# 2023 Riverdale Gallery Exhibitions and Events

### Textile Show: stitching in your shape

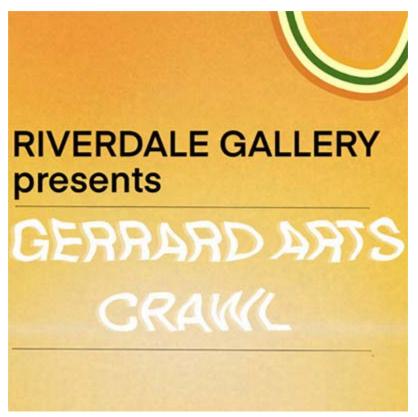


Image: Zainab Hussain, Is it Not Enough...?, 2022, Embroidery and beadwork on fabric, 16"x21"

Lan "Florence" Yee, Lauren D'Ambrosio, Par Nair, Zainab Hussain. Thursday January 5th to Saturday February 4th, 2023 **Opening Reception:** Thursday January 5th, 5:30 to 8:00 pm

stitching in your shape showcases the work of multidisciplinary textile based works from artists Lan "Florence" Yee, Lauren D'Ambrosio, Par Nair, and Zainab Hussain. The exhibition examines the work of labour, language and textiles in expressing the collective grief of homesickness and disconnection. Tying familial relations through the common threads of textiles and embroidery, *stitching in your shape* gives audiences space to sit with lived experiences of tenuous, disembodied connection, accentuated by the complications of safety restrictions during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Using labour in textile work as a practice of commemoration, meditation, and complicated catharsis, stitching in your shape incorporates practices and materials from everyday life to monumentalize a longing for familial connection. This exhibition has been generously supported by the Toronto Arts Council.

### **Gerrard Arts Crawl**



Join Riverdale Hub in a walking tour of the many creative spaces in our neighborhood! During these tours you will:

- build relationships with local business owners
- meet neighborhood creatives
- enjoy new gallery spaces and studio visits
- learn about the many exciting artistic spaces on Gerrard East!

#### **Guided Tour Schedule**

Saturday January 21st, 2023 1st tour- 1:00 pm 2nd tour- 3:00 pm Sunday January 22nd, 2023 1st tour – 12:00 noon 2nd Tour – 3:00 pm Meeting point Gerrard St E and Greenwood Ave., North-West Corner Featured Galleries SkyBlue Art Studio Mother Earth Centre Maak Ost Ceramics Studio Blue Crow Gallery Clay Space Gerrard Art Space Riverdale Hub

This project has been funded by the City of Toronto's Main Street Innovation Fund, as part of Government of Canada support through the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario.



# Love & Friendship Arts Market

Looking for the perfect gift to celebrate your love for friends, family and partners? Riverdale Hub has you covered at our "Love and Friendship" Arts Market!

Join us Sunday February 5th, 12 – 5pm to pick up your next one-of-a-kind piece from local artists and artisans. Come celebrate love in its many forms and support small businesses!

**Collective Momentum: Closing Reception & Open House** 



Pictured: Hayley Chiu, *Summer heat*, acrylic on canvas, 2021.

*Collective Momentum* ties together mediums such as digital illustration, painting, textiles, printmaking, collage, and virtual realities to encapsulate the zeitgeist of multi-valent artistic practices that are pushing the boundaries of the Toronto art world.

Hayley Chiu, Ernesto Cabral de Luna, Daura Campos, Paulina Padilla, Hau Pham, Elycia SFA, Heejung Shin and Mennen bring together visions of fantasy and failure, futurism and dystopia, preciousness and precariousness. It is this fine balance of opposites that brings the artistic community together, propelling themselves into a future filled with possibility.

#### **Preview:**

Friday March 10th, 2023 6:00pm to 8:00pm **Exhibition Opening Hours:** Tuesday March 13 to April 14 Tuesday – Saturday 11:00am to 4:00pm **Closing Reception and Open House:** Friday April 14, 2023 6:00pm to 8:00pm

# Spring & Seeds Market



April 23rd, 12 noon to 5pm at the Riverdale Hub

Join us for an opportunity to exchange a variety of herb, vegetable and flower seeds.

To take part in the seed exchange, please package your seeds and clearly label them with the type of seed, the year it was saved, and the number of seeds in each package. Donations are welcomed from those who wish to participate, but do not have any seeds to exchange.

