



**Art Spin Announces its Roster of Artists for Public Sweat  
A community experience of art, saunas, and sweat bathing  
Harbourfront Centre, March 15 to April 23**

**March 2, 2023, Toronto, ON** | The creative team behind Art Spin, a Toronto-based arts organization, today announced the artists of Public Sweat, a participatory sauna experience and platform for contemporary art set to open this month at Harbourfront Centre. Art Spin has commissioned five artist-designed saunas for visitors to experience at Public Sweat by **FASTWÜRMS, Chris Foster, Simone Jones, Christie Pearson and SHEEEP.**

A variety of artworks from across artistic disciplines will also be exhibited throughout the Public Sweat event space. Featured artists include **Mitchell Akiyama, Ghazaleh Avarzamani, Kenneth Bamberg, Tone Bjordam, Chloë Cheuk, Lisa Cristinzo, Rob Cruickshank, Vanessa Dion Fletcher, Rihab Essayh, Stein Henningsen, Pia Lindman, Ruth Kaplan, Sami Kero, Mari Keski-Korsu, Alex McLeod, Wrik Mead, Jussi Puikkonen, Stefan Randstrom, and Shaheer Zazai.**

There will also be live ambient music performances every Thursday night to complement the Public Sweat post-sauna resting experience as part of a sound bath performance series programmed by **Akash Bansal.** Sound bath artists will include **LordAUK & Ozone, New Chance, NPNP, and Pomelo,** with more artists to be announced. On April 12, 13 and 14, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., visitors will experience **SOoUp,** live musical performances programmed by **The Music Gallery** with a side of complimentary homemade soup.

Public Sweat takes place from March 15 to April 23, at Harbourfront Centre, Toronto. Visit the [Public Sweat website](#) to book a session and learn more.

“Artists were invited to this project based on their relationship to sauna culture and related themes in their past works, in addition to their experience in sculpture, architecture and social practice,” said **Rui Pimenta,** Co-Director and Co-Curator of Art Spin. “Some people describe the feeling they have after a good sauna as a type of euphoria, what a perfect mode to be in for an immersive art experience,” added **Layne Hinton,** Co-Director and Co-Curator of Art Spin. “Art Spin has always been interested in creating immersive art experiences that invigorate and engage the city in a meaningful way.”

**What to Expect in the Public Sweat Outdoor Sauna Village**

**#VOLCANO\_LOV3R by FASTWÜRMS**

**FASTWÜRMS’ Kim Kozzi and Dai Skuse** have transformed the exterior of the recognizable barrel sauna with a large-scale acrylic painting on canvas tarpaulins. Inspired by the intense heat and transformative qualities associated with the sauna experience, this work incorporates the motif of the volcano and the explosive impact of its eruptive and earth making powers in a manner rich with a full spectrum of colour.



***A Caress Before Dawn* by Rihab Essayh**

**Rihab Essayh's** Public Sweat project, *A Caress Before Dawn*, demonstrates the artists' keen interest in creating immersive environments. In this case, she has created a contemplative cool down space where sweat bathers can go to rest and reacclimate their body temperature while bathing in the rich colour of textiles hand dyed by the artist. This is an unheated resting space within the sauna village. Inspired by principles of care, empathy and belonging, Essayh's space explores a sense of "radical softness," a concept that positions the showing of emotions and vulnerability as a political gesture in a society that prioritizes intellect and indifference.

***Abandoned Splendour* by Simone Jones** brings together her passion for film history, video, sculpture and electronics, with an interest in the nature of perception to create a cinematic sauna experience in a form inspired by Victorian-era industrial wood burners. "My sauna, *Abandoned Splendor*, positions these former industrial giants as spaces of contemplation, loss and wonder," says Jones, whose design will be enhanced through an intimate soundscape by collaborating artist **Mitchell Akiyama**.

***Garmabeh* by SHEEEP** references ancient Iranian bath houses that were an important social setting for centuries prior to the introduction of piped water. ***Garmabeh*** creates a structure of intricate geometries and materials to make a space that speaks to traditional Iranian medicine's four main temperaments; hot, cold, dry and wet. SHEEEP is an experimental studio by **Reza Nik** and **Connor Stevens**, working at the intersection of community, culture and architecture.

