

Hot Ticket

Fun and mind-expanding things to do this season
by GREGORY FURGALA

Doors Open Toronto May 23 & 24

Toronto is blessed with an abundance of engaging architecture, but we seldom venture past the facade. Doors Open changes that, inviting enthusiasts and looky-loos unsatisfied by street views to explore local landmarks and fresh additions to the city. Tops on our list: Lokaal (pictured below), a contemporary co-working space designed by Dubbeldam Architecture + Design (although we may be biased – the firm designed our office, too).

We've made room for new faves, though. This year's theme, Open TO Music, brings in a pair of can't-miss spaces: Revolution

Recording Studio and the El Mocambo. The former, opened in 2011, won the praise of Rush's Neil Peart, who declared the cherrywood-clad studio the best he ever recorded in. The "El Mo" – opened in 1948 and nearly closed in 2014 – has hosted legends like the Ramones, Tom Waits and, in a surprise show, the Rolling Stones. Now that it's been renovated, the show can go on – and we're all invited. TORONTO.CA



MORE DESIGNY EVENTS

Architecture and Quality of Life To May 8

What do a floating schoolhouse in Bangladesh, wetland restoration in the UAE and a museum in Palestine have in common? Last year, all won an Aga Khan Award for Architecture. This spring, they'll also feature in an exhibition at U of T's Larry Wayne Richards Gallery, which will show photographs and videos of 2019's winners. daniels.utoronto.ca

OCAD U GradEx Apr 29–May 3

Ever hear those stories of people buying a Picasso or Dali before they were famous? *Be that buyer!* Spread across several buildings on campus, OCAD U grads exhibit their theses, giving savvy collectors the chance to support an emerging artist and buy an unrecognized masterpiece for a song. ocadu.ca/gradex

Scotiabank Contact Photography Festival May 1–31

Throughout May, photographers take over galleries, museums and cultural centres for the largest event of its kind. Provocative work abounds: Spanish artist Laia Abril will premiere her new series, "On Rape," while public installations will imagine the natural world of the near future. scotiabankcontactphoto.com

The Cloth that Changed the World: India's Painted and Printed Cottons To Sept 27

The intricate fabrics that were *de rigueur* in 19th-century Europe were native to India, one of the world's casualties of imperial expansion. With pieces from its own collection and international loans, the ROM explores how Indian textiles shaped the contours of the world. rom.on.ca

Hot Docs Festival Apr 30–May 10

From humble beginnings, Hot Docs has emerged as the largest documentary film festival in North America, with more than 200 films screened annually. This year's Made In program features films from Northern Ireland, while legendary Canadian documentary filmmaker Raymonde Provencher will be the subject of 2020's Focus On retrospective. hotdocs.ca

AZ Awards Jun 19

A decade in, the AZ Awards are stronger than ever. This year, jurists Luca Nichetto, Stephanie Davidson, Omar Gandhi, Mia Lehrer and Marion Weiss will apply their expertise to the selection of winners across 20 different categories in architecture, design and more. The guest of honour at the gala, held at Evergreen Brick Works, is British-Ghanaian architect Sir David Adjaye. awards.azuremagazine.com