The event will take place at the same time as the Sunday Art Market with several local artisan vendors on site. The Cafe will also have its usual offerings of vegan fare during event hours. So make sure to stop by the 'Seedy Sunday' table with your seeds! Send an email to celina@riverdalehub.ca to become a vendor!

For additional information, please contact info@riverdalehub.ca.



# Plant Swap & Sunday Arts Market

Our Second Annual Plant Swap is taking place on Sunday, May 28th from 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the Riverdale Hub. To participate, bring one or more healthy (disease and pest free) house plants that you're ready to part with, and take home as many as you bring in (pending availability)! Veggie Seedlings are also welcome. The Plant Swap will take place at the same time as the Sunday Arts Market with several local artisan vendors on site. Questions about the Plant Swap? Contact victoriaadilman@riverdalehub.ca for more information. Questions about the Arts Market? Contact arts@riverdalehub.ca for more information.

#### Artist Talk: Anna Kavehmehr



Pictured: Anna Kavehmehr, Zan, digital painting, 2023.

Saturday June 3rd, 2023 2:00pm to 4:00pm

#### "Woman Life Freedom" Exhibition

May 25th – July 5th, 2023 Riverdale Gallery, 1st Floor Gallery exhibition supported by a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

**Anna Kavehmehr** is an Iranian-Canadian Artist and Illustratorbased in Toronto. She moved to Canada 10 years ago in hopes of pursuing a career in art. Growing up in Iran as a teenage girl and later on as a woman, she never experienced freedom of speech, freedom to create art or to present herself how she wanted. Art became the outlet for Anna to do this and express the inner voices in her that weren't allowed to be seen.

After the death of Mahsa Jina Amini and the start of the Woman, Life, Movement in September of 2022 in Iran, Anna started creating protest art in support of the movement and to raise awareness

on the situation in Iran. The protests soon turned into an anti-government movement which was lead by girls and women in Iran, taking off or burning their mandatory veils and going to the streets, riding bikes, dancing in public and speaking truth to power, along with other civil disobedience acts. The movement has been described as the first ever female-led movement in the world, and soon after got the support of the women in Afghanistan and all over the world.

This series of works highlights major events during the movements, the lives that were lost and portraits of political prisoners that are still fighting for freedom.

# Artist Talk: Natalie Plociennik



Pictured: Natalie Plociennik, Utopia, acrylic on canvas, 2022.

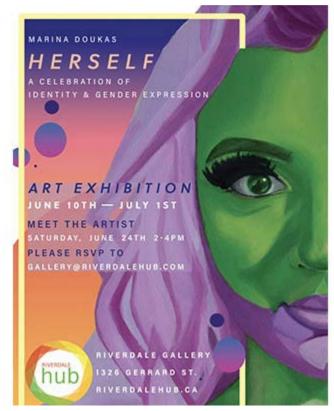
#### Meet the artist & enjoy a live painting performance

Saturday June 17th 2023 2:00pm to 4:00pm Gallery exhibition supported by a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

Step into Natalie Plociennik's enchanting world, where love, nature, and imagination intertwine. Inspired by the beauty of the natural world, Natalie's artwork reveals the connections that exist between all living things. Explore vibrant and dream-like landscapes that transport you to a place of peace and wonder. In these paintings, you'll discover hidden messages about personal identity, the importance of love, and the need to protect our planet.

Natalie's art invites us to think beyond ourselves and embrace the power of genuine connections. Her captivating images remind us to look beyond screens and find unity in our shared experiences.

"Love's Surreal Garden" celebrates the strength of nature, the magic of love, and the importance of human connections. Join us at the Riverdale Hub and embark on a journey through Natalie Plociennik's extraordinary art. Discover how love and nature can inspire us and find your own place in this interconnected world.



### Artist Talk: Marina Doukas

Pictured: Marina Doukas, Herself Series, oil on canvas, 2021.

The Riverdale Hub & Riverdale Gallery are proud to announce a solo exhibition of artist Marina Doukas entitled **"Herself – A Celebration of Identity & Gender Expression."** 

Please join us to Meet the Artist on Saturday, June 24th from 2-4pm.

