

**401**

RICHMOND

# update

Spring 2024 Volume 31, Issue 1





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](mailto:UPDATE@urbanspace.org).

#### 401 Richmond Ltd. Staff

Andalah Ali, Junior Building Operator  
 Ingrid Araya, Janitorial Services  
 Sean Canepa, Property Manager  
 Bob Chandler, Security  
 Maria Alejandra Cortes, Events & Communications Administrator  
 Sam Elzsid, Parking Lot Attendant  
 Andrea Garcia, Office Administrator  
 Pamela Lampkin, Janitorial Services  
 Rob Nicholls, Security  
 Redentor Paragas, Maintenance  
 Jon Price, Security  
 Elise Rodgers, Leasing Manager  
 Vicki Rodgers, Chief Executive Officer  
 Yenislén Rodríguez, Janitorial Services  
 Ronel Ruiz, Maintenance  
 Saskia Vegter, Urban Agriculture Coordinator  
 Renato Villanueva, Janitorial Services  
 Jennifer Ward, Communications & Community Animator  
 Jake Whittaker, Maintenance  
 Margaret Zeidler, Founder

#### Newsletter

Jennifer Ward, Editor  
 Lisa Kiss Design (Studio 408)

Published by:  
 Urbanspace Property Group  
 401 Richmond St. W., Studio 111  
 Toronto, ON Canada M5V 3A8  
 tel 416-595-5900 fax 416-595-5904  
[www.401richmond.com](http://www.401richmond.com)

#### COVER IMAGE

Artist Jacquie Green (centre) in her second floor studio at 401's Holiday Open House in December 2023.  
 Photo: Tomasz Adamski



**RECYCLED**  
 Paper made from  
 recycled material  
**FSC® C103151**





Designer and artist Marian Wihak (middle) in her third floor studio at 401's Holiday Open House in December, 2023.

TOMASZ ADAMSKI



## 2 NEWS

## 3 SPOTTED & APPLAUDED

## 4 TENANT PROFILE

## 6 LISTINGS

## 8 PRESS CHECK

## 9 THE BACK PAGE

### MOVING IN

The 401 community welcomes **Third Party Public** to **Studio 392**. Working with governments, public agencies, and occasionally nonprofits, the public engagement firm specializes in making large, complex, multi-stakeholder projects constructive and manageable.

### MOVING BACK

Canada's leading professional arts trade organization, the **Art Dealers Association of Canada (ADAC)** returns to 401 in **Studio 361**.

### MOVING UP

Artist **Nancy Friedland** has relocated and expanded from her second floor space to **Studio 417** on the fourth floor.

### MOVING OUT

401 wishes **Black Current Marketing** well as they move on from **Studio 361**. The folks at **Consulting Matrix** will be missed on the third floor as they leave 401. We're also sorry to see **This Magazine** wrap up their time at 401 after almost 25 years in the building.



Renato "Ray" Villanueva

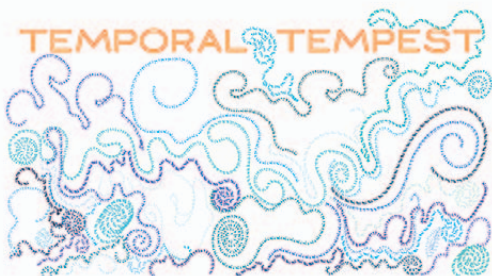
### MOVING ON

Please join us in wishing **Ray** all the best as he retires March 5 after 15 years with Urbanspace!



Sign up for monthly *What's On* updates to your inbox at [www.401richmond.com](http://www.401richmond.com).





