

Bio



b. 1985, Toronto, ON, Canada
Lives and works in New York City.

Andrew Patterson is a Canadian visual artist, designer, and educator exploring themes of ambiguity and plurality through the lens of multi-racial identity and cultural syncretism.

Andrew has exhibited and curated both in the United States and Canada, including many solo, split, and group exhibitions in New York City and Toronto. He has won back to back awards for public arts proposals from NXT City in Toronto (2016, 2017), and has been recognized for his design work on DesignRush in '22 and '23. The connection between his practice and his design work grew with the co-founding of his creative shop Wysp Creative, which would go on to host pop-ups, exhibitions, and photoshoots, as well as providing studio space and full-service print production for local artists in the Junction neighbourhood of Toronto. He became the inaugural artist-in-residence at Collective Arts Toronto in 2022.

Starting in 2015, Andrew began working with Toronto non-profit Jamii Esplanade, a wonderful grassroots public arts organization creating local cultural programming across the visual arts, music, performance, and craft. They have collaborated on several community murals, travelling theatre hubs, and international community exchange projects, as well as countless round tables, exhibits, and workshops. This growing love for community work and paying it forward as a part of his evolving practice would eventually lead him into formal academic teaching.

Andrew began teaching Illustration Disciplines and Design Principles at Sheridan College's celebrated Illustration BAA program in 2020. He holds a BAA in both Animation and Illustration respectively from Sheridan College (Toronto), and is working through completing his MFA in Fine Arts Studio Practice at the School of Visual Arts (NYC).

Andrew lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.

Artist's statement

*"We need new fiction, babe
We need to find our own way"*

- Yukimi Nagano

Identity is at the core of everything we do, yet we continue to struggle with that which can't be organized in its own neatly labeled box. Black or White? Left or Right? High or Low? Art or Craft? As a mixed-race child of adoption, I've long found myself straddling spaces, experiencing dissonance between who I am and how I appear. I've lived a shade of the black experience; but I don't feel black. My parents and upbringing are white, but I don't feel white. As an artist, I've become driven to use my practice to explore and express the perspectives that grow in the gray in-between worlds that mixed-race individuals often inhabit.

I'm a story-teller and a visual communicator - I honed my visual problem-solving skills in commercial art, but the focus of my practice leverages hard-earned technical ability and a passionate love of both the so-called low arts and the canon of art history to locate myself in the field and forge a path ahead. I'm interested in challenging distinctions and discrepancies in contemporary art, and the super-flattening of culture in today's hyper-connected world. I question how it can be that things are as connected, fluid and nebulous as ever and yet as starkly polarized as I've witnessed in my lifetime.

Exploring these ideas through dialogue-informed portraiture, abstraction, and semiotics is my way of challenging binaries. Shape and colour (or its absence), line and pattern, language and data are my tools, dimension and boundary my targets. Outsider subcultures are the font of my influence and inspiration, and global mythologies and schools of the occult offer insights into the threads between us. I want to follow those threads to their thresholds and pull on them to see what lies beyond, and maybe draw some new connecting fibres in their place.

- Andrew Patterson, 2025

Andrew Patterson

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CV

Education

MFA Fine Arts 2024-2026 (In Progress) - School of Visual Arts, NYC
BAA Honours Illustration 2007-09 - Sheridan College, Oakville ON
BAA Honours Animation 2003-07 - Sheridan College, Oakville ON

Teaching

BAA Honours Illustration - Sheridan College, Oakville ON

Solo/Split Exhibitions

2022 Mixed Blood Manifesto | Northern Contemporary, Toronto, ON
Spin Cycle (split w/ Dave Murray & Lucas Declavasio) | She Said Gallery, Toronto, ON
2019 Angles | Our Gallery, Toronto, ON
2014 Analog (split w/ Andy Kittmer) | #Hashtag Gallery, Toronto, ON
2012 Fracture: The Art of Andrew Patterson | #Hashtag Gallery, Toronto, ON

Group Exhibitions

2024 A New York Game of Mind | The Local Gallery, New York City, NY
In the Paint | The Local Gallery, Toronto, ON
2023 In-Season | The Local Gallery, New York City, NY
#DoubleU | The Local Gallery, Toronto, ON
2020 Out of Order | Crybaby, Toronto, ON
2018 Coalition | DCP Studios, Toronto, ON
WILD | The Clock Factory, Toronto, ON
2017 Home (Curation) | Steamwhistle Roundhouse, Toronto, ON
5 | #Hashtag Gallery, Toronto, ON
2015 Surface | 99 Sudbury, Toronto, ON
Nesting | Artscape Youngplace, Toronto, ON
Aries 27° | 416 Gallery, Toronto, ON
2012 Intimate Gestures | Studio 507, Toronto, ON
2010 The Skateboard Art Show | Loose Cannon Gallery, Hamilton, ON

Residencies

2022 Collective Arts Artist-in-residence, Toronto, ON

Public Art Projects

2019 Wind Stories (Wolfe Island) | with Jamii Esplanade, Toronto, ON
2018 At Heart (film) | with Jamii Esplanade, Toronto, ON
2017 Footprint | with Jamii Esplanade, Toronto, ON
2016 Nuit Blanche, Patchwork Village | with Jamii Esplanade, Toronto, ON
2008 Style in Progress 2008 | Style In Progress
