



OTTAWA ART GALLERY GALERIE D'ART D'OTTAWA
10, DALY AVENUE DALY, OTTAWA, ON, K1N 6E2, CANADA
613.233.8699 OAGGAO.CA

Open Call for Artist Submissions: Galerie Annexe Exhibition

With the introduction of our new Commercial, Community Guest Curator, created through a partnership between the Ottawa Black Art Kollektive (OBAK) and the Ottawa Art Gallery (OAG), Galerie Annexe is accepting submissions from artists interested in participating in a collaborative art exhibition.

Exhibition Theme

The exhibition will explore what rest looks and feels like within the Black community. For many people, in order to survive, we must conform to our current institutional and systemic mode of productivity and the idea of working through burnout is normal for a lot of us. How does one counter this with rest, especially having now lived through a pandemic that radically changed our way of existing and operating? Do we give ourselves permission to rest despite it all? The goal of this exhibition is to address these questions, our unique relationships with rest within the Black community, and how radical it can be in our liberation. The exhibit should garner discussion around dismantling and decolonizing the ideologies we have been conditioned to accept surrounding rest. The aim is to humanize the Black community through the exploration of Black bodies in a vulnerable state of non-performance through nuanced perspectives. We are looking for thought-provoking art that sheds light on the vulnerabilities and complexities surrounding rest within our community. The idea is to interrogate your own thoughts in regards to what rest means and what it looks like to you. Don't feel pressured to fit a certain mold. We're literally talking about rest so when thinking about what to submit, this should not keep you up at night!

Example subject matters can include but are **NOT** limited to:

- **Privilege of (prioritizing) rest:** Exploring the complexities of rest as a privilege, and the potential for it to be more accessible to everyone. It includes discussions around self-care, the surge of "soft life", leisure, gentleness, care, and how we gain access to that.
- **Rest linked to feelings:** Exploring the emotional and psychological dimensions of rest. It includes discussions around healing, repair, vulnerability, relaxation, laziness, inadequacy, procrastination, and other related feelings. Consider the diverse range of emotions that can be associated with rest.



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- **What leads us to rest:** Explore the various factors that can lead us to rest, including the expectation to be hyperconscious, compassion fatigue, mental illness or instability, hustle culture, burnout etc. Confront the causes and consequences of rest, and to consider the ways in which rest can be used as a tool for personal and collective healing.
- **Different types of rest:** Consider the different ways in which rest can be experienced and expressed. This can include: physical rest, mental rest, spiritual rest, emotional rest, sensory rest, social rest, and creative rest (or using art as the medium for rest).

REFERENCE MATERIALS

In building this theme, starting points and concepts were pulled from a variety of social media and artistic reference materials including, but **NOT** limited to:

- [Jurell Cayetano's body of work](#)
- [Tyler Mitchell's film Chasing Pink, Found Red](#)
- [Lizzo's response to Annie Lee's Iconic Blue Monday, highlighting the complex relationship Black Women have with rest](#)
- [Natali Kalalb's painting Afroprima sheds a light on the fatigue of performance](#)
- [Kevin Gates' song 'I Don't Get Tired' which speaks to hustle culture/the grind](#)
- [Aluu Prosper's painting 'My health and I Painting' which touches on mental health](#)
- [Michael Todd confessing parental fatigue, leaning on his partner, and religion for energy](#)
- [Morgan Harper Nichols' artwork about her journey with productivity and ADHD'](#)
- [Michael James Schneider's collaboration with Brandon Kyle Goodman on balloon art](#)
- [Poem by regularevolutionary on TikTok Art credits: 1st by Megan Gabriel Harris 2nd and 3rd by Lynette Yiadom-Boakye](#)



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Submission Criteria

- Artists who live and/or work within 150km of the gallery.
- Artists with lived experience in the Black, African and/or Caribbean-Canadian community
- Submissions will be reviewed and chosen by the Commercial, Community Guest Curator.
- Welcome submissions from artists at all levels of their careers (beginner, emerging, established, etc.)
- Once accepted, work will be accepted on consignment for a fixed period of time.
- All works must be available for sale.
- The artist establishes the sale price of the artwork.
- The OAG receives a 40% sales commission.
- Transportation of the works to and from the Galerie Annexe are the artist/dealer's responsibility.
- We accept only artwork submitted directly by an artist, commercial dealer or estate. We do not re-sell works from private collections.
- **ALL** art mediums will be accepted. (traditional and non-traditional mediums)
- Detailed sketches and partially completed works (at least 50% completed) may also be accepted, with accompanied examples of finished works as to provide reference to the artist's form of practice.

How to Submit

- **The submission deadline is April 2nd**
- Please email your submission to shop@oaggao.ca, no later than **April 2nd** and include "Summer: Galerie Annexe Exhibit" as the subject line.
- Submission limit per artist: 5 artworks

- Artists will be notified of the Galerie Annexe's decision within 30 days of the deadline.

All Submissions must Include:

- Digital images of maximum 5 artworks (maximum file size 2 MB each). Only the artwork submitted will be considered for the exhibition.



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- Credit details for each work, including: title, date of creation, medium, size and purchase price. ***For artists who need support, the Gallery will provide professional advice on pricing, editioning or framing their artwork.***
- Artist Statement that describes the connection of the work to the theme (300 words maximum).
- Artist CV (optional).

About the Curator: Yanaminah Thullah

Yanaminah Thullah is the curator of the upcoming summer exhibit, in her role as OAG's Commercial, Community Guest Curator. She recently graduated with a B.Soc.Sc in International Studies and Modern Languages from the University of Ottawa where she was actively involved in cultural planning for BIPOC students on campus. She has built a multifaceted career in public policy & data, project management, public speaking, advocacy and DEI consulting rooted in community development for marginalized peoples both domestically and internationally. Yanaminah is dedicated to addressing anti-black racism, amplifying Black storytelling, and empowering Black creators & creations within arts and cultural spaces. She aims to increase representation and intercultural awareness within every space she interacts with in order to facilitate systemic change.

About Galerie Annexe

Galerie Annexe strives to open doors for both established and emerging regional artists by giving them the opportunity to become part of a reputable gallery collection, gain valuable public exposure and, ultimately, increase the retail potential of their work.

About the Ottawa Black Arts Kollektive (OBAK)

OBAK is a collaborative group of Black artists and patrons committed to increasing the visibility of visual artists of African descent in the National Capital Region. Our goal is to provide ongoing mentoring, networking, exhibition and professional development opportunities to our members through OBAK peer/patron support, as well as, in partnership with other NCR artists, businesses and arts organizations. For more information about OBAK or to discuss partnership opportunities please see <https://ottawablackartists.com/>

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