

Esmaa Mohamoud

Born 1992, London, ON, Canada

Lives and works in Toronto, ON, Canada

EDUCATION

2016 Master of Fine Arts, Interdisciplinary Program, OCAD University, Toronto, ON, Canada

2014 Bachelor of Fine Arts, Honours Specialization in Studio Arts, Western University, London, ON, Canada

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2025 *What Does Webster's Say About Soul?* Robert Projects, Los Angeles, CA

2024 *Complex Dreams*, The Broad Art Museum, East Lansing, Michigan

2023 *Let Them Consume Me In The Light*, Kavi Gupta | Elizabeth St., Chicago, IL

2022 *To Play In The Face of Certain Defeat*, Winnipeg Art Gallery, Winnipeg, Canada

It Cannot Always Be Night, Arsenal Contemporary, New York, NY

2021 *To Play in The Face of Certain Defeat*, Ottawa Art Gallery, Ottawa, Ontario, CA

2021 *Double Dribble*, The Bentway Signature Public Art Commission, Toronto, ON, Canada

2019 *To Play in the Face of Certain Defeat*, Museum London, ON, Canada, traveling to: Art Gallery of Hamilton, Ottawa Art Gallery and Winnipeg Art Gallery, Canada, through 2023 (publication)

2018 *ELEMENT*, Georgia Scherman Projects, Toronto, ON, Canada

The Draft, Institute for the Humanities, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, USA

Three-Peat, Ild los angeles, Los Angeles, CA, USA

2016 *#000000 VIOLENCE*, YYZ Artists' Outlet, Toronto, ON, Canada

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2026 *Sports Culture*, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, California (2024-25); Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, Arkansas (2025-26); and Perez Art Museum, Miami, Florida
Game On, Aga Khan Museum, North York, Ontario

2025 *Sport and Spectator*, The McNay Museum, San Antonio, Texas

Sports, Sports, Sports, Art Windsor Essex Gallery, Windsor, Ontario

2024 *Resistance Training*, Eli and Edith Broad Art Museum, East Lansing, Michigan

2023 *Disembodied*, Nicodim Gallery, New York, New York

Resistance Training, Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, East Lansing, Michigan

2022 *Collection Showcase // Esmaa Mohamoud, The Dark Knight*, The Art Gallery of Hamilton, Hamilton ON

In These Truths, co-curated by Edreys Wajed and Aitina Fareed-Cooke, in collaboration with Curator of Public Art Aaron Ott, Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY, USA

Garmenting: Costume as Contemporary Art, curated by Dr. Alexandra Schwartz, Ph.D., Museum of Arts and Design, New York, NY, USA

2021 *Scotiabank Contact Photography Festival*, Toronto, Canada

2020 *Aliens with Extraordinary Abilities*, curated by Tak Pham, MacKenzie Art Gallery, Regina, SK, Canada

To the Hoop: Basketball and Contemporary Art, Weatherspoon Art Museum, University of North Carolina, Greensboro, NC, USA

2019 *Here We Are Here: Black Canadian Contemporary Art*, curated by Julie Crooks, Dominique Fontaine, Silvia Forni, Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Halifax, NS, Canada; travelling from the Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, ON, Canada

2019 *Self, Made*, Exploratorium, San Francisco, CA, USA

2018 *My Silences Had Not Protected Me*, part of *For Freedoms: 50 State Initiative*, Fort Gansevoort, New York, NY, USA

Cry for Victory and Short Walks to Freedom, curated by Modou Dieng (projects+Gallery), part of *For Freedoms: 50 State Initiative*, Kranzberg Center for Arts, St. Louis, MI, USA (billboard and publication)

Here We Are Here: Black Canadian Contemporary Art, Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, ON, Canada,

- traveling to Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, Montreal, QC, Canada (publication)
- 2017 *Every. Now. Then: Reframing Nationhood*, Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, ON, Canada (publication)
- 2016 *Solace*, The Gladstone Gallery, Toronto, ON, Canada

