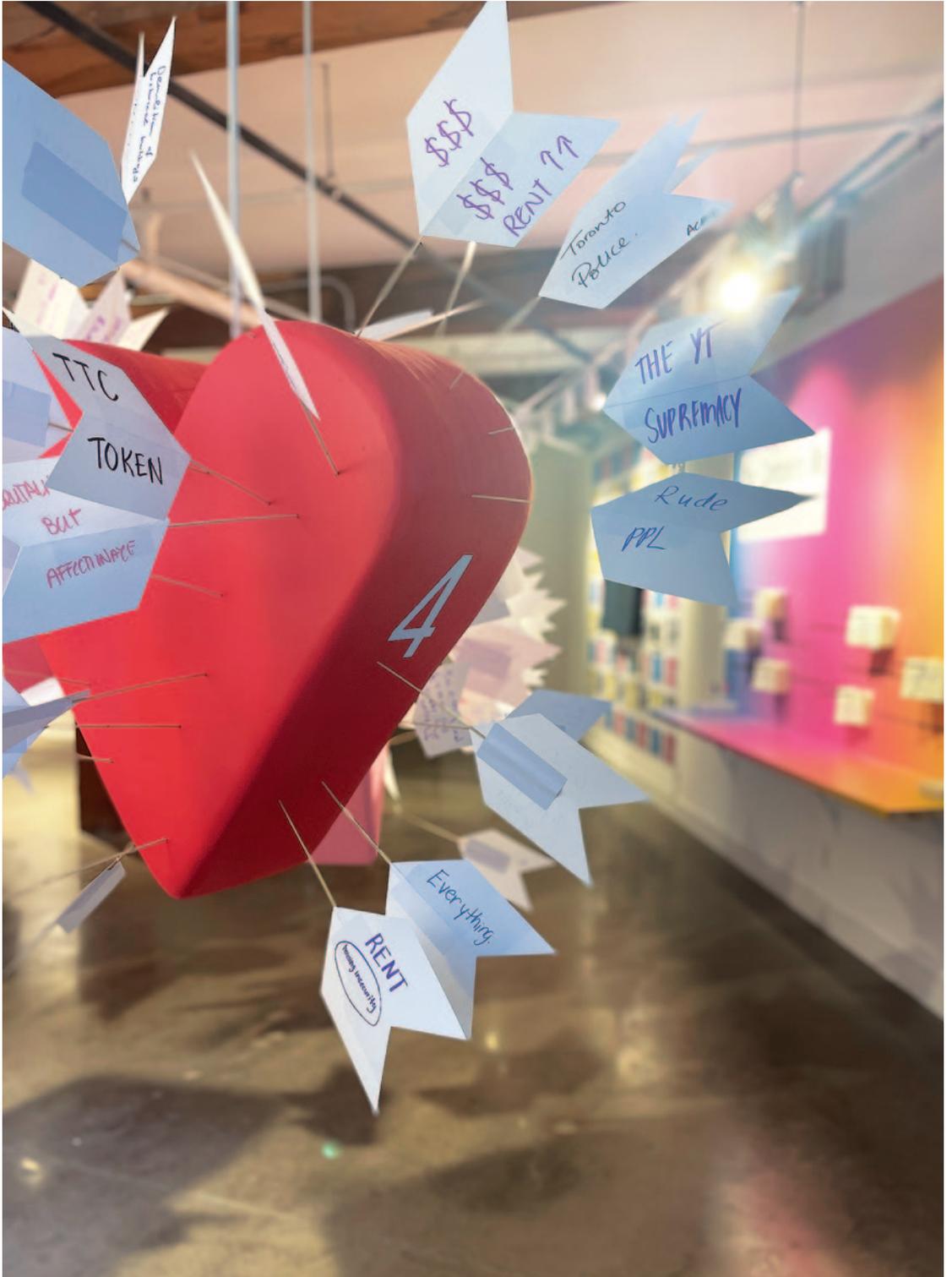


401

RICHMOND

update

Summer 2022 Volume 29, Issue 2





The 401 Richmond Update is a community-building initiative of Urbanspace Property Group. The newsletter began in June 1994 and over the years has documented the eclectic activities and fascinating people who make a home in our historic factory in downtown Toronto. If you would like to be added to the 401 Update mailing list, please email: UPDATE@urbanspace.org.



