

Bio



b. 1985, Toronto, ON, Canada

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. His practice synthesizes his formal art training in painting and drawing with his experience as a professional graphic designer to erase boundaries separating different modes of making.

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 bridge between his practice and his design work blossomed with the co-founding of his creative agency Wysp Creative, which has hosted pop-ups, exhibitions, and photo shoots, as well as providing studio space and full-service print production for local artists. 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 lauded public arts organization creating local cultural programming across the visual arts, music, performance, and craft. They have collaborated on several community murals, traveling 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 completed his MFA in Fine Arts at the School of Visual Arts (NYC).

Andrew lives and works between Toronto and NYC.

Artist's statement

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

- Yukimi Nagano, *Little Dragon*

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 lived a shade of both black and white experiences. This state of flux has afforded me a broad spectrum of perspective and an awareness of the mutability of identity. As an artist, I use my practice to explore and express that which lives in the gray in-between spaces - worlds that mixed-race individuals often inhabit.

I'm a story-teller and a visual communicator - I honed my visual problem-solving skills in illustration and design and trained formally in painting and drawing. My practice combines hard-earned technical ability with a passionate love of both the so-called low arts and the fine art tradition; a union expressed in how I synthesize aspects of figurative painting, abstraction, craft, and graphic design in my work. 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 things can be 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 semiotic systems is my way of challenging binaries. Slipping through different modes of art-making provides me the freedom to draw connections across boundaries. Outsider subcultures are the source 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 my wake.

- Andrew Patterson, 2026

CV

Education

MFA Fine Arts 2024-2026 - 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

- 2026 Angels Inside | *The Sue Tear*, New York City, NY
HEAT | *Hala*, Brooklyn, NY
Compounding Interest | *SVA Chelsea Gallery*, New York City, NY
- 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

- 2026 On the Move | with *StART Toronto*, *Astrosankofa Arts Initiatives*, Toronto, ON
- 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*
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