AWARDS AND RESIDENCIES

- 2021 Artist Residency, Kehinde Wiley's Black Rock Senegal, Dakar, Senegal
- 2019 Artist Prize, Toronto Friends of the Visual Arts
- 2018 William and Meredith Saunderson Prize for Emerging Artists, Hnatyshyn Foundation
Artist Residency, Institute for the Humanities, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, USA
- 2017 SSHRC Grant, Arts Against PostRacialism Project, McGill University, Montreal, QC, Canada
Artist Residency, Drake Devonshire, Wellington, ON, Canada
- 2016 Nora E. Vaughan Award, OCAD University, Toronto, ON, Canada
Medal Winner, Interdisciplinary Arts, Media & Design Graduate Award, OCAD University, Toronto, ON, Canada

PUBLIC PROJECTS

- 2021 Solo billboard and sculpture, Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival, Toronto, ON, Canada
- 2019 *Bryan Espiritu and Esmaa Mohamoud: Peace for the Past, Reach for the Future*, Nuit Blanche Toronto, Raptors 25th Anniversary, co-commissioned by the Toronto Raptors and City of Toronto, ON, Canada

SELECTED PRESS AND PUBLICATIONS

- 2023 Shawn Ghassemitari, Esmaa Mohamoud Probes Into "Black Body Politics" in New Kavi Gupta Exhibition" July 12.
- 2022 Glvani, Shinan. "Can't Believe it's Shea Butter: Esmaa Mohamoud's Surprising Sculpture." *Toronto Star*, October 30.
Gillmore, Alison. "Blackness and the Deceptive Seduction of Professional Athletics." *Galleries West*, August 8.
Dubé-Moreau, Florence-Agathe. "In the Studio with Canadian Artist Esmaa Mohamoud." *Elle*, July 21.
Beauford, Sean. "8 Rising Artists Using Basketball to Address Social Injustices." *Artsy*, June 10.
- 2021 Forthcoming publication, *Here We Are Here: Black Canadian Contemporary Art*, curated by Julie Crooks, Dominique Fontaine, Silvia Forni, Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, ON, Canada.
- 2020 Sheppard, Samantha N. "Sporting Blackness: Race, Embodiment, and Critical Muscle Memory on Screen." *University of California Press*, 2020.
- 2019 Reeve, Charles. "How Artist Esmaa Mohamoud Reveals the Dark Heart of America Athletics." *Frieze Magazine*, March, Issue 201.
- 2018 Davidson, Meghan. "Stay Mad Baby: Esmaa Mohamoud confronts injustice—and her critics." *S/magazine*, summer issue, pp. 48-49.
Gagnon-Paradis, Iris. "Esmaa Mohamoud: render tangible l'intangible," *LaPresse.ca*, May 22.
Nuttie, Rupert. "Esmaa Mohmaoud: Three-Peat..." *C Magazine*, Summer Issue 47, pp. 46-47.
- 2017 Loisseau, Benoit. "meet the artist who dresses basketball players in ball gowns." *Vice i-D*, December 15.
Flack, Derek. "The top 10 artists to check out at Art Toronto this year." *blogTO*, October 27.
"Strange Fruit." *Transition Magazine*, Issue 124, Harvard University, October 27.
"One of The Boys." *Metro Toronto*.
Parris, Amanda. "Why Esmaa Mohamoud is bringing blackness and basketball into the Gallery." *CBC*, July 20.
Rattan, Chris. "AGO exhibition reframes the idea of Canada." *NOW magazine*, July 5.
Whyte, Murray. "Canada revisited at the Art Gallery of Ontario." *Toronto Star*, July 3.
Castelo, Krista. "What to See at Every.Now.Then: Reframing Nationhood at the AGO." *Toronto.com*, June 27.
Reframing Nationhood. The Art Gallery Ontario, 2016.
- 2016 Cascone, Sarah. "14 Emerging Women Artists to Watch in 2017." *Artnet*, December 21.
Lee, Yaniya. "How Canada Forgot Its Black Artists." *The Fader*, August 3.
Mistry, Anupa. "Sports Culture Is the Catalyst for Esmaa Mohamoud's Art." *The Fader*, March 31.