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COVER IMAGE

Myseum's interactive exhibition *36 Questions That Lead to Loving TO* invites Torontonians to explore their commitment to the city and to each other. The show runs to October 9, 2022.





Vantage Point (detail) by **April Hickox** featured in the Tenant Profile.



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MOVING IN

Please welcome the **Indigenous Curatorial Collective** to **Studio 262**, a nonprofit that works to support and connect fellow Indigenous curators, artists, writers, academics, and professionals.

The Association of Canadian Publishers, supporting and strengthening the contribution Canadian books make to Canada's cultural, economic, and educational landscape, has moved into **Studio 257**.

MOVING AROUND

SHARE, an organization that mobilizes investor leadership for a sustainable, inclusive, and productive economy, has moved from Studio 257 to their new home in **Studio 412**.



Sign up for bi-monthly *What's On* updates to your inbox at www.401richmond.com.



Left to right Kimahli Powell and Pax Santos updating the Honorable Sean Fraser (far right) in Ottawa.

RAINBOW RAILROAD IN OTTAWA

Rainbow Railroad's Executive Director Kimahli Powell and Program Manager Pax Santos met with the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship for Canada, the Honourable Sean Fraser, briefing the minister on the organization's work around the world, including in crisis situations in Ukraine and Afghanistan.



Clockwise from top left Lanrick Bennett Jr, Cynthia Dorrington, Stephanie Allen, Jamilla Mohamud and Anyika Mark

BLACK INFLUENCE IN URBAN PLANNING

In March Lanrick Bennett Jr, 8 80 Cities' Managing Director/Toronto's Bicycle Mayor was part of a CityTalk panel hosted by the Canadian Urban Institute. He was joined by other community leaders from across Canada, who work to make cities more just and equitable, in a discussion on Black influence in urban planning.

TAPA PARTNERS WITH THE CITY ON CULTURE WEBSITE

Developed by Destination Toronto and the Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts, along with an advisory group of leaders across major arts disciplines in Toronto, Now Playing Toronto is a new online platform that's a one-stop source for arts, cultural and community events in Toronto.



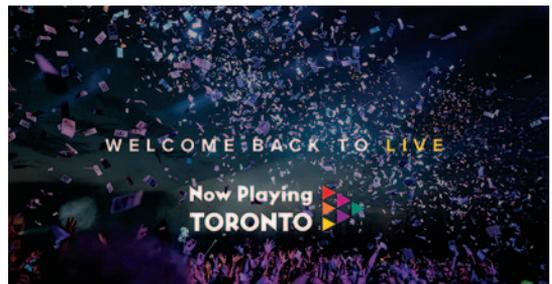
Pietro Gallo and Melissa Espina with son Mason



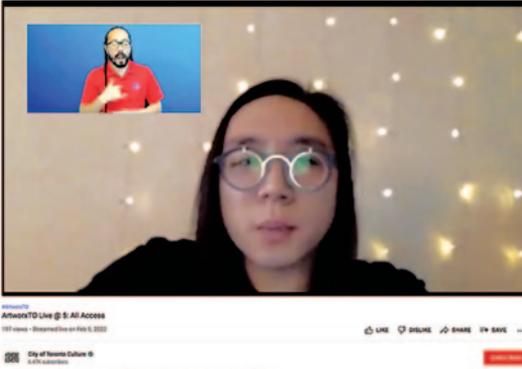
Yenislev Rodriguez's son Daniel

401 BABIES

This Spring, two baby boys joined the 401 family. The artist duo Melissa Espina and Pietro Gallo, working together on the second floor as PH1 Studios, welcomed their son Mason in April. And a member of 401's custodial team, Yenislev Rodriguez and her partner, also had a baby boy named Daniel Alejandro. Congratulations to the new parents!



spotted & applauded



TAG AND ARTWORXTO LIVE

Tangled Art + Disability's Director of Programming Sean Lee moderated an ArtworxTO Live panel titled **All Access**, addressing questions about access and accessibility and how public art comes to be in a place, to what end, and for whom.



