

Media Release:

Professional Sports and Fine Arts Combine - NFL Athlete to Reveal Compelling Art at Toronto Gallery

Former NFL player making a giant splash in the art world.

Media Release (04/02/2019) Toronto, ON - On the surface, the worlds of professional sports and fine arts don't appear to have much in common. You might be surprised to see the same people from the games who noisily cheer on their favorite team on Saturday standing in quiet contemplation before a stunning piece of art on Sunday afternoon. You might wonder what could possibly bring two such seemingly divergent worlds together.

Toronto residents will see for themselves as the art of contemporary abstract painter and one time NFL athlete Brian Poli-Dixon comes to Artworld Fine Art, a high end Toronto art gallery. Gallery owner Donna Child, an iconic figure in Toronto's art scene, says that Artworld Fine Art, which represents some of the nation's most renowned artists, "is pleased to introduce the paintings of Brian Poli-Dixon. Brian's talent as an artist and his discipline as a former NFL athlete intersect to create art that is thought provoking and irresistible. Brian combines the traditional qualities and inspirations of abstraction with a more modern thematic content to creating paintings that are uniquely his own.

On Sunday April 14th between 1 and 3 PM, gallery attendees and the general public will have the exciting opportunity to meet the artist in person as they view his compelling new collection. "When I paint, I feel a sense of uncertainty of the outcome. Though this process is now fulfilling for me, and I welcome it with openness, I once found the experience stressful precisely because I didn't know the outcome. Over time I have discovered a sense of familiarity and comfort within this space of discontinuity. I now embrace my artistic journeys and understand that I eventually create something personal that I truly love," Brian Poli-Dixon once said. So personal, he expressed that his "paint brush is the physical vehicle that allows the viewer to have a visual look into my subconscious through the manifestation" of his work.

MORE ABOUT THE EXHIBIT:

Genius is US

Brian Poli-Dixon's latest collection of paintings layers the personal with the political to invite successively elusive interpretations to emerge. And all the while, the energetic sense of embodiment and physicality he brings to bear on his choices of methods and media remain authentic to his quintessential artistic/athletic hybridity.

Through art, even the most commonplace of possessions may serve as an eloquent metaphor to convey a long-lasting impact. Borrowing the floral bouquet motif from his childhood expressions of love for his mother, alongside feminine figures, he pays homage to Picasso's use of found objects and collage in art. By intentionally using a juxtaposition of raw colours, course textures, and transitional forms, he elicits the tender, intricate emotions that often accompany revelations of such truths, meaning, and coherence that flow during moments of solitude, silence, and vulnerability.

Invoking Basquiat's graffiti installations that sought to bring high art to the streets by reframing text into contemporary, meaningful, and accessible imagery, many of Brian's works in this collection use interplay of text and masculine motifs to again extrapolate from his personal experiences of creative expression. The last two letters in 'genius' are 'u' and 's'. Recognizing this plurality, his clever and recurrent treatment of the word 'genius' liberates it from being a narrow, elitist, and exclusionary judgement bent on separating and oppressing, and instead elevates it into an expansive ideal that is inclusive of 'us' all.

He accomplishes this goal by the: repetitious appropriation and reconceptualization of the term 'genius' alongside a diversity of words such as 'universal'; as well as, applying a decidedly bold, vibrant, and graphic pallet. Genius now becomes more about: bringing 'us' together; having the courage and resolve to discover that which is special and unique in each individual; and then, ultimately embracing, channeling, and sharing this genius with everyone.

Edgy, urban, and with a sophisticated use of intertextuality, Brian Poli-Dixon's latest collection signifies a theme that is highly relevant: Genius is us.

More recent news on Brian:

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/gun-runner-wins-the-2018-pegasus-world-cup-invitational-the-worlds-richest-thoroughbred-horse-race-300589244.html>

<http://worldredeye.com/2018/09/qa-brian-poli-dixon-genius-series/>

Online Exhibition Catalogue will be available April 2nd. Artwork will be pre-selling on the same date.

EVENT FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Sun April 14 1-3 PM
365 Evans Avenue
Toronto, Ontario

(Media and selected VIP guests are asked to RSVP to an invite only event the day before.)

MEDIA AND VIP ONLY EVENT:

Sat April 13, 6-9 PM

By invitation only - please RSVP by April 11th to 416-620-0500 or donna@artworldfineart.com