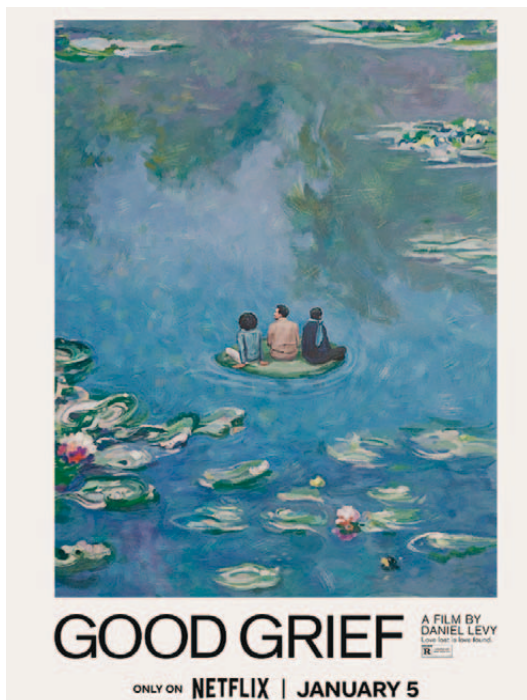
## CDCC AND TSV PARTNER WITH DIASPORIC FUTURISMS

Critical Distance Centre for Curators and Trinity Square Video have partnered with the curatorial collective **Diasporic Futurisms** to launch **Temporal Tempest**, a virtual database that showcases visual art, sound art, media art, and documentation of curatorial projects that materialize the genre of diasporic futurisms. The project was developed to understand and disseminate how artists and organizations are utilizing and engaging with themes of diasporic futurisms in Canadian arts culture. The database kicks off with twelve projects by arts practitioners across Canada.



## ORDER OF CANADA FOR GOG ED

Zainub Verjee, the **Executive Director of Galleries Ontario/Ontario Galleries** has been appointed to the **Order of Canada**, awarded by the Office of the Governor General of Canada. The distinguished honour recognized Zainub for advancing representation and equitable policy legislation within Canada's arts and culture sector as a leading artist, administrator and critic. "I am absolutely delighted by this honour. I hope this will help to shine a light on the needs of the arts and plight of the artists who are affected by the systemic precarity, and on the fact that arts advocacy makes a tangible difference", says Zainub. Zainub is already a laureate of the **2020 Governor General's Visual and Media Arts Award for Outstanding Contribution**.