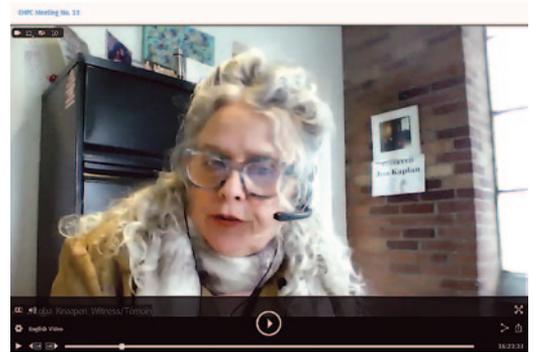
SPACING WINS BOOK AWARD

Spacing's book *Remnants of Mid-Century Toronto*, with photos by Vik Pahwa and edited by Matthew Blackett, received the 2021 Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for excellence in conservation. Interspersed with short essays and features by local architects the book documents a neglected collection of mid-century structures that still stand today in Toronto's urban landscape.



REEL ASIAN DIRECTOR TALKS FILM ON THE AGENDA

Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival Executive Director Deanna Wong (top screen) was included in a panel—along with Barry Hertz (*The Globe and Mail*) and Selma Purac (Western University)—on TVO's *The Agenda* with Steve Paikin to discuss how cinema will bounce back from the pandemic.



TAPA DIRECTOR AND THE CANADIAN ARTS COALITION IN OTTAWA

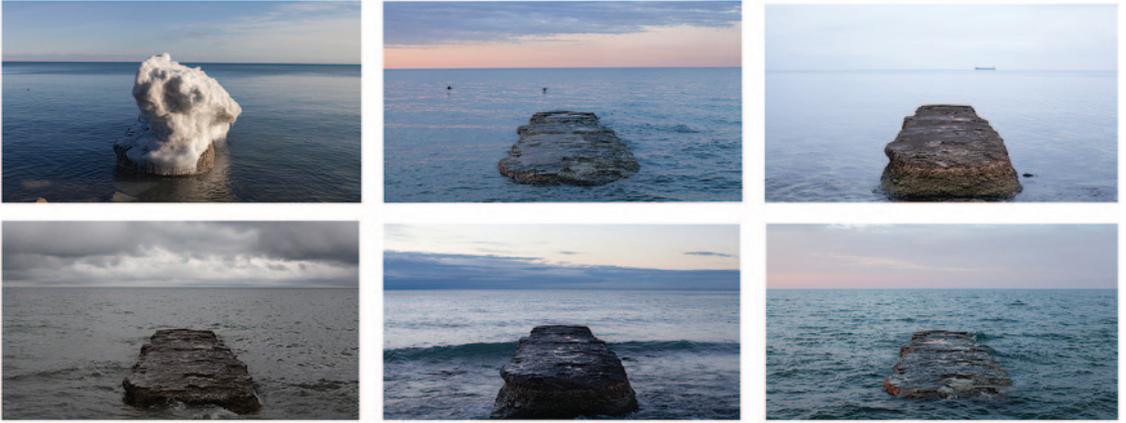
The Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts' Executive Director Jacoba Knappen, in her role on the Steering Committee of the **Canadian Arts Coalition**, presented to the **Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage** addressing the status of the Artist Act and its impact on improving basic working conditions for artists.



PARK PEOPLE RECEIVE 2021 CHARITY VILLAGE AWARD

Charity Village recognized Park People as the **Best Nonprofit Employer** in the category of **Workplace Mental Health 20+ Staff**, honouring their commitment, passion and drive shown to their organization and communities. The competition was open to all Canadian nonprofit and charity organizations.

tenant profile



Top From the ongoing body of work *Vanishing Point – Passing*
Bottom From the series *Observance* (detail)

APRIL HICKOX Studio 356

At the age of three, April Hickox moved to the Toronto Islands with her family, spending her youth exploring the urban park. As she wandered she was drawn to the historic homes that changed with the passing years and seasons, and public and private spaces that showed signs of random and temporary human interventions. All of these observances fed April's interest in capturing people's mark on landscapes and objects using photography, video and installation.

