

MAYWORKS 2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS



FRIDAY APRIL 28

FILM

A DAY'S WORK

7 pm - 8:30 pm, Carlton Cinema Auditorium 9

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SUNDAY APRIL 30

MULTI-ART
JOURNEY TO BELONG

2 pm - 4 pm, Alliance Française Theatre

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MONDAY MAY 1

EXHIBITION OPENING & FESTIVAL PARTY ART & TOMATOES

7 pm - 10 pm, Steelworkers Hall Exhibition Dates: April 8 - May 30 at The Public Window Gallery April 24 - May 19 at Steelworkers Hall May 1 - 28 at Whippersnapper Gallery

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WEDNESDAY MAY 3

BOOK LAUNCH & PANEL THE STORY OF ALBERT JACKSON

7 pm - 9 pm, A Different Booklist

A DAY'S WORK 6 pm - 8 pm Driftwood Community Centre

FILM

Room 6

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THURSDAY MAY 4

EXHIBITION OPENING & PERFORMANCE STRIKE A CHORD

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7 pm - 10 pm, Sur Gallery.

Exhibition Dates: April 13 - June 3, Sur Gallery

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SATURDAY MAY 6

WORKSHOP

WRITING WHILE BLACK

Workshop 1: 11 am - 1 pm

Workshop 2: 2 pm - 4 pm, The Public Studio

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SUNDAY MAY 7

PERFORMANCE

PACKINGTOWN

7 pm - 8:30 pm, Steelworkers Hall

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- 22-23 MULTI-ART: JOURNEY TO BELONG

(SARAP, THE SUNFLOWER MAN, MY JOURNEY ON THE "PATHWAY")

- **24-25 EXHIBITION**: ART & TOMATOES
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FESTIVAL VENUES

A DIFFERENT BOOKLIST

777-779 Bathurst Street (east side on Bathurst Street, south of Bloor Street West)

ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE THEATRE

24 Spadina Road (west side on Spadina Road, north of Bloor Street West)

CARLTON CINEMA

20 Carlton Street (north side on Carlton Street, east of Yonge Street)

DRIFTWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE

4401 Jane Street (east side on Jane Street, north of Finch Avenue, south of Steeles Avenue West)

STEELWORKERS HALL, (Main Venue)

25 Cecil Street (south side on Cecil Street, south of College Street, east of Spadina Avenue)

SUR GALLERY

39 Queens Quay East, Suite 100 (south side on Queens Quay East, east of Yonge Street)

THE PUBLIC

58 Lansdowne Avenue (west side on Lansdowne Avenue, north of Queen Street West)

WHIPPERSNAPPER GALLERY*

594b Dundas Street West (north side on Dundas Street West, west of Spadina Avenue) *There are three steps to enter the gallery space. The gallery does not have wheelchair accessible washrooms. Using the venue as a window gallery, the exhibition can be viewed from the outside.

All venues are wheelchair accessible unless indicated otherwise. For more info on accessibility, please contact director@mayworks.ca

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y @Unifortheunion

MAYNORKS EESTIVAL OF WORKING PEOPLE AND THE ARTS

APRIL 28 - MAY 7, 2017

Mayworks' theme this year did not come easily to many of us. Working in the arts and nonprofits within capitalist structures, we are intimate with the issues of precarity. Our workplaces rely on the volunteer labour of the socially minded, and on the invisible emotional labour of the marginalized. The question was then, how do we create a critical distance as a space of reflection and work with our artists and allies to bring together art projects that continue to empower all?

Art Against Precarity is not only about using the social function of art to engage in the issues of precarious work. In the face of social insecurity, art as the freedom to create is also at risk. In Journey to Belong, a multi-art event that includes the drag performance Sarap, the short film The Sunflower Man and the visual exhibit My Journey on the "Pathway", to fight against precarious living as migrant workers is simply to cook, to dance and to make robot head masks.

A festival that privileges "art with a cause", Mayworks continues to seek that delicate balance between the urgency of immediate actions and the criticality required to change consciousness in the long term. This at times is translated into that tension between content and form, resolved thoughtfully through the two visual exhibitions *Strike A Chord* and *Art & Tomatoes*. The former uses performance, video, installation, sculpture and drawing to propel the power of art to activate change catalysts. The latter reaffirms this by bearing witness to the visual strategies of one of the most important workers' rights, anti-racist, migrant justice mobilizations of 2016.

A cornerstone of capitalist thinking that also drives its system manifests in the arts through the emphasis on the individual "genius" over collective strength and on the final presentation of the artwork over the process and labour going into producing it. Mayworks aims to subvert this by drawing attention to a contemporary art movement that relies on community collaboration and collective capacity building. Working with our longstanding partners Jane Finch Action Against Poverty and the Workers' Action Centre, we present two screenings of *A Day's Work*, a critical documentary on the temporary work industry, to contextualize an international issue in a local setting and to connect it to local organizing. For the indispensable workshop component of the festival, we present *Writing While Black* in which participants learn to make their own zines by first understanding how the grassroots art medium can give voice to the marginalized, voiceless.

Amidst times of increasing precarity, Mayworks' roots in the celebration of working peoples' arts, cultures and histories resonate more than ever with the festival. We find our strength and optimism in honoring our histories and learning from them. In the spirit of May Day Celebration, this year's edition also features the book launch of *The Story of Albert Jackson*, a children's picture book about Albert Jackson, who became Toronto's first black postal worker in 1882, and the live music and video performance of *Packingtown* that tells the story of the community behind an important historical moment of the labour movement in Canada – the Gainers strike at the Edmonton-based meatpacking plant in 1986.

Welcome to the 32nd Mayworks Festival of Working People and the Arts! We hope *Art Against Precarity* will inform, provoke, inspire and celebrate you!



COMMUNITY ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MAYWORKS ACKNOWLEDGES THE PIVOTAL ROLE PUBLIC FUNDING BODIES PLAY IN MAINTAINING A LIVING, THRIVING CULTURE FOR EVERYONE

GOVERNMENT FUNDERS





MAYWORKS GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE SUPPORT OF THE FOLLOWING UNIONS & ORGANIZATIONS WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE FESTIVAL

LEADER \$10,000 +



STEWARD \$5,000 - \$9,999



ORGANIZER \$3,000 - \$4,999













ACTIVIST \$1,000 - \$2,999

Canadian Staff Union, Carpenters & Allied Workers Local 27, CUPE Local 905, CUPE National, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 353, Liaison of Independent Filmmakers of Toronto. Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, United Steelworkers Local 1998

