationally and internationally in such venues as Mercer Union, Nuit Blanche, Western Front, Inter-Access, Forest City Gallery, 7a11d Performance Festival, Rodman Hall, Studio XX, and the Toronto Alternative Art Fair International in Canada as well as the Musée de Strasbourg in France and the Castle of the Imagination performance festival in Poland.

Maria was awarded the "Best Emerging Artist Award" at the Untitled Art Awards of Toronto in 2005 and the Scotia Bank's People's Choice Prize in the commissioned works category, Nuit Blanche in 2009. She has received grants from the Toronto Arts Council, the Ontario Arts Council and the Canada Council for the Arts.

Her work has been reviewed in numerous media outlets such as Canadian Art, The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Globe and Mail, The Toronto Star, Radio Canada, Revu Esse Art, The Canadian Theatre Review and Now Magazine.

CHARMAINE WHEATLEY - New York, USA

A graduate of the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, Canadian born performance artist Charmaine Wheatley has been based in New York City since 1997.

A series of public gestures/interventions in Halifax, Nova Scotia (1995-7); Amsterdam (2000); and Winnipeg, Manitoba (2001) earned Wheatley the label "performance provocateuse."

From 2002 through 2005, Charmaine collaborated with sound artist, Taketo Shimada, performing in New York City at Whitebox Gallery, SubTONIC, Emily Harvey Gallery, The Knitting Factory, and New York University.

Wheatley's paintings, drawings, sculptures and bookworks have been exhibited widely. Her bookwork "Beau Fleuve: The Heart of North America," based on a 4 month residency in Buffalo NY (2006) all of which was largely made possible by being awarded a generous grant from The Canada Council for the Arts. In 2010 her Chapbook titled "30% of Buffalo," was published by Booklyn Artists Alliance.

A 2010 summer artist-in-residence at Pace University in downtown New York City is followed by a September exhibition and performance that runs concurrent with an exhibiton and performance at reinraum e.V. in Düsseldorf, Germany. This work marks Wheatley's return to formal performance practise that incorporates drawing and printed matter.

ULYSSES CASTELLANOS - Toronto, Canada

Ulysses Castellanos is a multidisciplinary artist and independent curator living and working in Toronto. His work encompasses new media, film, video, music, performance, painting, photography and sculpture-installation, oftentimes combining these elements into elaborate performance art projects.

The central aim of his art practice is to demystify established cultural constructs by involving the viewer in the (often humorous) debunking of idealized images, concepts and paradigms. Castellanos culls images from films, television, literature and popular music and transposes these elements into a performance art setting, where they are manipulated, juxtaposed, contrasted and collided against each other, thereby eliciting a shift in perception and understanding.

Recent shows include Exercises In Failure Vol II: Clown Torture Revisited, at 7A*11D International Festival of Performance Art, I Was a Human Pinata at Nakai Theater in Yukon Territory, The Life and Death of ID at McMaster Museum of Art, Panda Spa , Into The Void and Xibalba at Nuit Blanche (2006 - 2010) in Toronto, Love and Hate: New Crowned Glory in The GTA at the Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art curated by David Liss and Camilla Singh, the Konkordja Biennial of Young Artists in Vrsac, Yugoslavia, and performances at The Museum of Canadian Contemporary Art, curated by Camilla Singh and Istvan Kantor.

Curatorial efforts include Death...It's Out There, featuring works by Jack Burman, Jubal Brown, Greg Staats, Su-Ying Lee, Juliana Schewe, Gareth Brown-Jowett and Emily Gove. Matt Bahen's Fatal Surveillance (with collaborative works by Matt Bahen and John Scott) at A Space gallery in Toronto, Rules of The Game, a video installation by Mexican artist Gustavo Artigas in conjunction with Images Festival of film, video and new media, and "Edible Women" featuring works by Jennifer Matotek, Cecilia Berkovich and Maria Legault at De Leon White Gallery. Ulysses was Shortlisted for the 2005 Untitled Art Awards "Emerging Curator Award". Ulysses completed a curatorial residence at Gallery TPW in 2007, through the Assistance to Culturally Diverse Curators grant from the Canada Council for The Arts, where he developed web-based programming within the environment of TPW's YouTube channel, as well as gallery shows and an offsite project with the youth of St. Jamestown, the most densely-populated neighborhood in Canada. Ulysses recently completed the Telus Interactive Art and Entertainment Program at the Canadian Film Centre, where he worked with physical computing and interactive technology to create USB – powered interactive sculptures. He is a member of the IKT International Curator's Association.