April enrolled in the **Ontario College of Art** (now **OCAD University**) at seventeen, and within a few years of graduating joined together with a small group of artists to found the critical image-based artist-run centre **Gallery 44**, now located on 401 Richmond's first floor. April eventually found her way into her own studio at 401 in 2008, joining a diverse artist community that provided feedback and friendship. April reflects on moving into the historical factory turned arts hub, "When I first walked in, I felt like I was home. I've never looked back."

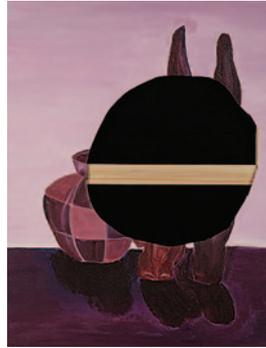
As April moves through her career, she continues to revisit existing bodies of work as she explores objects and landscapes that bear the mark of the person that touched the piece or shaped the environment they spent time in. *Invasive Species* is a photography series that

April has added to for over 30 years. As she traversed the Island's uninhabited spaces, April would come across signs of previous visitors that made a mark on the landscape, perhaps with an improvised hut, a TV on a small patio table, or a set of little league bleachers accompanying a makeshift firepit; all unexpected interventions on the natural environment that compelled April to record the image. She questions "what is 'wild' and how are we negotiating our relationship with wilderness and our environment."

Continuing her exploration of humans influencing their natural environment, *Vantage Point – Passing* is a repetitive capturing of a cement groyne (a structure constructed perpendicular to the shore to collect sand and prevent erosion) jutting into Lake Ontario off of Centre Island. Photographing and filming the cement protrusion for close to 20 years, April has documented the effect of changing seasons, passing wildlife and people, and the natural erosion of a man-made structure left to change over time. The resulting series of images and gridded video work reflects the hand of the artist amidst the changes in the landmark.

Beyond the natural environment but still in the realm of reflecting on a person's mark on that which surrounds





All part of the *Provenance Unknown* suite of images **Clockwise from left** *Model Chairs (Provenance Unknown)*; *Vanities Still Life (Provenance Unknown)*; *Cancelled Paintings (Provenance Unknown)*

them, April's in-studio practice focuses on objects and still lifes and how they represent those that claimed some ownership in a period of time past. ***Provenance Unknown*** is a series of 7 different photographic suites that see April repeatedly returning to explore notions of ownership, authorship, and the value on objects left behind. One of the sub-series, ***Vanities Still Life***, focuses on props in the OCAD U studio cupboards, some in service since April's time as a student in the seventies. She re-organizes and reflects on each object's history as its provenance grows, now a part of April's catalogue of imagery. The connected series ***Cancelled Paintings*** expanded on this when April became fascinated with abandoned student paintings on canvas that had a large, rough hole cut out of the middle of the canvases before being re-sold as materials back to the next year's cohort. For April, they represented earlier, analog production where negative film was canceled after an edition had been realized, and yet the objects continue in our space, projecting their past and future owners simultaneously.

As April moves through her life and career, her more recent series ***Observance*** represents a meditation on memory, grief, and acceptance as a celebration of life. Responding to the loss of loved ones to the AIDS crisis, and now seeing many close friends reach the stage in life to begin facing their mortality, the still and video works in the ***Observance*** series honour those who have passed and those who remain. Working with the visual of cut flowers in a vase, April acknowledges the fleeting aspect of time and its relationship to nature and beauty. This

past May, April installed ***Observance*** on the video wall in the window of TD Bank's Queen and Bay branch. The work shows a grid of 45 separate videos in one screen capturing April tenderly arranging cut flowers and plants in a vase, each representing a significant person in her life, some passed and some still with her.