MEMBER-AT-LARGE \$999 AND UNDER

Canadian Labour International Film Festival, CESAR, CUPE Local One, CUPE Local 1156, CUPE Local 1281, CUPE Local 1777, CUPE Local 2191, CUPE Local 3902, CUPE Local 3903, CUPE Local 3904, CUPE Local 3907, CUPE Local 4772, CUPW Scarborough Local, Elementary Teachers of Toronto, International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers Canada, Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation District 16, OPSEU Local 556, OPSEU Local 558, OPSEU Local 562, Unifor Local 27C, Unifor Local 252, Unifor Local 975, Unifor Local 1285, Unifor Local 1701, Unite Here Local 75, United May Day Committee, USW Local 3950, USW Local 5296, USW Local 5338, USW Local 8300, USW Local 9197

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Briarpatch Magazine Caregivers' Action Centre

Cinema Politica

Elementary Teachers of Toronto

George Brown College - School of Labour

Hot Docs Festival

Inside Out: Toronto LGBT Film Festival Justseeds Artists' Cooperative - Toronto Liaison of Independent Filmmakers of Toronto

Migrant Workers Alliance for Change

Nia Centre for the Arts No One Is Illegal - Toronto Ontario Black History Society

OPIRG York

Our Times Magazine Regent Park Film Festival Shameless Magazine

The Public

Tools for Change

Toronto Workers' History Project

Upping the Anti Journal Workers' Action Centre

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A Different Booklist

Allazo Skin Care

Aviv Restaurant

Bondy House Bed & Breakfast

Community Legal Aid Services Programme

Esther Myers Yoga Studio

FoodShare Toronto

Graphic History Collective

imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival

Jane Finch Action Against Poverty

Jane Finch Centre

Joan Featherston Registered Massage Therapy

Ken McAuliffe for the Rectory Café

Nightwood Theatre

Radical Design School

Smilev's B&B

Steam Whistle Brewery

Steelworkers Hall

Sur Gallery

Tarragon Theatre Toronto Masque Theatre

United May Day Committee

University of Toronto School of Continuing Studies

Whippersnapper Gallery

Workers Arts & Heritage Centre

YUFA Community Projects

THANK YOU

Matthew Adams Ellen Vera Allen

Tara Atluri Graciela Guadarrama Baena

Rodrigo Barreda Domenic Bellissimo

Paul Bentley Florencia Berinstein

Jenny Bocangel Ibrahim Bosai Pat Bradley Wally Brooker

Colleen Burke Stefan Buszka Maria Coates

Anh Dao Shannon Devine

Roopchand Doon

Debbie Douglas TJ Ediaer Carolyn Egan

Lorraine Endicott

Theresa Enright Alexandra Eshelman Maggie Flynn Alexandra Fox Barbara Frev

Hollis Grant Kirsten Gunter Ashleigh Hodgins

Kenny Hoosein JP Hornick

Jade Lee Hov Minerva Hui

John Humphrey Maureen Hynes

Jeff Irons Daria Ivanochko Sara Jaffri

Haseena Jamal Derek Johnstone Imran Kaderdina

> May Ann Kainola Natalie Kaiser Marta Keller Andy King

Donna Klaiman Deena Ladd Naila Lalji Anna Larsen

Loree Lawrence Min Sook Lee May Lui

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Linda Urguhart Raul Valenzuela Elaine Vassell Joshua Vettivelu

Camille Viault Lino Vieira AnneMarie Vincent

Emily Visser Maureen Wall George Wang

Tamara Williams Chris Wilson

CREDITS

MAYWORKS FESTIVAL OF WORKING PEOPLE AND THE ARTS

is an annual multidisciplinary arts festival that celebrates the culture of all working peoples. Founded by the Toronto and York Region Labour Council, Mayworks has been uniting art and labour since 1986 by showcasing and promoting the artistic work and cultural production of artists-as-workers and workers-as-artists.

Mayworks operates within an anti-oppression framework that allows for representation and participation of First Nations people, people of colour, queer and trans people, people with disabilities and young people as artists and audiences.

ARTIST STATEMENT ON FESTIVAL ANNUAL ARTWORK (front cover):



This disjointed city reflects on the critical yet hidden value of the contributions of precarious workers. The face of these low-paid jobs is increasingly migrant, female, racialized, young. A fast-food service worker is carefully pouring water back into the lake. Is she dumping dangerous chemicals or is she taking care of a river? She reminds us that in this world of money we are sometimes encouraged to poison surrounding environments for companies' and governments' profit. As Grassy Narrows, Aamjinwaang and Standing Rock teach us, the fight for safe and healthy jobs is not just about ourselves as workers but also about the health of our communities, of nature and water.

By Tzazná + Queso

SUBMISSIONS

Mayworks Festival invites submissions. The deadline for the 2018 Festival is **Tuesday November 7, 2017**. Submission guidelines and form can be downloaded at mayworks.ca/about/submissions

TICKETS

All Mayworks Festival events are FREE. However, please claim your ticket at mayworks.eventbrite.ca as space is limited. All ticket holders must arrive 15 minutes prior to the event to ensure seating.

CONTACT

Our newly designed website is now at www.mayworks.ca #mayworks2017 @MayworksToronto + 1 416 599 9096 info@mayworks.ca facebook.com/MayworksToronto twitter.com/MayworksToronto









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THE POLITICS OF CULTURE

For more than a century, Canadian workers have marked May 1st on their calendar as the International Day of the Worker.

As Ontario's largest public-sector union, CUPE Ontario is proud to be building a better Ontario alongside partners like Mayworks. For 32 years, Mayworks has been dedicated to telling the stories of working people across

Ontario, through art and culture.

On behalf of the 260,000 members of CUPE in Ontario, we wish all workers across Canada a happy International Workers May Day.

President: Fred Hahn Secretary-Treasurer: Candace Rennick



Building a Better Ontario.

WELCOME



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Mayworks Festival of Working People and the Arts!

We are excited to share our 2017 Festival with you. On behalf of our entire board, we hope that this year's Festival – "Art against Precarity", draws you in, makes you angry, delights you, inspires you and challenges you to take action.

We are very proud to be the largest and longest-running Mayworks Festival in Canada; we thank the Toronto community, labour organizations and our funders that continue to contribute to our success! We'd also like to acknowledge our main funding partners, the Ontario Arts Council, the Toronto Arts Council, Unifor and the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Ontario for their continued support. Thanks also to the United Steelworkers (USW), the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW), the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU), the United Food & Commercial Workers (UFCW) Canada, the Workers Health & Safety Centre (WHSC), Steelworkers Toronto Area Council (STAC) and a variety of smaller union locals that contribute to ensuring our Festival gets off the ground each year! With the help of these unions, we are very pleased to offer a completely accessible program - this year, all of our Festival events are free!

Our Festival has also grown over the years from support from our grassroots, community partners. We believe that our success has much to do with their support, encouragement and belief in the vision of Mayworks. This year our community partners include sister Festivals, labour and social justice journals and media outlets, community and arts-based organizations.