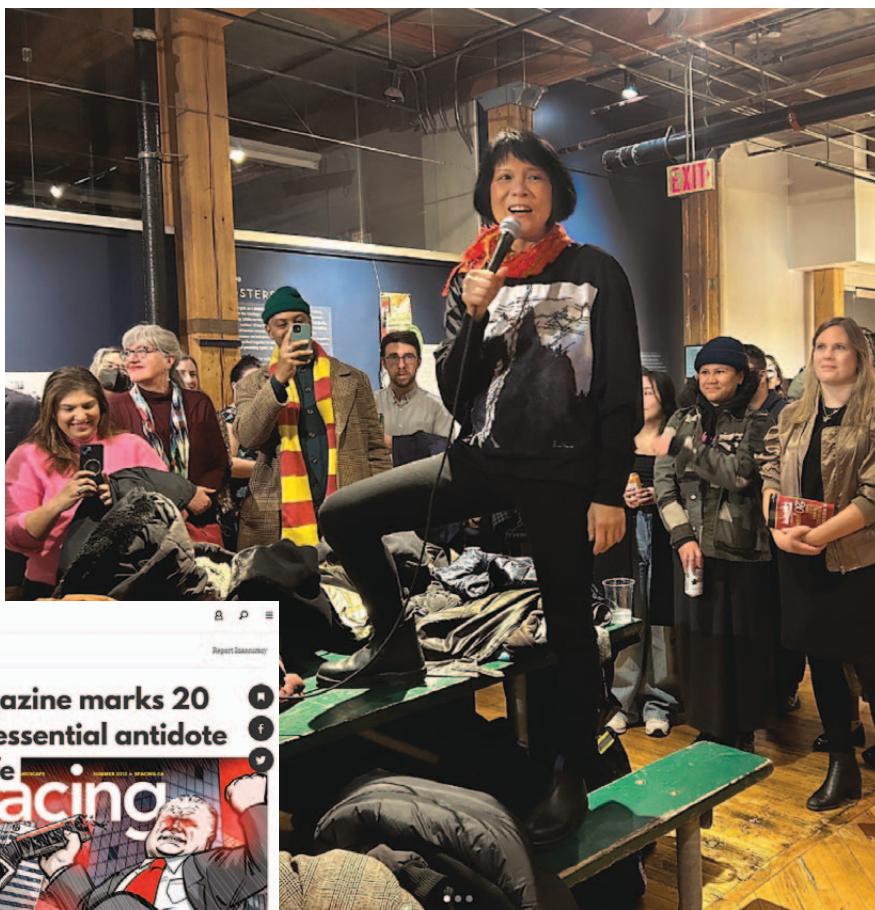


## KRIS KNIGHT'S BIG REVEAL

In the Fall 2023 401 Update Tenant Profile, **Kris Knight** hinted at his latest project working as a shadow painter for an actor playing an artist in a feature-length movie. While he wasn't at liberty to reveal the movie or the actor last fall, we now know Kris' artwork appears in *Good Grief* starring **Dan Levy**. As Kris recalls, "Dan called me out of the blue in July of 2022—we had never met before, but I knew he was a collector of my work... at the end of our phone call, he asked me if I would collaborate with him and create paintings for the film, a somewhat ghost painter for his character Marc." Once the studies were done in pre-production, Kris had a couple of months to create a show's worth of work before shipping them to London, UK where the movie was partially shot. Kris then followed the paintings to London to assist the film's art department with setting up the main character's art studio and gallery exhibition. On the gallery set, Kris noticed that no one had been cast as the gallery's attendant for the final exhibition reception scene, and so he offered himself up to land a cameo in the movie. Kris came by the role honestly: "Passing out exhibition statements, price lists and glasses of white wine during exhibition openings was what I did the first Thursday night of each month for years when I was a gallery assistant, so it wasn't that much of a stretch."

**401 Fun Fact:** Dan's Dad **Eugene Levy** had a writing studio in 401 Richmond in the 1990s.

# spotted & applauded



## 📍 MAYOR CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF SPACING

City of Toronto Mayor Olivia Chow dropped by Urbanspace Gallery for Spacing's 20th anniversary party that doubled as the opening reception for the *20 Years of Spacing* exhibition in the space. Mayor Chow gave her remarks to guests while standing on a picnic table on loan from the City; possibly the exact table where the magazine's founders first discussed the concept of Spacing.

## CITY OF TORONTO PLANNING DEPARTMENT VISIT EXHIBIT ➡

Spacing Co-Founder and Creative Director, Matthew Blackett, hosted a team from the City of Toronto's City Planning Division who came to see the *20 Years of Spacing* exhibition in the Urbanspace Gallery. Spacing covers the issues and politics of Canada's big cities pushing readers to think critically about how they can shape the public spaces in their lives. The City group spoke with Matt about the history and evolution of the publication and its role in Canada's urban discourse.





# tenant profile



Executive Director Naomi Johnson (front row, third from right) with the imagineNATIVE staff

## IMAGINENATIVE FILM + MEDIA ARTS FESTIVAL Studio 446

After being approached in the mid-90s by a video maker and performance/installation artist **Zachery Longboy** (Sayisi Dene), the video distribution organization **Vtape**, co-founded and led by **Lisa Steele** and **Kim Tomczak**, began building a dedicated collection of videos by Indigenous artists. Together with Vtape's **Wanda Vanderstoop**, Zachery helped develop the significant body of work as Vtape's Aboriginal Outreach Coordinator and was succeeded in the role by **Cynthia Lickers-Sage**, a Haudenosaunee artist and producer from Six Nations. In 1998, Cynthia worked to broaden the collection's reach with the exhibition of short film and video work by Indigenous artists at Vtape. imagineNATIVE subsequently became its own entity in 2000.

In its first decade, imagineNATIVE worked with Ojibwe critic and journalist **Jesse Wente** as a programmer and a member of imagineNATIVE's Board of Directors. "When I joined imagineNATIVE in the early days, it was largely attended by an Indigenous audience here in Toronto—pretty dedicated, small-ish group of people," recalled Jesse when talking to **Rosanna Deerchild** on CBC Radio in 2016. Anishinaabe film producer **Jason Ryle** also served as a programmer and Board member in those early years and joined the organization as its Executive Director in 2010.

imagineNATIVE would see tremendous growth under Jason's decade of leadership, achieving the status of the world's largest presenter of Indigenous film and media arts while further advancing its mandate to support

Indigenous filmmakers and media artists in Canada and internationally. Jason led the team to partner with funders, broadcasters, and other festivals, elevating imagineNATIVE to the status of a key artistic, public, and industry festival. When Jason was ready to move on from imagineNATIVE, he worked with the organization's board to hire **Niki Little** (Anishinew/British descent from Kistiganwacheeng) as Artistic Director and **Naomi Johnson** (Mohawk from Six Nations), as Associate Director. Jason mentored Naomi Johnson in her role as Associate Director for one year before she moved into her role as Executive Director in 2020.