As April continues to add to her many bodies of work, her focus on historic Toronto Islands homes underlines her longstanding fascination with human modification of the natural landscape. By capturing an old home, tracking fresh elements, and recording factors that affect change on the historic houses, April acts as historian for this rare combination of an urban and isolated community. The Toronto Islands environs lends itself as an opportunity to absorb how humans manipulate and transform their natural landscape in the communities where they live. April's art-making is well suited to, or a product of, a lifestyle that allows for the exploration of the outdoors and how we make our home in it.

Coming full circle to her time creating work in her island studio alongside her 401 space, April continues to add to the series of images that inform her practice. Not unlike the Islands, one might see April's connection to 401 as a similar source of inspiration in community, historical space, and a place that says 'home', marking how one occupied time and how they claimed a space in their own world. To April, "401 for me is a haven. Everyone is valued equally, even with different types of work. There's a recognition of what is valuable, and how to give it the space it needs."

listings June to August 2022

The Listings Board is your opportunity to communicate with other tenants and keep them informed about what is happening in your organization. If you are having a sale, exhibition, or event you would like advertised, email details to events@urbanspace.org. Listings are open to all tenants.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: Thursday, July 7, 2022

GALLERY DIRECTORY

A Space Gallery (Studio 110)

416-979-9633 www.aspacegallery.org

Abbozzo Gallery (Studio 128)

416-260-2220 www.abbozzogallery.com

Artspace Platform (Studio B-106)

ryersonartspace@gmail.com

www.ryersonartspace.com

Critical Distance Centre for Curators (Studio 122)

info@criticaldistance.ca www.criticaldistance.ca

Gallery 44 Centre for Contemporary Photography (Studio 120)

416-979-3941 www.gallery44.org

Museum of Toronto (Studio LL01)

416-583-2030 www.mysuemoftoronto.com

Open Studio (Studio 104)

416-504-8238 www.openstudio.ca

Red Head Gallery (Studio 115)

416-504-5654 www.redheadgallery.org

TAG (Tangled Art Gallery) (Studio 124)

647-725-5064 www.tangledarts.org

Trinity Square Video (Studio 121)

416-593-1332 www.trinitysquarevideo.com

Urbanspace Gallery (Studio 117)

416-595-5900 www.urbanspacegallery.ca

yumart Gallery (Studio B-20)

647-447-9274 www.yumart.ca

YYZ Artists' Outlet (Studio 140)

416-598-4546 www.yyzartistsoutlet.org



SUSAN KERR

Above: *The Trees of Ontario Place* at Urbanspace Gallery (until July); Below: *Grace Wang* at Gallery 44 (June 3–July 2)

EXHIBITIONS

continues to JUNE 18

yumart gallery

Steven Laurie with Rupen: *New Works*

continues to JULY

Urbanspace Gallery

The Trees of Ontario Place

continues to SUMMER 2022

YYZ Artists' Outlet

Lending Library Mural: Cedar Eve

continues to DECEMBER

A Space Gallery

Online *Studio Practices: Commissioned Artist Videos for the Online Screen Space*

Jim Miller, Jason Baerg, Carole Conde and Karl Beveridge, Jorge Lozano, MORTIFIED (Jenn Goodwin and Camilla Singh), Winnie Truong, Shaheer Zazai
Curated by Vicky Moufawad-Paul

JUNE 3 – 25

Abbozzo Gallery

Tadeusz Biernot

JUNE 3 – JULY 2

Gallery 44

Members' Gallery Daura Campos, Grace Wang

JUNE 25 – AUGUST 6

yumart gallery

Gallery Artists: *Unframed: Works on Paper*

JUNE 28 – JULY 30

A Space Gallery

Main Gallery Timothy Yanick Hunter: *Basic Instructions Before Leaving Everything*

JULY 2 – SEPTEMBER 3

Abbozzo Gallery

Karim Ghidinelli

AUGUST TO SEPTEMBER

Urbanspace Gallery

Zherui Wang: *Volatile Ecologies: Architectural Apparatuses for Earthly Survival*

SEPTEMBER 10 – OCTOBER 1

yumart gallery

Robert Chandler: *Unframed: New Works*



GRACE WANG

in memoriam



KEITH BEATTY/TORONTO STAR

JOHN SCOTT 1949-2022

Born in Windsor in 1949, artist **John Scott** signed a lease for a studio at 401 Richmond in 1996 and remained in the building until his passing in February 2022.