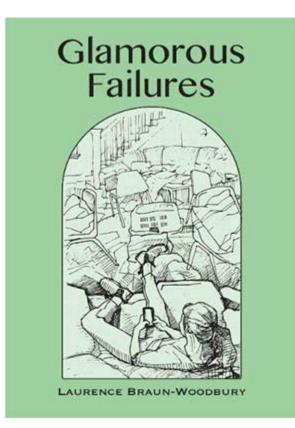
#### Exhibition

June 10th – July 19th, 2023 Riverdale Gallery, 2nd Floor Gallery exhibition supported by a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

Marina Doukas is a Canadian painter whose vibrant works range from bold and chaotic to blended and controlled. She explores themes of self-expression, perception, and individuality by bringing together abstract mark-making and contemporary portraiture. She treats the paint as a tool to record her experiences with navigating femininity and all of the moments of tension and discovery that may present themselves along the way. Marina obtained her Bachelor of Arts, Honors in Studio Arts at the University of Guelph.

In this exhibition entitled "Herself," Marina places herself as an observer to the performance of gender. She reflects on the choices she and her subjects have made in order to present their gender identity to the outside world and how these decisions can affect how they are perceived in social and professional settings. Through her paintings, Marina shows that there is no right or wrong way to 'be' in this life and hopes to create a space where any individual can feel safe and encouraged to show up as themselves, whatever that may look like. Witness these colourful explorations at the Riverdale Hub gallery.

**Book Launch: Glamorous Failures** 



The Riverdale Hub invites you to join us for the highly-anticipated launch of <u>Glamorous Failures</u>, the debut novel of fiction writer Laurence Braun-Woodbury.

#### Meet the Author:

Sunday, June 25th 3:30 – 5:30 pm **Glamorous Tapestries** 

Author: Laurence Braun-Woodbury Publication Date: April 9, 2023 Print Length: 325 pages

"An obscure professor of business ethics nurses a grudge against power. A burned out social worker gives up on her profession, no longer certain her work is making a difference, but confident she still can. A strangely charming freelance computer repair tech wraps copper wire around an electrified magnet... Flowing in and out of each other's lives, these wildly diverse personalities strive to make a better world by building solidarities and carving out pathways to a low-overhead revolution. Their efforts precipitate a cozy kidnapping on the prairies, a peoples' inflationary crisis, and the distribution of non-lethal DIY weapons for the war against the archons of ecocide. Their stories overlap in unexpected ways – not least of which is their shared refusal to despair. Steeped in labour and love, the misadventures of these recognizable protagonists coalesce into a hopepunk dramedy made for the age of cataclysm.

<u>Glamorous Failures</u> is a tapestry of interwoven narratives that build elegantly on one another to create a gripping, emotionally resonant whole. Its vivid, distinctive characters are brimming with life and deeply felt humanity. Full of heart and humour, this intricately layered story will move you in a way few books can."

# Artist Talk: Kyla Yager



Pictured: Kyla Yager, The Aftermath, acrylic on canvas.

#### Meet the Artist & Enjoy a Live Painting Performance

Saturday July 15th, from 2-4pm

#### Solo Art Exhibition

July 6th – July 27th

Contact gallery@riverdalehub.ca for more information. Gallery exhibition supported by a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Kyla is a Canadian-American Visual Artist based out of Toronto, originally from New Orleans. Art has always been a therapeutic getaway for Kyla. Her style has shifted over the years and changes by mood or feeling. Kyla tends to create her work directly from the subconscious, giving off a psychedelic, colourful, and graphic aura. While mostly focused in the abstract realm, Kyla is formally trained in realism, often creating portraits and landscapes for commission work. Kyla mostly works in acrylic for paintings and uses a variety of mediums for her drawings. She enjoys collaborating with other visual artists and musicians, and has been published in many art and literature magazines such as Art Habens, Beyond Words, and The Button Eye Review. You can find some of her work in person at Le HangArt Gallery in Montreal. Pieces are also for sale at Maker's Market in Toronto and at Fly Right Galaxy Gift and Studio in New Orleans. Expect to see her work in person at Toronto markets and exhibitions in the coming months.



# Festival of South Asia @ the Hub

#### Saturday, July 29, 2022 @ 12:00pm to 9:00pm

We have a lot of activities lined up for the TD Festival of South Asia 2023 and so remember to include a visit to the Hub on Saturday while enjoying the celebrations on Gerrard Street East!

#### Schedule of Events:

Artisan Market (12pm to 5pm)

Looking for a one-of-a-kind gift for a family member, friend or partner, or yourself? Our curated local artists and artistans have unique creations for everyone!

If you are an artisan interested in renting a table, please contact Celina at arts@riverdalehub.ca.

#### **Artists Exhibitions**

South Asian artists will be on-site to talk about their art pieces in our first floor gallery from **2:00pm** to **4:00pm**.