During the Festival and throughout the year, imagineNATIVE presents robust programming that includes the imagineNATIVE Institute, an organizational department working to address gaps in the industry and build capacity for Indigenous creatives. With a **Netflix** partnership brokered by Jason in 2019, the Institute offers year-round Indigenous-led professional development programs, events and talks, and also hosts the Festival's Industry Days with panel discussions, masterclasses, and networking events.

Furthering the Festival's reach, the imagineNATIVE Tour Program, which recently launched again for 2024 bookings, brings Indigenous-made film works and engagement activities to communities across Canada. Schools, workplaces, and community groups can book screenings curated from the most recent Festival for presentation in-person or online.



Guests at the  
imagineNATIVE 2023  
Awards Presentation

Looking back to 2020 when Naomi took the reins as imagineNATIVE's Executive Director, the organization moved into operating a film festival in the midst of a global pandemic. The intent and incentive for continuing with an online presentation were knowing that artists and arts workers would be paid over two extraordinarily challenging years. The team quickly maneuvered forward with a fully online festival, including filming the experience of visiting art exhibitions for the annual Art Crawl event at A Space Gallery and Trinity Square Video, and live-streaming accompanying events for both the films and exhibitions. The team also leveraged the shift to an online festival to launch the iNdigital Space, an online platform presenting a curated selection of virtual reality, 360 media, augmented reality, video games, interactive web projects, and digital media produced by Indigenous creators. In 2022, the Festival returned in-person, but with a new hybrid model that embraces the benefits of experiencing the Festival in the digital sphere. The 2023 Festival took place in Toronto at the **TIFF Lightbox** for a week before moving to online streaming and the iNdigital Space platform for another week. Upon the completion of the 2022 Festival the imagineNATIVE board was supportive of reinstating the Associate Director position with the promotion of **David Morrison** (Dene) into this leadership position in 2023.

This past year's Festival also included the **iNdigital Space** as a free-to-experience in-person showcase in the TIFF Lightbox Gallery. The gallery installation featured imagineNATIVE arcade games created by the iNdigital Youth Collective available for play. The iNdigital Youth Collective operates with a collaborative spirit to engage Indigenous youth in a community-focused approach, fostering creativity, technical skill, and confidence, empowering Indigenous youth and growing the next generation of Indigenous voices in digital media.

As imagineNATIVE's programming expanded in its reach and impact, the awards and accolades began to arrive with increasing regularity. In 2017, imagineNATIVE

won a Vital Ideas Award from the Toronto Community Foundation, and in 2018 the highly competitive and prestigious Premier's Awards for Excellence in the Arts from the Ontario Arts Council (finalist in 2009 and 2015). In the summer of 2023, before the 24th Festival, Cynthia Lickers-Sage, Lisa Steele, Kim Tomczak, and Wanda Vanderstoop were honoured at the Canadian Honours Ceremony in Ottawa with a Meritorious Service Cross presented by **Governor General Mary Simon** for their work and efforts in establishing the imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival. 2023 also marked a noteworthy year for Naomi Johnson, receiving the Margo Bindhardt and Rita Davies Cultural Leadership Award from the Toronto Arts Foundation. The award, presented in Spring 2023, was in recognition of Naomi's strong leadership as imagineNATIVE's Executive Director and her contributions to Toronto's cultural landscape.

Throughout imagineNATIVE's remarkable growth across their nearly 25-year trajectory, the organization has called 401's fourth floor home, now located within **The Commons** media arts cluster. "We love being in close proximity to **Vtape** and **Reel Asian**, and having The Commons as an area for gathering all year round," says **Festival Director Lindsay Monture** (Mohawk from Six Nations). Lindsay joined imagineNATIVE in May 2023 to lead the Festival team, following numerous prior imagineNATIVE contracts in various roles spanning from 2013 to 2017, and a stint working with Naomi at the Woodland Cultural Centre before either joined imagineNATIVE. Having a home base at 401 in downtown Toronto is a real draw for imagineNATIVE and the filmmakers and artists it hosts. Lindsay remarks, "Everything is so accessible. For guests who may not be used to the big city there's lots to discover within a five, ten, or fifteen minute walk from the building. Being in the city can be intimidating. It's a relief for guests to come in to visit us. Where we are in the city of Toronto, it's the perfect spot."