With a career spanning over 40 years, John exhibited at **The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery**, **Art Gallery of Windsor**, **Mercer Union**, **YYZ Artists' Outlet**, **The Banff Centre for the Arts**, and the **Vancouver Art Gallery**, and his work is in the collections of the **Museum of Modern Art** (New York), **Canada Council Art Bank** (Ottawa), **Museum London**, **Hamilton Art Gallery**, **University of Toronto** and the **Robert McLaughlin Gallery** (Oshawa).

John enrolled in the **Ontario College of Art** (now **OCAD University**) in 1972 and began teaching at the school after graduating, only retiring in the summer of 2021. His art practice was rooted in social commentary on the dark side of politics, war, and human nature. Often repeated animal and figurative characters appear in John's multi-media works representing evil and vulnerability in the human condition. His ***Trans-Am Apocalypse*** series, furthered this exploration with John scratching the entire Book of Revelations onto the surface of the muscle car.

The absence of John's gentle spirit, generous nature, and genuine personality is deeply felt by the 401 community. He is missed by so many.

press check



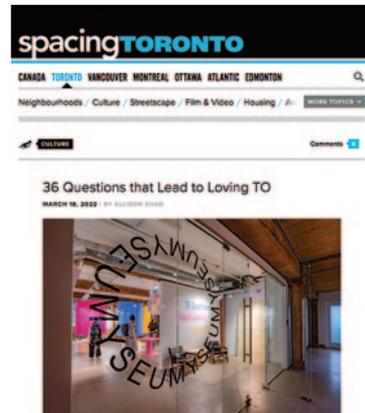
401 RICHMOND

401 Richmond's **President & Founder Margie Zeidler** wrote an editorial for *The Globe and Mail* about an Ontario Place that no longer reflects the province it was designed to showcase. "Ontario Place, which opened 51 years ago this summer as a shining beacon for Ontario and its people, has not only fallen into sad disrepair, the new one in its place has nothing to do with Ontario. It could be Any Place, and in many ways, its rebirth is worse than its death."



MUSICWORKS MAGAZINE

editor **Jennie Punter's** byline appeared in *Variety* this spring with a piece about the **Hot Docs Forum**, a financing event that puts 26 filmmakers pre-recorded pitches in front of a round table of decision-makers and financiers.



Real Estate Real & Dark By 10 Culture City Neighbourhoods Real Estate Magazine

A look inside the new interactive Myseum of Toronto exhibit that's all about Hogtown love

30 years, the once "tweener" museum without walls that held pop-up exhibits across the GTA, now has a permanent address. The inaugural installation, *36 Questions that Lead to Loving TO*, is an on-line, on-site and on-air interactive exhibit to explore the highs, lows and joys of city life. It was created in collaboration with the designers at *Elemental* and will run until October of 2022. Here's a look inside.

Formerly a 10th-floor annex, Myseum's 4,000-square-foot space is located in 401 Richmond, the downtown arts and culture hub. When not using the venue for exhibits, the on-line space has book clubs, classes and art shows there.