We are also honoured to work with a group of artists that demonstrate the power of art in addressing the injustices of the world. We celebrate the work of migrant farmworkers, meat packers, caregivers and postal workers. We celebrate their struggles against precarious work, against racism, sexism, homophobia and transphobia and ableism. And, we celebrate artists as workers and as activists, demonstrating their increasing responsibilities during these precarious times.

Mayworks appreciates your support! We look forward to seeing you during our Festival, and continuing to work with you in our joint struggle against precarity.

Mena Coursey

In solidarity,

Helen Kennedy and Meara Conway

Co-Chairs

Mayworks Festival Board

SUPPORTERS' GREETINGS



I am delighted to welcome everyone to the 2017 Mayworks Festival of Working People and the Arts.

For 32 years, Mayworks has been bringing artists and workers together in Canada's largest and oldest labour arts festival. This multidisciplinary arts festival provides a stage for artists and cultural workers to showcase their work and engage in stimulating discussions that reflects current artistic practice.

Mayworks shines a light on very real issues that continue to affect artists and workers alike. I commend them for the work they do to keep issues like precarious work, the struggle for decent wages and healthy working conditions at the centre of the festival.

On behalf of OAC's board and staff, we would like to wish Mayworks Festival continued success.

Rita Davies

Chair, Ontario Arts Council

Rich Daviers



The stories of the struggles faced by working people, and their victories to improve their lives and communities, need to be heard by as many people as possible. By telling those stories, the Mayworks Festival is vital to helping improve the lives of working people in Canada and around the world.

This year's theme of *Art Against Precarity* is welcomed and perfectly timed. More than half of all working adults in the Toronto area hold precarious jobs – such as temporary, contract, freelance or casual positions. Our society can and must offer more for working people and for young workers in particular. Workers need to hear each other's stories to be reminded of the urgency for solidarity, and why collective action is not only needed, but it is necessary to push for a better world.

On behalf of the union, I want to applaud the decision of the Mayworks Board to make the festival entirely free this year. It is a bold and visionary move to ensure inclusivity and access. The artists featured in this year's lineup will also contribute to an important initiative of both building community and raising awareness as the stories of workers are brought to life. These events help build the capacity of the labour movement.

Congratulations are in order for the 2017 program! It promises to be entertaining, enlightening and full of progressive politics. On behalf of more than 310,000 Unifor members across the country, I extend my enthusiasm and excitement. Unifor is pleased to participate and support Mayworks again this year.

Have a good festival.

In solidarity,

Jerry Dias

Unifor National President

SUPPORTERS' GREETINGS



Welcome to the 32nd annual Mayworks Festival of Working People and the Arts. Toronto Arts Council is proud to support this festival – the largest and oldest of its kind in Canada. In particular, we recognize the great work that Mayworks Festival does to celebrate the culture of working people, forge new links between professional artists and workers and showcase the art produced by innovative and emerging artists. This year's focus on precarity is particularly relevant to the arts, and we commend the Mayworks team for their leadership in addressing this important topic.

With funding from the City of Toronto, Toronto Arts Council supports over 500 arts organizations every year. These organizations in turn bring exhibitions, performances, and festivals such as this one to audiences throughout the city. Last year 11 million people attended events supported by TAC.

Congratulations to the team at Mayworks Festival, and enjoy the shows!

Claire Hopkinson, M.S.M.

Director & CEO, Toronto Arts Council



At their core, art and unions share a common purpose: empowerment. With precarious work on the rise, empowering workers, artists and movements to stand up, speak up and fight back has never been more important.

That's why CUPE Ontario with its 260,000 members is so proud to stand side by side with Mayworks, Canada's longest and largest running labour arts festival. And that's why we commend the Festival for its 2017 theme *Art Against Precarity*.

Mayworks provides a vital and vibrant platform for creative resistance. Resistance to discrimination in our workplaces. Resistance to precarious work. Resistance to the forces that seek to weaken our hard earned rights, benefits and security. In the face of this, Mayworks showcases our creativity, our strength, and our resilience.

So thank you, Mayworks, for all you do to make our movement stronger, prouder, louder and more beautiful.

Happy May Day!

Fred Hahn

President, CUPE Ontario

Candace Rennick

Cardan Remail

Secretary-Treasurer, CUPE Ontario



THE CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS





USW Local 1998 congratulates MAYWORKS on their 32nd Annual Festival Supporting Labour & the Arts!



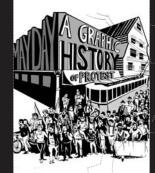
Proudly representing over 7000 Administrative, Research, and English Language Instructional Staff at the University of Toronto, Victoria University, University of St. Michael's College, & University of Toronto Schools.

www.usw1998.ca





The MAYWORKS







THE MAYWORKS LABOUR ARTS AWARDS have been recognizing significant contributions to the arts and labour movements since 2013.

This year the members of the 5th Annual Awards Jury, Pramila Aggarwal, Helen Kennedy, May Lui and Anna Willats award the following prizes:



THE LABOUR ACTIVIST AWARD for Excellence in Contribution to Labour Arts

This award recognizes labour activists who have made outstanding use of the arts to promote the values of labour and social justice movements.



Award recipient: PAM JOHNSON

Pam Johnson is a dancer/choreographer, trade union activist and socialist with a long history in both the art community and the social justice community. She has organized dance flashmobs and other political culture jams for climate justice, women's rights and reproductive justice, against war and in support of striking workers. She has created dance shows inspired by the red dancers of the 1930s and to fight draconian Bill C-51. She directed the first Canadian production of Howard Zinn's play, *Marx in Soho*. She is currently working on the Vimy Anti-War Project featuring the plays of Canadian revolutionary playwright David Fennario.



THE ARTIST AWARD for Excellence in Contribution to Labour and Social Justice Movements

This award recognizes artists who have significantly captured the values of the labour and social justice movements in their art.



Award recipient: SYRUS MARCUS WARE

Syrus is a Vanier Scholar, visual artist, activist, curator and educator whose works have been shown in Toronto and across the country. Syrus uses painting, installation and performance to explore social justice frameworks and black activist culture. A co-curator of The Cycle, a two-year disability arts performance initiative of the National Arts Centre, Syrus was also the Coordinator of the Art Gallery of Ontario Youth Program for 12 years. He is the inaugural Daniels Spectrum's Artist-in-Residence (2016/17). Syrus is a core-team member of Black Lives Matter-Toronto, and working on a PhD at York University in the Faculty of Environmental Studies.





THE LABOUR ORGANIZATION AWARDS for Excellence in Contribution to Labour Arts

This award recognizes labour organizations which have made outstanding use of the arts to engage their membership.