***Geospheric Sweatbath* by Christie Pearson** connects bathing, utopian communities, and the DIY spirit. Pearson, an artist and architect, is the author of *Architecture of Bathing: Body, Landscape, Art* (MIT Press 2020) and her extensive world travels in pursuit of diverse bathing practices has led to her design that pairs architectural geometry with rich natural materials.

***Mobile Sweat* by Chris Foster** has combined his interest in the social possibilities connected to sauna culture with his experience building saunas to convert a used utility trailer into both a sauna and a vessel for other layers of arts programming. Foster's nomadic wood-fired mobile sauna design includes an embedded video screen and sound system to allow for further artistic interventions and collaborations. The exterior of the mobile sauna will feature a photographic work by Finnish artist **Sami Kero** presented with support from the Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival.

Art Spin recently presented Chris Foster's nomadic sauna as part of a curated Mobile Sweat experience, featuring sound and video art, at the Festival of Cool at Harbourfront Centre for the finale to Harbourfront's year-long cultural initiative, Nordic Bridges, fostering cultural exchange between the Nordic region and Canada.

A specially commissioned Public Sweat anthology, a small collection of texts selected by **mg hamilton**, will be available for participants to peruse in the lounge, or to purchase as part of an edition. The publication features bathing-related texts by contributors **Letticia Cosbert Miller**, **Peter Morin**, **Jamie Ross**, and **Fan Wu**.



**Harvia Sauna Stoves and an Almost Heaven Barrel Sauna will provide the heat at Public Sweat.** Sauna Specialist, a leading Ontario and Quebec-based supplier for saunas, sauna equipment and accessories has partnered with Public Sweat by providing sauna stoves designed by Finnish company, Harvia. They have also provided a Finnish-designed Almost Heaven Barrel Sauna which will be enveloped in art at the event.

**Relaxa by Thermëa Spa Village | Whitby.** Thermëa Spa Village | Whitby has designed an innovative relaxation space that borrows from the natural elements and greenery of the spa village, providing Public Sweat guests a moment of rest as they enjoy the art and music presented in the indoor lounge.

**SoCIAL LITE Vodka at Public Sweat.** Public Sweat guests are encouraged to connect with others and get social after their sauna and sweat bathing experience with SoCIAL LITE Vodka, Canada's Original Vodka Soda. Guests can enjoy their favourite vodka soda flavours available for sale at the bar, and sample some unique new offerings from the brand on Saturdays.

#### **Tickets**

Single tickets to Public Sweat range from \$25-35 with options to purchase 4-Pass tickets for multiple visits. Ticket prices include all applicable fees and taxes.

#### **Connect & Share**

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Harbourfront Centre is the venue partner for Public Sweat. Public Sweat receives funding support from: The Government of Ontario; the Canada Council for the Arts; the Government of Canada; the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund, a program of the Government of Ontario through the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport; the City of Toronto through the Toronto Arts Council; the Ontario Arts Council, an agency of the Government of Ontario; and Waterfront Toronto.

#### **ABOUT ART SPIN | [artspin.ca](http://artspin.ca)**

Since 2009, Art Spin has been activating decommissioned venues and unique public spaces to produce ephemeral projects, curated exhibitions, and bicycle-led art tours. Programming site-specifically, across disciplines in alternative spaces, is at the core of their curatorial methodology and their desire to make the audience experience more engaging while reimagining the possibilities of public art in the process. Art Spin is behind some of Toronto's most exciting contemporary art events including the in/future festival at Ontario place in 2016 and the downtown exhibition area for Nuit Blanche in 2019, along with a whole host of projects and exhibitions; Holding Patterns, the Tower Automotive Building Exhibition and the Kajama tall-ship art tour - to name but a few.



**MEDIA INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES**

There will be opportunities for site tours and interviews with Rui Pimenta and Layne Hinton, Co-Directors and Co-Curators of Art Spin.

**MEDIA INQUIRIES**

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