

SAW Video Association Board of Directors 2020/21 nominated slate:

The Board's nominating committee reviewed nominations received during our call for Board members. We are proposing to elect two new directors this year – Kathryn Desplaque, and Deborah Margo, and to re-elect one current director for an additional term - Sifiso Nobela.

Sifiso Nobela is currently vice chair of the SAW Video Board.

For those who do not know him: Sifiso holds an international diploma in film direction from Center for Research in Art of Film and Television in India. He's a skilled photographer, director and producer with seven years' experience. He founded the Mpumalanga International Film Festival (MIFF) in South Africa in 2013 with an aim of providing a platform for the industry to grow and local artists to express themselves. Prior to MIFF, he worked as a film and video manager at the Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation in the Film Office focusing on funding for film, scriptwriting and directing. His film credits include working as location manager for a feature film, Liphutsa Lami, which was screened on Dstv's Mzansi Magic. Sifiso has been a SAW Video member since 2016.

Standing for a first term is **Kathryn Desplanque**. Kathryn is an art historian, artist, and activist raised in South Keys, Ottawa. After earning her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Studio Arts, Kathryn earned her doctorate in the history of visual culture and art worlds from Duke University. She comes to SAW Video with a diverse background in curation, public programming, and assessment and evaluation at art institutions across North America. Kathryn is an avid participant in SAW Video's workshops and programming, which have expanded her digital illustration-based practice into the realms of screenwriting and animation.

“Growing up in Ottawa, SAW Video played a pivotal role in my conception of what it means to be an artist. When I returned to Ottawa after nine years of living in the United States, I immediately enrolled in a SAW Video workshop – *Principles of Hand Drawn Animation* offered by Tyler Goodman. From then on, SAW Video has played a pivotal role in my reintroduction to Ottawa’s arts community and has invigorated my art practice. I have, quite simply, fallen in love with this space and its staff.

I’m ecstatic at this opportunity to give back to SAW Video, and to continue to learn from this institution in a new capacity. My values align strongly with SAW Video’s core principles to promote equity and diversity in an accessible and independent artist-run environment constituted by, governed by, and accountable to, its membership and the community. I’ve accumulated a diverse background in public programming, project management, assessment and evaluation, and diversity and accessibility through my work in academia, museums, and community organizing. I’m eager to collaborate with all of you to support your vision for SAW Video’s intervention in Canada’s artistic landscape.”

To fill the third vacancy, **Deborah Margo** will be standing for election, also for a first term with SAW Video:

Born in Montreal, Deborah Margo lives in Ottawa. She has a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Concordia University and a Master of Fine Arts from Temple University/Tyler School of Art in Philadelphia. She has also studied at the Haystack School of Crafts in Deer Isle, Maine and the Banff Centre in Banff, Alberta. She is a part-time faculty member in the Department of Visual Arts, at the University of Ottawa, where she has taught courses in studio arts to undergraduate and graduate students. Her writing on the visual arts has been published in various periodicals, monographs and exhibition essays.

Finally, during the spring, summer and fall she also works as a gardener designing, planting and maintaining gardens in the Ottawa Valley.

Deborah's practice combines different disciplines including sculpture, drawing and ephemeral installations, questioning architectural, historical, urban and rural contexts of public and private spaces. Her working process is both conceptual and intuitive, based on research yet open to so-called accidents. Time, change and touch are key preoccupations. Elements of sound, light, the growing of plants, the making of plant dyes, have become the means for combining technology and organic matter. Recent exhibitions have been collaborative installations with Annette Hegel in Ottawa, Toronto, Maberly and Hillier/Prince Edward County.

"I have been following SAW Video's growth over the past few years, attending talks, workshops, screenings, sitting on a jury, helping advise peer artists in the editing suite. What better way to support SAWVideo, at this pivotal point in time, but by being of service on its Board? For me, being an active board member is one of the best ways to represent, encourage and give back to my community. I am excited by what I can offer and learn."