Award recipient: USW LOCAL 1998 HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE FOR THE STEELWOOL PROJECT

USW Local 1998 represents over 8000 administrative and technical staff at the University of Toronto. Beginning in September 2016, the USW1998 Human Rights Committee launched 'STEELwool'. Spanning all three campuses, the project's goal was to engage 132 members to knit scarves for the homeless and display them as an art installation on Dec. 6th's National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. Over 180 volunteers handmade over 200 scarves and distributed them across 10 shelters. The project was inspired by the adoption of Bill 132, which strengthens policies to manage sexual harassment in the workplace. The project engaged and educated members about political policy and demonstrated that 'Steel cares' for the communities in which we live.



THE LABOUR CREATIVE MAVERICK AWARD

This award recognizes an unusual and creative use of the arts to promote labour rights and awareness.

Sponsored by





Award recipient: **GRAPHIC HISTORY COLLECTIVE**

The GHC is a group of activists, artists, writers, and researchers passionate about comics, history and social change. They produce alternative histories - people's histories - using the accessible format of comics to help people understand the historical roots of contemporary social issues. According to their website, their comics show "that you don't need a cape and a pair of tights to change the world." Their first two graphic novels, May Day: A Graphic History of Protest in Canada (2012)



and *Drawn to Change: Graphic Histories of Working Class Struggle* (2016) were published by Between the Lines. The GHC has also created a free downloadable labour history colouring book, *The Little Red Colouring Book* (2016).

THE MIN SOOK LEE AWARD for Outstanding Contribution to Labour Arts

Named in honour of activist-artist Min Sook Lee, this award recognizes those who have captured the values of the labour and social justice movements in their art or through their activism over many years.



Award recipient: LILLIAN ALLEN

Call her Doctor Dub; she will resuscitate an ailing poem, rescue a dying metaphor. Community activist and two-time Juno award winner, Lillian Allen is a leading influential figure on the Canadian cultural landscape. As one of its lead originators, she has specialized in the writing and performing of dub poetry, and continues to innovate the form and spread its wings into community engagement. She has spent almost four decades writing, publishing, and performing her eclectic brand of politically charged poetry to local and international audiences. Lillian Allen is currently a Creative Writing Professor at the OCAD University, and working to launch a BFA program in Creative Writing in the fall of 2018.



JURY MEMBERS

Pramila Aggarwal is an award-winning community activist and for 20 years was a Professor in the Community Worker Program at George Brown College. She is currently doing research on the contribution of Punjabi grandmothers to Canadian society and a Visiting Professor at the International Institute of Adult and Lifelong Education, Delhi, India.

Helen Kennedy is a retired community worker still active in labour education in her union – the Canadian Union of Public Employees, CUPE. Helen is co-chair of Mayworks, a regular contributor to the People's Voice and very happy grandmother of 5.5 grandkids.

May Lui is a writer, a long time community activist and anti-racist educator. She is a former Mayworks Festival board member and feminist-about-town.

Anna Willats is a long time social justice advocate, activist and educator based in Toronto. She is involved in the Toronto Police Accountability Coalition (tpac.ca) and the Groundswell Community Justice Trust Fund (groundswellfund.ca), and publishes a weekly e-newsletter called *Rise Up! News & Events*.



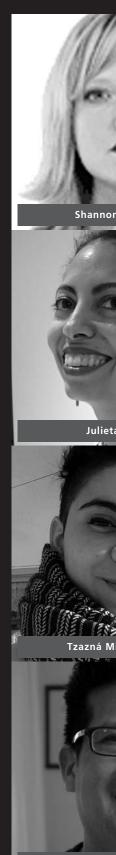


















Friday April 28, 7 pm - 8:30 pm Doors Open at 6:30pm Carlton Cinema Auditorium 9 20 Carlton St

Wednesday May 3, 6 pm - 8 pm Driftwood Community Centre Room 6 4401 Jane St Dinner, childcare and TTC tokens provided at the Wednesday screening!



Directed by **David M Garcia** Written by Dave DeSario and David M Garcia 54 minutes, 2016, English www.tempfilm.com

About the case of Day Davis who was killed on his first day of work as a temporary employee at the age of 21, A Day's Work provides a strong analysis of the \$100-billion temporary staffing industry that is putting millions of workers at risk in the U.S. Through a multitude of experts' opinions, it offers a closer look into the industry, along with an incisive critique of the many corporate employers driven by profit over responsibility, and their complicit politicians. Balancing its traditional documentary storytelling is the film's gripping portrait of Day's family in their earnest search for answers, as narrated by his 17-year-old sister Antonia.

In partnership with Jane Finch Action Against Poverty (JFAAP) and the Workers' Action Centre (WAC), Mayworks presents two film screenings of A Day's Work.

The first screening, organized with WAC, opens the festival on the solemn note of the National Day of Mourning that marks the passing of those who have been killed on the job or who have died as a result of workplace accidents and illness. After the screening there will be two short presentations by workers who have been active in the Fight for \$15 and Fairness campaign that is pushing for labour law changes to ensure temp agency workers are protected in the workplace.

The second screening takes place during JFAAP's annual celebration in honour of International Workers' Day. A post-screening discussion will emphasize the campaign for Workers' Rights in the Jane-Finch community, especially for those who have been working for temporary employment agencies. Panelists including residents and activists will speak on how they have been trying to tackle the problems associated with temp agencies and explore various ways of working collectively for major improvements in the lives of workers in their community and beyond.

Co-presented with Regent Park Film Festival, Hot Docs Festival, Cinema Politica

Co-sponsors:











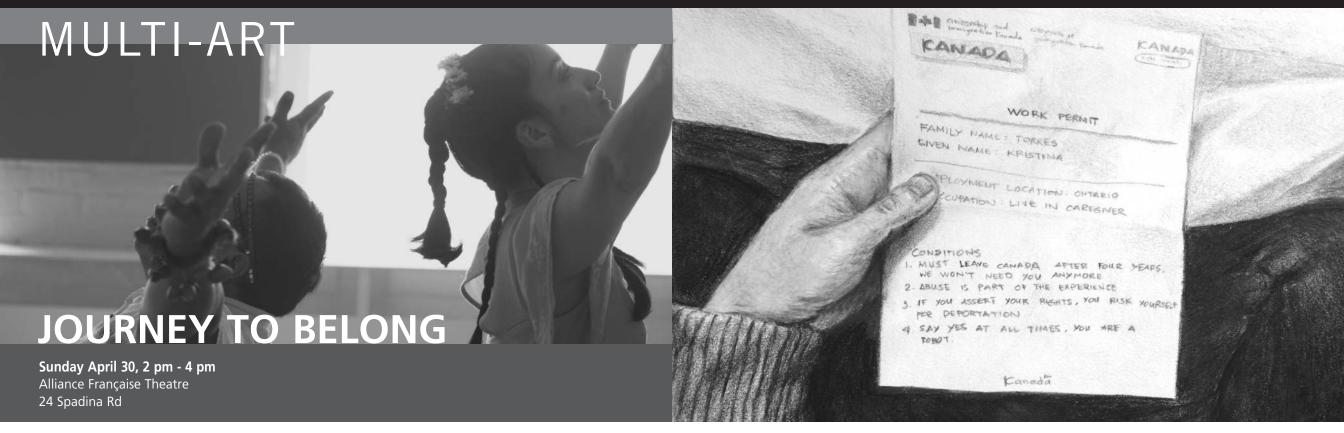












Journey to Belong features the drag performance Sarap, the short film The Sunflower Man, and the visual exhibit My Journey on the "Pathway". These bold and beautiful works are brought together for their common thread of migrant activism, their shared investigation of the power of art to empower, express, and create change, and their connection to our deep desire to belong.