Visitors are also invited to explore other galleries featuring the works of local artists throughout our unique eco-conscious and accessible building.

#### Children's Activities (12pm to 4pm)

We will be setting up an arts and crafts table on our front patio for children to express their creativity using clay and materials from our garden.

#### Rooftop Garden Tours (12pm to 5pm)

The Riverdale Hub uses the unique characteristics of its sustainable roof to create a habitat for pollinators and to supply hyper-local, organically grown produce to the on-site vegan cafe. Visitors are invited to taste the fruits of our labour. Limited quantities of our produce will also be available for sale in the cafe. Please note that our rooftop garden tours are particularly popular and so reservations are strongly recommended; although we may be able to accommodate drop-ins. Tour Length: 45 minutes (first tour @ 12:00pm; last tour @ 4:15pm)

Maximum # of people per time block: 10

Contact Victoria Adilman, Lead Gardener, at victoriaadilman@riverdalehub.ca Fee: By Donation/Pay What You Can

#### Cafe (9am to 5pm)

As always, we will have a selection of vegan baked goods, iced tea and lemonade, popsicles, lite snacks, and our usual fare to keep you nourished and refreshed throughout the day. Plenty of seating will be available in the cafe, front patio, and of course the Rain Garden Patio for those seeking a quiet space away from the crowds.

### Artist Talk: Madhu Kumar and Par Nair



Please join us for a Meet the Artist opening on Saturday, July 29th from 12-5PM.

The Riverdale Gallery is excited to announce "Unguarded Moments", a new group exhibition by Madhu Kumar and Par Nair taking place from July 29th to August 25th.

Contact gallery@riverdalehub.ca for more information.

This exhibit features two exceptionally talented artists, Par Nair and Madhu Kumar, both originally from India. The showing offers us glimpses into the unfiltered and authentic moments experienced by women in India and Canada. By honouring their own heritage and shedding light on the diverse experiences of immigrant women respectively, they invite the audience to reflect on the vulnerable intricacies of family, migration, and the human experience.

Par's hand embroidery and oil paintings are inspired by photographs collected by her grandmother, portraying intimate domestic moments from her family's past. Her artworks aim to honour her ancestry by narrating their stories.

On the other hand, Madhu's portraits of immigrant women in Canada capture the genuine and heartfelt experiences they have had and unravel their resilience and strength as newcomers to Canada.



### Artist Talk: Poonam Khanna

meet the Art

POONAM KHANNA EXHIBITION THE INTENSIFYING STORM | JULY 20- AUG 31

Please join us for a Meet the Artist opening on Saturday, August 19th from 2PM.

The Riverdale Gallery is excited to announce "The Intensifying Storm", an exhibition by Poonam Khanna taking place from July 20th – August 31st, 2023

Contact gallery@riverdalehub.ca for more information.

Poonam Khanna is an emerging Toronto-based artist, and she discovered her love of painting seven years ago at a paint night event. Since then, she has been passionate about her pursuit of painting, making it an almost daily practice. She has participated in many juried shows and art fairs, including the Riverdale Art Walk, the Square Foot Show with Julia Veenstra and the upcoming Toronto Outdoor Art Fair. She has been selected into shows organized by the Federation of Canadian Artists, the Leslie Grove Gallery, Summer & Grace Gallery, and the Women's Art Association of Canada.

# Artist Talk: Komi Olafimihan



Please join us for a Meet the Artist opening on Saturday, September 30th.

Reception: 2-4pm Artist Talk: 2:30 pm

The Riverdale Gallery is excited to announce "LOKOJA: A Confluence of Ideas", an exhibition by Komi Olafimihan, taking place from August 31st – October 2nd, 2023.

Contact gallery@riverdalehub.ca for more information.

Komi Olafimihan is a visual artist, poet and architectural designer who is best known for his ability to represent, both visually and poetically, the complexities of the world and generation he finds himself within. In recent years, Komi's art has been shaped by a cultural and artistic movement known as Afrofuturism, which explores African and African diasporic cultures in intersection with technology.

Through the lens of Afrofuturism, Komi has been able to transmit his sense of pride in the African cultures from which his perspectives emerge. He earned his Master of Architecture degree from Carleton University in 2009, where his academic research focused on the limits and uses of improvisation in architecture through a case study of the Makoko fishing community; a floating city in Lagos, Nigeria.