[imaginenative.org](http://imaginenative.org)

# listings

## March to May 2024

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 [communications@urbanspace.org](mailto:communications@urbanspace.org). Open to all tenants.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: April 15, 2024

### GALLERY DIRECTORY

A Space Gallery (Studio 110)  
[aspacegallery.org](http://aspacegallery.org)

Abbozzo Gallery (Studio 128)  
[abbozzogallery.com](http://abbozzogallery.com)

Artspace Gallery TMU (Studio LL106)  
[artspacetmu.com](http://artspacetmu.com)

BAND Gallery (Studio LL108)  
[bandgallery.com](http://bandgallery.com)

Critical Distance Centre for Curators (Studio 122)  
[criticaldistance.ca](http://criticaldistance.ca)

Gallery 44 Centre for Contemporary Photography (Studio 120)  
[gallery44.org](http://gallery44.org)

Myseum of Toronto (Studio LL01)  
[myseumoftoronto.com](http://myseumoftoronto.com)

Open Studio (Studio 104)  
[openstudio.ca](http://openstudio.ca)

Red Head Gallery (Studio 115)  
[redheadgallery.org](http://redheadgallery.org)

Simon Bentley Fine Art (Studio 133)  
[simonbentleyfineart.com](http://simonbentleyfineart.com)

TAG (Tangled Art Gallery) (Studio 124)  
[tangledarts.org](http://tangledarts.org)

Trinity Square Video (Studio 121)  
[trinitysquarevideo.com](http://trinitysquarevideo.com)

Urbanspace Gallery (Studio 117)  
[urbanspacegallery.ca](http://urbanspacegallery.ca)

yumart Gallery (Studio B-20)  
[yumart.ca](http://yumart.ca)

YYZ Artists' Outlet (Studio 140)  
[yyzartistsoutlet.org](http://yyzartistsoutlet.org)

### EXHIBITIONS

continues to MARCH 9  
Myseum of Toronto  
*Winners & Losers: Sports Histories of Toronto*

continues to MARCH 10  
Trinity Square Video  
Vitrine Sarah Friend: *Lifeforms*

continues to MARCH 16  
Gallery 44  
Vitrines Svava Tergesen: *Garnished Sundries*

continues to MARCH 23  
YYZ Artists' Outlet  
Zinnia Naqvi: *the person you don't see in this image is me, the camera-person*  
Heidi Holmes: *Witching Hour*

continues to MARCH 30  
Abbozzo Gallery  
*Girl Dinner*: Charlotte Blake, Katie Butler, Alicia Gimeno, Alana Kinsey, Ehiko Odeh, Holly Stapleton, Hyun Young Yang

Trinity Square Video  
Shirin Fahimi, Jawa El Khash: *Spectral Futures*  
Curated by Vince Rozario

continues to APRIL 20  
Urbanspace Gallery  
Steven Evans: *AS IT IS* | *A precarious moment in the life of Ontario Place*

continues to APRIL 27  
A Space Gallery  
Julius Poncelet Manapul: *Sila/Siya/Ako*  
Curated by Dr. Marissa Largo

MARCH 1-30  
Abbozzo Gallery  
Arnold Zageris

MARCH 1-APRIL 13  
Open Studio  
Main Gallery Jill Ho You  
Project Space Jae Lee

MARCH 2-23  
yumart Gallery  
Deirdre Tara Whelan

MARCH 8-31  
Le Labo  
*6 degrees, territories of narration*: Noémie Roy, Julie Lassonde, Éveline Boudreau, Sophie Dumesny, Laura Demers, Saïda Ouchau Ozarowski, Martine Côté, Habibata Ouarme

APRIL 6-27  
yumart Gallery  
Seo Eun Kim, Lee Lamothe

APRIL 19-JUNE 1  
Open Studio  
Main Gallery Hamdzatsi Collective  
Project Space Khadijah Morley

MAY 4-25  
yumart Gallery  
Kathryn Bemrose

JUNE 1-29  
yumart Gallery  
Alice Burton





Steven Evans at Urbanspace Gallery  
(continues to April 20)