Sarap by Patrick Salvani, aka Ms. Nookie Galore, is a Filipinx Horror Drag Cooking Show that re-imagines the origin story of the Manananggal, a mythical creature from Filipino folklores. Dark and twisted, the performance explores the complexities of being "Proudly Filipino" that are informed by family, history, migration and labour.

Have you ever tasted Filipino Sausages? As Filipinos in Canada it can feel like Food is our only way back home. For those people that don't have that... um... acquired taste, they'll never understand that with just one bite of the right dish, you can taste the stories from back home each ingredient and way of cooking providing its own lesson. These stories tell of our homeland, our bodies, our longing and ... our Monsters. Boo. Get ready to swallow!

The Sunflower Man by Monica Gutierrez captures the eponymous dance by Heryka Miranda, a dance artist and scholar-activist, and Juan Luis Mendoza de la Cruz, an emerging dancer and migrant farm worker from Mexico. The dance is inspired by Heryka's experience befriending Luis. Together they explored the lifecycle of the sunflowers at a sunflower farm where Luis works in the Niagara region. Through the method of land dancing and creative expression, Luis found comfort and relief from feelings of isolation and homesickness, often experienced by migrant farmworkers due to the precarity of their employment. A sunflower that has stood strong with the strength of her ancestors is slowly fading in the fields. A woman senses its desire to connect to the man that comes from a foreign land to take care of her.





My Journey on the "Pathway" by Kara Manso, aka Kristina Torres, is a visual exhibit of drawings and performance props inspired by the artist's work in migrant activism and her struggles as a caregiver in the so-called "Pathway to Permanent Residency". The artist refers to this program designed by the Canadian government for live-in caregivers as the "pathway to exploitation". The robot head masks used during the 2016 World Day for Decent Work demonstration point to the reality of migrant caregivers at work who are treated like robots without feelings or dignity. In showing her personal experiences and vulnerability through her art, the artist hopes the works will empower people and give voice to the voiceless.



Following the presentations is a panel discussion facilitated by Monica Gutierrez and featuring Patrick Salvani, Heryka Miranda, Juan Luis Mendoza de la Cruz, and Kara Manso.

Co-presented with Shameless Magazine, Inside Out: Toronto LGBT Film Festival, Workers' Action Centre, Alliance Française de Toronto, Caregivers' Action Centre, Liaison of Independent Filmmakers of Toronto, Migrant Workers Alliance for Change

Co-sponsor: **__CUPE:-SCFP**





Opening Reception & Festival Party: Monday May 1, 7 pm - 10 pm Steelworkers Hall 25 Cecil St

April 8 - May 30, The Public Window Gallery, 58 Lansdowne Ave April 24 - May 19, Steelworkers Hall, 25 Cecil St May 1 - 28, Whippersnapper Gallery, 594b Dundas St W

Art and Tomatoes is a visual exhibition and public installation that highlights and reflects on the Justice For Migrant Workers' Harvesting Freedom campaign. It was organized to mark the 50th year in which migrant farmworkers have come to Canada to feed our families vet have no access to citizenship. It was one of the most important workers' rights, anti-racist, migrant justice mobilizations of 2016. Exhibiting at three distinct spaces – a contemporary art gallery, an activist design studio and a workers union hall - this fluid intersection of art, design and activism carries a deep intentionality about the artworks and their impact. Art and Tomatoes also serves as a conduit for the unapologetic demand of its organizers – young, queer, gender nonconforming, Indigenous and people of colour – to be recognized as artists and leaders in their communities.

Join the artists and Mayworks for the opening reception and festival party at our home venue Steelworkers Hall following the May Day Toronto rally and march on the International Workers' Day on May 1, 7 - 10 pm.

ARTIST STATEMENT BY TZAZNÁ + QUESO

2016 was the 50th year of the migrant farmworker program. 50 years of workplace abuse, accidents and deaths, and of black and brown people putting food on our tables yet actively being excluded from our communities. It also marks 50 years of farmworker survival and resistance in the face of repressive immigration, labour and housing laws. The Harvesting Freedom Caravan (HFC) was launched by Justice For Migrant Workers (J4MW) to mark this anniversary and to call for permanent residence for farmworkers and all migrant workers in this stolen land we call Canada. J4MW is a political collective made up of mostly migrante women and people of colour who are farmworkers, unpaid organizers and allies. This exhibit is a way of giving back to the workers and community members who supported the HFC and continue to fight for fair working and living conditions.



Tomatoes have a long relationship with the farmworker movement. It was a wildcat strike of tomato pickers 16 years ago in Leamington, Ontario - the "Tomato Capital of Canada" - that gave rise to this movement (as memorialized in J4MW's logo). The visual identity of the HFC was based on images taken in Leamington by farmworker organizers. Campaign materials evoke the fields sowed with tomatoes, vegetables, and tobacco, and the raised fists of workers who toil and resist. Hundreds of red bandanas were used by farmworkers to protect against reprisals and deportations. The oversized vegetables and giant red fabric tomato disrupted daily life as the caravan crossed Ontario. Additionally there are pieces of new original artwork by community artists that were involved in the campaign.

The campaign brought up very important issues around work, racism and immigration; however the fight against sexism and homophobia within the movement was invisible, with some organizers feeling that they had to hide their gender/sexual identity. Like many movements, this one struggles with how to include those issues in the continuous work. In that context, building this project from the young, female/gender nonconforming, queer perspective of the curators is itself an act of resistance and of taking up space.

Co-presented with Justseeds Artists' Cooperative - Toronto, No One Is Illegal, Ontario Public Interest Research Group at York University

Co-sponsors:









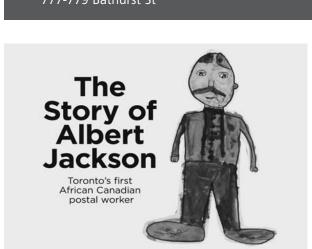
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Racialized workers experience higher rates of unemployment and precarious work. We are making a link between the Albert Jackson story of 1882 and the intersection of racism and precarious work today, as Canada celebrates 150 years of Confederation in 2017.