The principles of improvisation, assemblage and collage are still potent sources of creativity and invention for Komi Olaf, the influence of which can be seen and felt equally in his painting, poetry, and design work.

He Manages Studio-laf and works in Toronto, Ontario

# **Rooftop Garden Tour - Urban Agricultural Week 2003**



In celebration of Urban Agriculture Week 2023, we are providing tours of our Rooftop Garden! See where we grow produce for our in-house cafe, check out our green roof and solar panel setup, and discover how our rooftop provides an essential habitat for pollinators. Take home free seeds and organic gardening pamphlets, let the kids get creative at our nature-based crafts table, and relax in our lush rain garden before wandering through our Gallery Exhibitions.

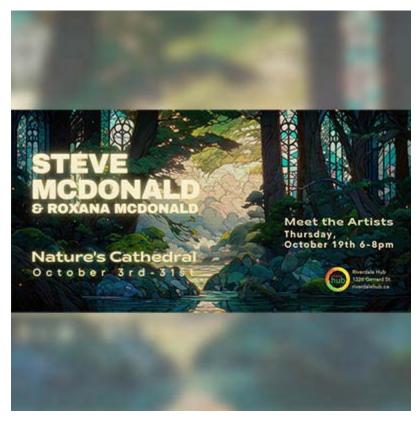
Date: Saturday, September 23, 2022
Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm & 1:00pm – 3:00pm
Duration: 30 minutes in length and restricted to 10 people at a time
Cost: Pay-what-you-can (all donations to directly support garden activities)
\*Please note: Pictures will be taken of the garden with visitors for our website and social media postings.
We recommend you make a reservation in advance as our rooftop garden is very popular;

We recommend you make a reservation in advance as our rooftop garden is very populathough drop-ins are welcomed.

Please contact victoriaadilman@riverdalehub.ca to book a tour today!

Event sponsored by Ontario Trillium Foundation and Meridian.

# Artist Talk: Steve & Roxana McDonald



Please join us on Thursday, October 19th, 2023

Reception: 6-8PM Artist Talk: 7PM (RSVP below)

The Riverdale Gallery is excited to announce "Nature's Cathedral", an exhibition by Steve McDonald (photography by Roxana McDonald), taking place from October 4th – November 1st, 2023.

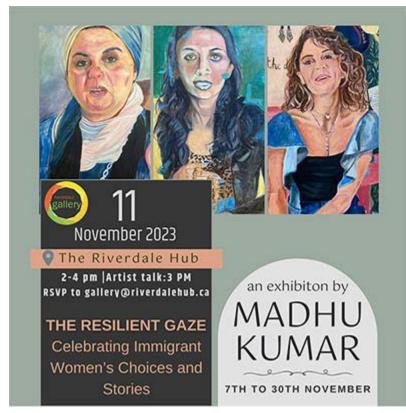
Contact gallery@riverdalehub.ca for more information.

**Steve McDonald** is a widely recognized Canadian illustrator. His work has taken many forms over the years but he is best known for his highly detailed line drawings and fantastical illustrations of both architecture and landscapes. He is an international best-selling author and illustrator with his coloring book series from Chronicle Books. Recently he produced four new sketch books with Field Notes as their spring 2023 editions. A few past notable clients include Architectural Digest, Blueman Group, Amazon Prime, Entertainment Weekly, and The Atlantic. He is a fan of many techniques and has even spent the last few years mastering the new AI rendering platforms and diffusion modelling tools. Steve doesn't see these tools as a bad thing – he views them as a progression of the evolution of image crafting.

To classify Steve's work one should look at his influences: Moebius, Terry Gilliam, Luc Besson, Imperial Boy, Hayao Miyazaki, Roger Dean, Noriyoshi Ohrai, Looney Tunes, and then painters like the the Canadian Group of Seven, NC Wyeth, Norman Rockwell, and even Frank Frazetta. His new work could be best described as 'escapist fantastical realism'. Steve believes almost all approaches and tools are legitimate as long as the work you are producing is striving to be singular and unique. He also believes in having fun and hopefully making you smile.

**Roxana Pye McDonald** began photographing her many travels at a young age. Living and growing up in Canada, India, and Indonesia, and spending her summers in Algonquin Park gave Roxana a fantastic array of locations to practice her hobby. Roxana began successfully showing her work alongside her father's illustrations as a teenager and continues to travel and photograph their many adventures together. Among them are trapping beavers in Northern Ontario, surfing in Java, exploring the nooks and crannies of Morocco, and most recently adventuring around Canada's West Coast in preparation for the 'Nature's Cathedral' exhibit. Roxana's Photographs tell a story of time and place and often leave us wondering about the why, where, or what is portrayed.