EVENTS



**MARCH 14**  
**401 Richmond**  
**Art Hunt**  
 Time: 5 pm

**MAY 24-JUNE 1**  
**Inside Out 2SLGBTQ+ Film Festival**  
 In-Person and Online

**MAY 25**  
**401 Richmond**  
**Doors Open**  
 Time: 10 am-5 pm

**JULY 12-14**  
**Toronto Outdoor Art Fair**  
 Nathan Phillips Square



CHERYL RONDEAU

Career Launcher Prize studio

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

**MAY 15-DEADLINE**  
**401 Career Launcher Prize**  
 Each year, 401 Richmond welcomes an emerging artist into its community through the 401 Career Launcher Prize. The 401 Career Launcher Prize provides an exceptional opportunity to occupy a coveted 500 sq/ft studio for one year at 401 Richmond. The award recipient will become part of a unique community of artists, cultural producers, creative pioneers, passionate activists, and social entrepreneurs. Since 2000, the 401 Career Launcher Prize has offered space and support for research and experimentation at a critical time in an emerging artist's career. More information at [www.401richmond.com](http://www.401richmond.com).

# press check



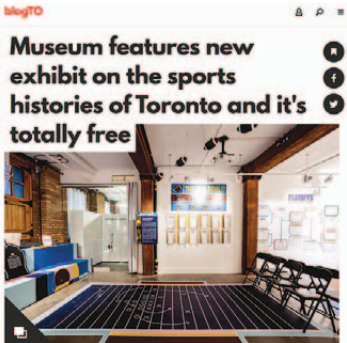
**RODA MEDHAT** ➡  
2023/24 401 Career Launcher Prize recipient Roda Medhat made *Now Toronto*'s must-see list for **Nuit Blanche** with his sculptural installation *Tight Spaces* installed at Stackt Market.

**BAND GALLERY** ➡  
*The Patriotic Vanguard*, a Sierra Leone based news portal, covered **Ehiko Odeh**'s exhibition *Our Hair Holds Memories* at **BAND Gallery**. "Through the use of a variety of textiles [Ehiko] emulates the traditional Nigerian practice of craftsmanship through large scale multi-medium paintings, performances, drawings, and installations."



**ABBOZZO GALLERY** ➡  
Abbozzo Gallery made *CBC Arts*' Trend Forecast: Bonus Predictions, calling out their all-women emerging artist group show *Girl Dinner*.

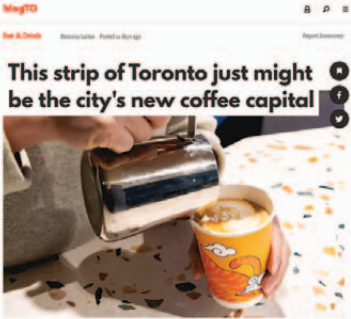
**DARK HORSE** ➡  
*BlogTO* has dubbed a pocket of Spadina Avenue Toronto's newest '**Coffee Capital**.' "One of the OG specialty coffee shops, this [**Dark Horse Espresso Bar**] location at 401 Richmond is a guaranteed spot for a good brew, cold or hot."



**MYSEUM OF TORONTO** ➡  
Curator Adam Bunch of Myseum of Toronto's show *Winners & Losers: Sports Histories of Toronto* shared his insight on the creation of this exhibit with *BlogTO*, explaining that "Sports give us this lens through which you can learn more about the city in general."



**880 CITIES** ➡  
880 Cities Executive Director **Amanda O'Rourke** is featured in *Spacing*'s 20 People We Love in their 20th anniversary issue. *Spacing* quotes Amanda reflecting that "our stories are intertwined with our city, each shaping our identities in exciting and delightfully unpredictable ways."





# the back page



**ERIK MOHR Studio 396**

@erikmohrartist / erikmohr.com

"In my paintings, I try to capture that fleeting moment of chaos in our everyday lives. Broken and discarded objects have so many stories to tell. I find painting the rotten ends of dying hyacinths and broken glass more exciting than if the vase were sitting quietly on a table. And creating the photo references was a lot of fun, too!"

**Above** *Flowers*, 2023, oil on panel, 32 in. diameter







RICHMOND

401 Richmond Street West, Studio 111  
Toronto, ON Canada M5V 3A8  
[www.401richmond.com](http://www.401richmond.com)

# update

CANADA POSTES	
POST	
	
CANADA	
Postage paid Personalized Mail	Port payé Courrier personnalisé
	
1682129	