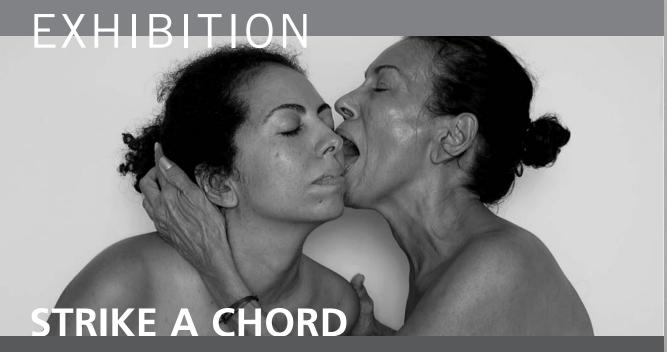
This event will see the launch of a new picture book by and for children about the story of Albert Jackson, Toronto's first black postal worker who faced racism from the other postal workers. In 2013, the Canadian Union of Postal Workers' national human rights committee honoured Jackson with a commemorative poster. Members of CUPW continue to fight for dignity, respect and fairness in the workplace, as pressures increase to ensure the public sector labour market follows the spread of precarious work in the private sector.

Following the book launch is a panel discussion moderated by Itah Sadu (A Different Booklist) and featuring Maryama Ahmed (Jane Finch Action Against Poverty), Mark Brown (Canadian Union of Postal Workers), and Kingsley Kwok (Ontario Public Service Employees

Co-presented with Ontario Black History Society, The Elementary Teachers of Toronto, Toronto Workers' History Project







OPENING RECEPTION & PERFORMANCE: Thursday May 4, 7 pm - 10 pm **EXHIBITION:** April 13 - June 3 Sur Gallery 39 Queens Quay E, Suite 100 Gallery Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday: 10 am - 2:30 pm Thursday & Friday: 12 - 6 pm, Saturday: 11 am - 5 pm



Presented in partnership with Sur Gallery

Sur Gallery is Toronto's first gallery dedicated to the implementation of art projects, which showcase and promote contemporary Latin American practices. A project of Latin American-Canadian Art Projects, Sur is envisioned as a platform of innovative ways to interpret and showcase Latin American art, and opportunities for audiences to understand its relevance in today's global context. Strike A Chord resonates with Mayworks' artistic vision and this year's theme in its insistence on the activist role of art and its call on artists to produce meaning in times of injustice and uneasiness.

Join us for the opening reception with artist talks and a performance by Montreal-based artist, Claudia Bernal at Sur Gallery on May 4, 7 - 10 pm

MAYWORKS Festival of Working People and the Arts



CURATORIAL STATEMENT BY TAMARA TOLEDO

To 'strike a chord' is to create or trigger an emotional negative or positive response to an action. In this exhibition, artists respond to times of peril by presenting scenarios of violence, responding with the action of protest and healing while conjuring an atmosphere of resistance. At times when our role as citizens seems to ever more bluntly demonstrate that actions need to be taken in order for there to be change, Montrealbased artist Claudia Bernal, Toronto-based artists Coco Guzman, Julieta María and David Salazar, use performance, video, installation, sculpture and drawing to position themselves as activists in a society that has revealed its ultra-right wing ideology.



Artists in *Strike a Chord* present multiple perspectives and offer the possibility of change through the use of various tools to activate social integrity, social justice, and respect. While both Claudia Bernal and Coco Guzman tackle performance and drawing as change catalysts and see the power of individuals capable of redefining the course of history, David Salazar exposes the vulnerability we all share and the obstacle that blocks our paths, exposing our precarious lives. Julieta María takes us home, a comforting and nurturing encounter with our mothers, exposing our true nature to survive despite sentiments of fear and isolation lingering in the world today. During times of uncertainty and anxiety, it is artists who create meaning and a sense of purpose when all else seems to be crumbling. Artists raise their voices; they elicit reactions and provoke those who do not want to change.

Co-presented with aluCine Latin Film + Media Arts Festival

Supported by imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival

Co-sponsors:

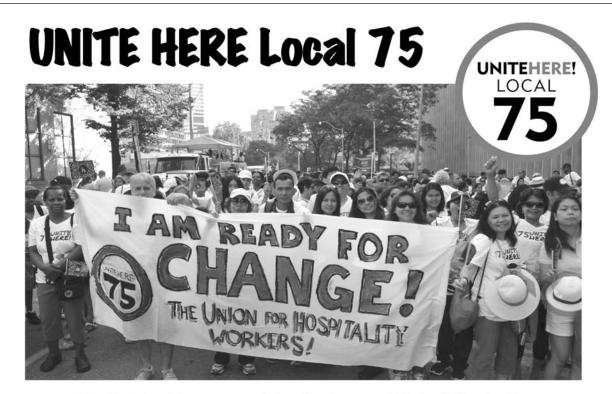








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There is strength within alternative print media that grants unlimited potential for activists of colour to push their movement(s) forward. By remaining independent and localized, grassroots initiatives can utilize zines to propagate information, educate the masses, disrupt mainstream media, take up space in a larger dialogue and organize their communities.

Workshop 1: Saturday May 6, 11 am - 1 pm

Workshop 2: Saturday May 6, 2 pm - 4 pm

The Public Studio

58 Lansdowne Ave

Part group discussion, part reading salon, part creation lab, Writing While Black engages participants in a discussion on zines written by people of colour and specifically the means in which indie print-culture can galvanize movements for racialized people.

#Writing While Black

The workshop will be broken into three segments:

Registration is required.

I) A 30-minute discussion about zinesters of colour and their contribution and impact on the political landscape within Canada and internationally

To register, visit writingwhileblack2017.eventbrite.ca

- II) A 30-minute reading station in which zines ranging from topics on migrant workers rights, labour movements, race politics, to gueer rights etc. will be made available
- III) A 60-minute creation station where participants can make their own political zines with both materials and guidance provided

Facilitated by Whitney French, founder of From the Root. A nation-wide zine dedicated to showcasing the voices of women of colour in Canada, From the Root seeks to combat the anti-Black racism that is inherent in Canada's literary scene.

TTC tokens and workshop supplies will be provided.