### Artist Talk: Madhu Kumar



Please join us on Saturday, November 11th, 2023 Reception: 2-4PM Artist Talk: 3PM

The Riverdale Gallery is excited to announce "The Resilient Gaze: Celebrating Immigrant Women's Choices and Stories", an exhibition by Madhu Kumar), taking place from November 1st, 2023 – November 30th, 2023.

Contact gallery@riverdalehub.ca for more information.

**Madhu Kumar** (BFA, BA, B.Ed) is a Canadian artist. Using the power of art and storytelling to connect and empower, Kumar's art practice combines painting and digital media to create a respectful space for immigrant women to share their experiences. Kumar earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Regina with Great Distinction in 2017, and her Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Education degrees from India. Kumar emigrated to Canada in 2001. In addition to her art practice, Kumar teaches classes in art, and works as a community volunteer. Kumar's achievements have been recognized with the YWCA Women of Distinction Awards in the category of Arts and Culture (2020). Her artwork has been exhibited internationally and is held in private and public collections in India, Great Britain, USA and Canada including University of Regina, Saskatchewan Arts Board. Kumar worked with David Garneau on the Tawatina Bridge installation

project in Edmonton. Her on- going portrait series, "Stories of Immigrant Women" combines large scale paintings with text, audio, and augmented reality. Whilst touring Saskatchewan, the artwork has inspired significant dialogue and community reflection on the experience of immigration, racism, and violence.

### **Online Art Auction**



Online Art Auction: Nov. 22nd to Dec. 12th, 2023 In-person viewing from December 5th to December 9th, from 10:30 AM to 5:30 PM.

#### How to Bid

**Bidding begins Wednesday, November 22 and closes on Tuesday, December 12th at 5:00pm.** The Riverdale Gallery auction will take place on our website and Instagram.

You can place a bid by writing your name and bid amount in the comments section on Instagram, send us a DM, or click on the "Bid on this Item" button below your preferred artwork. You can also reach us at gallery@riverdalehub.ca. Be sure to include the item number in the subject line of your email. Bidding will take place in \$25.- increments. Be sure to refresh your screen in order to check the latest comments and bids. Contact gallery@riverdalehub.ca for more information.

#### **Bidding:**

Bidding will be in **\$25 increments**.

You can bid on all 22 items that are up for auction by:

- Entering a comment (preferred) or sending a DM (Direct Message) on our Instagram post;
- Clicking on the "Bid on this Item" button on our website;
- Contacting us at gallery@riverdalehub.ca. Please include item number(s) in the subject line.

The Riverdale Gallery will submit all proxy bids (by email and DM) in the comments section of each Instagram post. The bidder will receive a confirmation message or email that their bid has been successfully posted. Parties submitting their bid by proxy are responsible for checking the latest IG comments for the current bid. Be sure to refresh your screen for any updates!

#### Bidding will end at 5:00PM EST on Tuesday, December 12th, 2023.

As a courtesy to the artists and those involved at the Riverdale Gallery, **the buyer with the winning bid** will have 48 hours upon issuance of an invoice to remit full payment. Failure to send payment will result in the artwork going to the next highest bidder.

#### Payments:

All bids are conducted in **Canadian Dollars**. Payment is to be made via PayPal or e-transfer. We will also accept credit card and debit card payments in person.

A charge of 13% HST will be applied to the winning bid amount, except for purchases exported from Canada. For purchases shipped to other provinces, the HST or GST is charged based on the tax status of that province. Please note that **all sales are final and artwork cannot be returned or exchanged.** We kindly request that all buyers ensure they are satisfied with the condition and value of the items before bidding as they are sold 'as is'. Should you have any questions about the condition of the artwork, please feel free to contact us at gallery@riverdalehub.ca.

#### **Collection:**

Arrangements to collect artwork can be made through the Riverdale Gallery after payment. If shipping/delivery is required, the buyer must arrange for the services of an independent shipper and be responsible for all shipping and insurance expenses.

#### About the Auction

#### Viewing:

Most of the artwork is available for in-person viewing in the Riverdale Gallery from December 5th to 9th during our regular business hours of 10:30am to 5:30pm. Please contact us at gallery@riverdalehub.ca to arrange a visit.