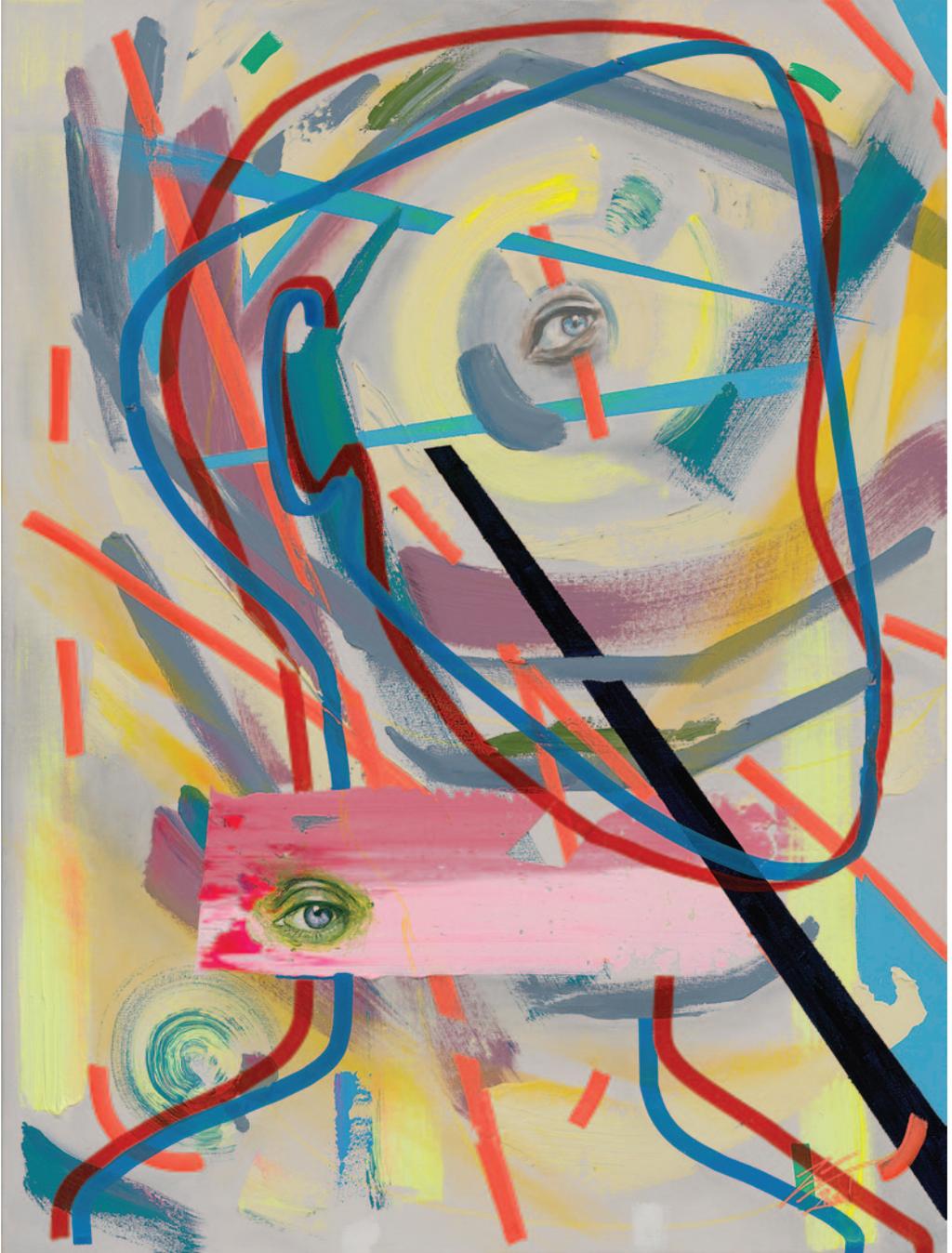
MYSEUM

Myseum's inaugural interactive exhibition in their new concourse level space in 401's Lower East Side debuted **36 Questions That Lead to Loving TO** and Toronto media took notice. *Spacing Magazine* included a review of the show in their latest issue noting that "the responses and experiences visitors share could help guide the stories Myseum chooses to tell in the future." *City News* stopped by to interview **Director Heidi Reitmaier**, and *Toronto Life* featured the show in their Culture section. The exhibition is on view until October 9, 2022.

the back page

JOSE CIFUENTES Studio 210

is an artist and entrepreneur originally from Medellin, Colombia. Inspired by his background in street-art, Jose primarily paints large-scale abstract works using bright colours and bold lines. www.josecifuentes.com @joscifuentes



The Beginning, 2020, 30 x 40 inches, acrylic and markers on canvas



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update

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