Co-presented with Our Times Magazine, Shameless Magazine, Nia Centre for the Arts, Tools for Change, The Public, Upping the Anti Journal

Co-sponsor







The video ballad *Packingtown* shares the vibrant people's history of North Edmonton through original songs and video interviews with people who worked at the meatpacking plants and lived in the community during the height of the meatpacking industry there (early 1900s to 1980s). The 60-minute live music and video performance weaves music and lyrics written by Juno-nominated songwriter Maria Dunn, with video footage, historical photographs, and video interviews collected and edited by videographer Don Bouzek of Ground Zero Productions (GZP) and historian-curator **Catherine C. Cole** with the support of northeast resident Janice Melnychuk. The performance will feature Maria Dunn accompanied by **Shannon Johnson** and Jeremiah McDade of the Juno award winning Celtic-world fusion band. The McDades.

Steelworkers Hall, 25 Cecil St



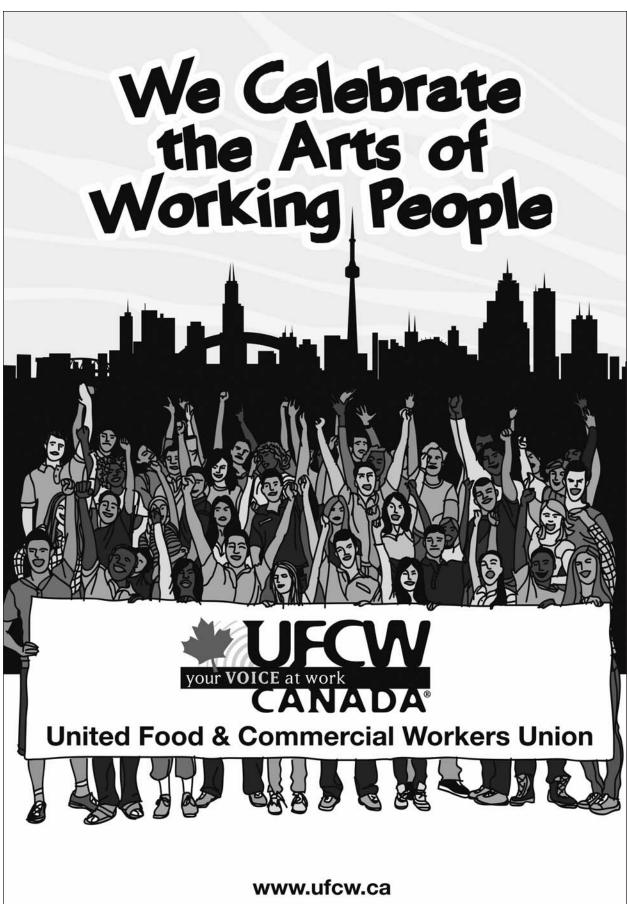
The creation of *Packingtown* was funded by the Edmonton Heritage Council, Edmonton and District Labour Council, Alberta Historical Resources Foundation, the Alberta Federation of Labour and UFCW Local 1118.

Co-presented with Briarpatch Magazine, George Brown College - School of Labour, Between the Lines

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ARTIST DIRECTORY + SOLIDARITY LISTINGS

Bernal, Claudia

Strike A Chord (pg. 28) claudiabernal.com

DeSario, David

A Day's Work (pg. 20) tempemployees@gmail.com www.tempfilm.com

Dunn, Maria

Packingtown (pg. 33) mariadunn.com

French, Whitney

Writing While Back (pg. 31) whitneyfrenchwrites@gmail.com fromtherootzine.wordpress.com

Gutierrez, Monica

The Sunflower Man (pg. 22) monica@3004studios.com vimeo.com/monicagq

Guzman, Coco

Strike A Chord (pg. 28) cocoriot.com

Manso, Kara

My Journey on the "Pathway" (pg. 22) arakosnam87@gmail.com

María, Julieta

Strike A Chord (pg. 28) julietamaria.com

Miranda Leal, Tzazná

Art and Tomatoes (pg. 24) tzazna@gmail.com harvestingfreedom.org tzazniarts.wordpress.com

Oueso

Art and Tomatoes (pg. 24) andamosvolando@esaqueso.com esaqueso.com

Sadu, Itah

A Different Booklist

The Story of Albert Jackson (pg. 27) adifferentbooklist.com

Salazar, David

Strike A Chord (pg. 28) dcsalazar.carbonmade.com

Salvani, Patrick

Sarap (pg. 22) patrick@kraftyqueers.com kraftyqueers.com instagram.com/Santotricks

Tamblyn, Kirsti Ground Zero Productions

Packingtown (pg. 33) info@gzpedmonton.org gzpedmonton.org

Toledo, Tamara

Strike A Chord (pg. 28) surgallery.ca

From late April and throughout the month of May, there are many FREE events in the city of Toronto that, like Mayworks, celebrate and honour working peoples' arts, cultures and histories. Please check them out in our solidarity listings below.

National Day of Mourning Ceremony

Friday April 28, 12 pm, Larry Sefton Park, 500 Bay Street Join health and safety leaders, Toronto City Councillors, artists and union activists to mark the passing of those who have been killed on the job or who have died as a result of workplace accidents and illness.

May Day 2017: For Justice, Peace, and Socialism

Saturday April 29, 7 pm, Steelworkers Hall, 25 Cecil Street Join the United May Day Committee to keep alive the tradition of International Workers' Day through an event that brings together prominent labour, political and international speakers with a rich array of talented drummers, singers, poets and musicians from a variety of cultural backgrounds.

Food and refreshments

May Day Toronto Rally

Monday May 1, more info at maydaytoronto.nooneisillegal.org

Every year grassroots organizations in Toronto rally to mark International Workers' Day, for migrant and workers' rights and in support of Indigenous people's struggles. We continue this tradition in 2017, rallying and marching against colonial and capitalist attacks on our communities here, and Canadian imperialism's plunder and attacks on peoples across the world.

Take ActionFAST for Bangladeshi Garment Workers

Thursday May 4 and Friday May 5, 7 pm - 12 am The Great Hall, 1087 Queen Street West More info at actionFAST.org

An event to launch the consumer awareness and activist campaign FAST, a series of community art projects, exhibitions, installations, and performances with, and in support of, garment workers in Bangladesh. FAST stands for FAIR living wage, ADULT labour only, SAFE working conditions, and No Unpaid overTIME.

Precariat Content (Podcast)

For Mayworks 2016, sound artist Benjamin McCarthy produced an outdoor sound installation called *Art/Work*, a piece combining candid interviews with Toronto-based artists and experimentation in sound composition. The installation has evolved into a podcast that explores art, work and the social and economic conditions that shape art production.

Listen at: precariatcontent.com

If you like what you hear, please subscribe on iTunes and share with your friends!



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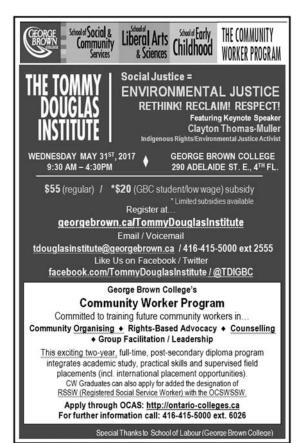


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Wish to acknowledge and thank all those who have contributed to the establishment and continued success of the Mayworks Festival of Working People & the Arts.

