



55 Centre Avenue, Toronto
ON M5G 2H5 CANADA
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textilemuseum.ca

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Textile Museum of Canada presents the exhibition
Community Voices
May 8-June 30, 2019**

OPENING RECEPTION: Wednesday, May 8, 6-7:30pm
Artists will be present – all are welcome!

May 1st, 2019, TORONTO – The Textile Museum of Canada is pleased to present *Community Voices*, an exhibition that celebrates the creativity of community members through our partnership with social agencies across Toronto. Encouraging creative expression and supporting skills-based learning for individuals from underserved communities, *Community Voices* features artwork made during immersive hands-on workshops led by local textile artists.

In the last five months, over 100 community members developed skills in fabric collage, printmaking, wearable electronics, natural dyeing, watercolour printing, and embroidery. “More than new skills, we learned about communicating and new ways of thinking,” said a participant from Newcomer Women’s Services. “These workshops gave us more confidence as newcomers. Our lives have challenge and these workshops were relaxing and fun.”

Community Voices builds on the Textile Museum of Canada’s ongoing focus on real world impact, addressing community needs and social issues. “We have partnered with the Textile Museum of Canada since 2016 as part of their *Community Voices* series,” notes Cara Spooner, Public Programming & Partners at Workman Arts. “Participating artists who have lived experience with mental health and/or addiction issues have gone on to integrate the methods and techniques into their own arts practices.”

The program is presented through the generous support of Ruth Mandel - WHO GIVES Fund complemented by the Private Giving Foundation, TD Wealth. Philanthropist and textile hobbyist Ruth Mandel created the WHO GIVES Fund to support international and local initiatives that advance social justice, inclusion and the protection of women. The social agencies that participated in the Community Arts workshops reflect those values and share her appreciation of the benefits of making textile arts.

Community Voices is organized by Community Arts Engagement Coordinator Khadija Aziz. Workshops were facilitated by emerging artists Allie Davis, Apanaki Temitayo M, Apoorva Varma, Emily Norry, Justice Stacey, and Yahn Nemirovsky.

The Textile Museum of Canada is located in downtown Toronto (55 Centre Avenue) and is open daily 11-5 pm, Wed 11-8 pm. Visit www.textilemuseum.ca for more information regarding all of our exhibitions and programs.

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ARTIST PROFILES

Allie Davis: <https://www.theallicedavis.com/>

Apanaki Temitayo M: <https://apanaki-temitayo-m.pixels.com/>

Apoorva Varma: <https://apoorvavarma.com/>

Emily Norry: <https://www.emilynorry.com/>

Justice Stacey: <https://www.justicestacey.com/>

Yahn Nemirovsky: <https://www.yahnemirovsky.com/>

ABOUT PARTNER SOCIAL AGENCIES:

ARTHEART

ArtHeart is a stabilizing presence in the community of Regent Park. It free visual arts education, programs, and materials, as well as sustenance to children, youth, adults, and seniors, ensuring a supportive environment in which participants can create and learn, build self-esteem, and develop life skills. | artheart.ca

YWCA TORONTO

The YWCA helps women and girls flee violence, secure housing, find jobs, establish their voices, enhance skills, and develop confidence. They offer a range of housing options, employment and training programs, community support programs, girls' programs and family programs. They also engage in systemic advocacy. As part of a national and international movement, the YWCA is a turning point in the lives of 25 million women and girls world wide. They welcome women of all faiths, sexual orientations, races, cultural affiliations, and creeds. | ywcatoronto.org

SISTERING (SPUN STUDIO)

Sistering operates a multi-service women's centre for homeless, at risk, and socially isolated women in Toronto. Core services offered address basic needs for daily living, housing support services, primary healthcare, counselling, individual advocacy, and employment readiness. Spun Studio, Sistering's innovative

social enterprise, offers marginalized women a chance to earn supplemental income by learning textile skills in a creative, collaborative, and healing environment. | sistering.org

WORKMAN ARTS

Workman Arts is a multidisciplinary arts organization that promotes a greater understanding of mental health and addiction issues through creation and presentation. They support artists living with mental health and addiction issues through peer-to-peer arts education, public presentations, and partnerships with the broader arts community. | workmanarts.com

THE TRIANGLE PROGRAM

The Triangle Program is a high school that welcomes LGBTQ2+ youth who are in need of a smaller and safer space where they can find and build community. They strive to reflect the students' experiences in an LGBTQ2+ and social justice-focused curriculum. The Triangle Program offers caring and flexible supports to help students earn their high school diploma. | triangleprogram.ca

NEWCOMER WOMEN'S SERVICES TORONTO

Newcomer Women's Services Toronto was founded by a group of Latin American refugees in 1983. For the past 30 years, they've been helping immigrant women and men from all around the world to become part of the wider community. With the help of volunteers and community partners, friendly staff provides employment and settlement services, skills development, and language training, completely free of charge. There are also programs for children, including childcare for kids between 19 months and 6 years of age. All services are free, thanks to our funders and partners. | newcomerwomen.org

ABOUT THE TEXTILE MUSEUM OF CANADA

The Textile Museum of Canada has been exploring ideas and building cultural understanding through the universal medium of textiles since 1975. Connecting international textile traditions to contemporary art and design, this national museum is one of Canada's most engaging arts institutions, welcoming thousands of visitors from across the country and around the world each year. The Museum's permanent collection spans 2,000 years and consists of over 14,000 artifacts from 200 countries and regions, uniquely positioning the Museum to speak to global culture as well as our increasingly global communities. A leader in the digitization of collections and interactive environments, the Textile Museum of Canada is recognized for its innovation in the development of landmark educational, research, and creative initiatives. | textilemuseum.ca

MEDIA INQUIRIES

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