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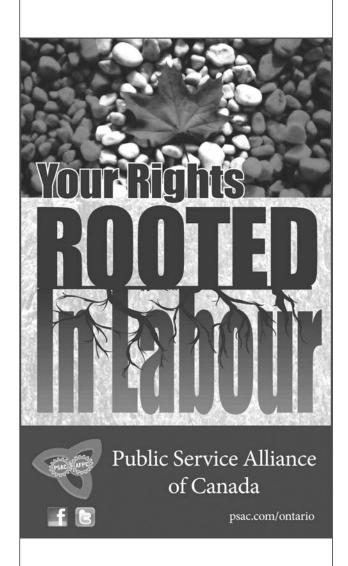
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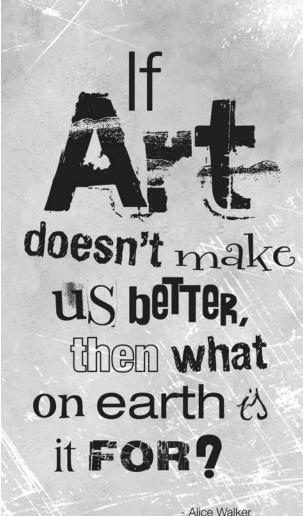
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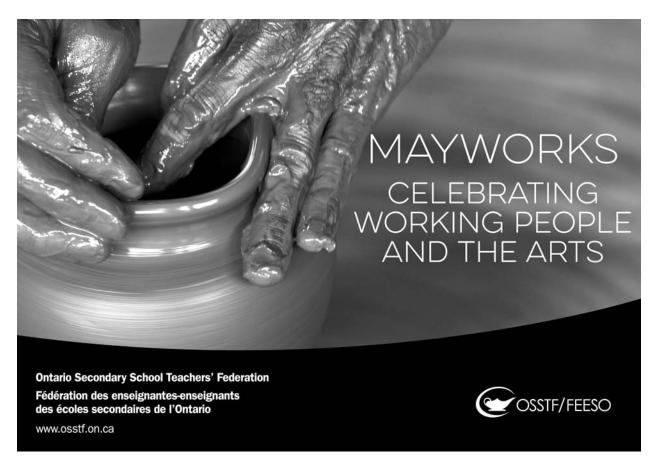


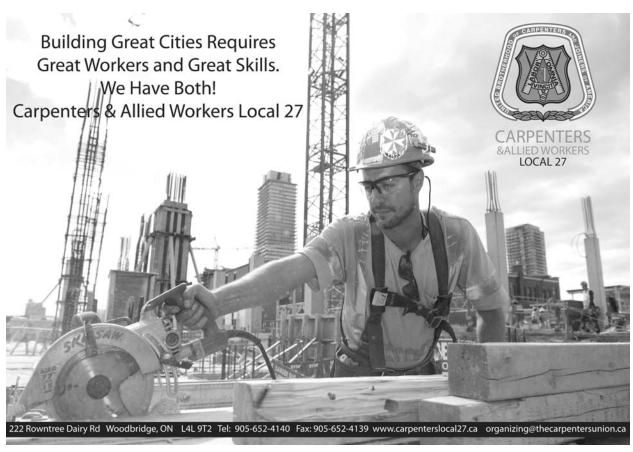
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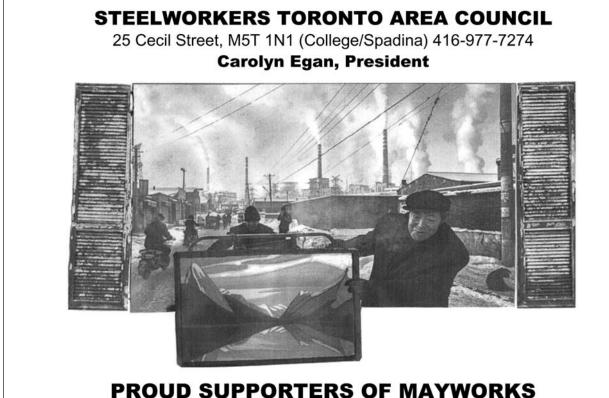
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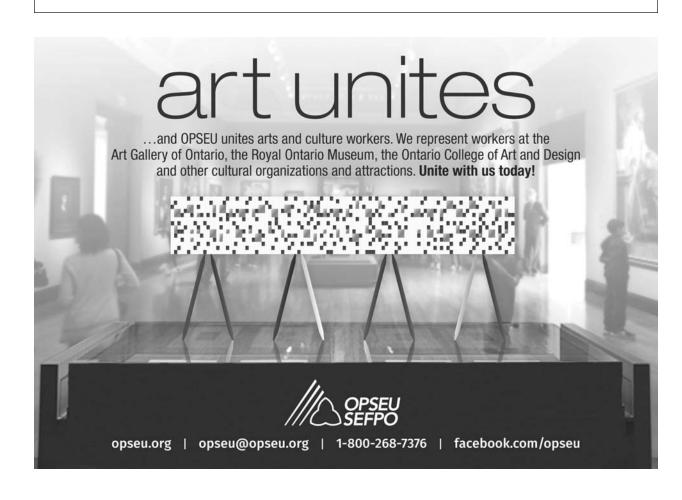
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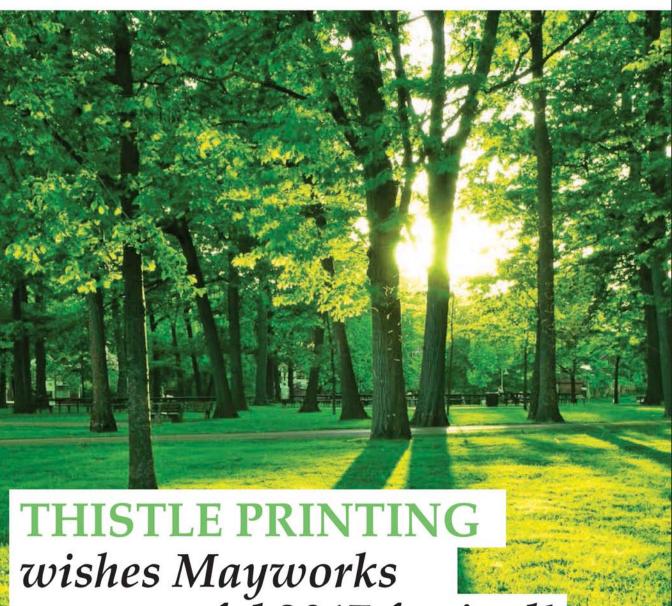






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