Omnishambles

Exhibition Catalogue

David Gillanders

studio sixtysix

contemporary art gallery

Founded in 2013, Studio Sixty Six is a gallery focused on contemporary, finely designed, content driven art.



Studio Sixty Six represents 23
Canadian artists producing unique, thought-provoking artwork in a wide range of media.



David Gillanders

David Gillanders was born in Toronto, Canada in 1968 and studied at the University of Western Ontario, London and, McGill University, Montreal. He is currently living and working in Ottawa, Canada.

Recipient of grants from the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec and the Ontario Arts Council, David Gillanders has exhibited his work widely in Canada and the United States (Chicago, Detroit, Grand Rapids). His work has been reviewed in the Montreal Gazette, Le Devoir, Vie des Arts, ArtFocus, among others.

His work is held in a number of notable collections, among them: the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec, the MNBAQ Art Bank, the City of Ottawa Fine Art Collection, the Art Gallery of Northumberland, National Bank, Loto-Québec, and BMO Financial Group.

Omnishambles

Omnishambles is a made-up word that hit me with a flash of clarity when I came across it. The word perfectly describes the context that these new paintings were made in. I knew right away it would be the title for this show. These are COVID-19 lockdown paintings. After March 13th, 2020 my life, like everyone's, was turned upside down.

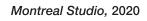
Working from home, with no access to the studio, the kids off school for months, keeping the household going, painting at night in a temporary corner between the furnace room and the kids' Lego zone, keeping the virus at bay ... all cards were thrown into the air, and are still there—spinning and shifting in constant need of attention to keep them from falling to pieces. Omnishambles.

Many of the figurative paintings in this show were worked out before the lockdown. Not painted, but images decided upon and drawings done. Their slightly off-putting, something-not-quite-rightness fit perfectly with what I was suddenly feeling. Once the lockdown hit, I shifted gears a little and decided to paint images of artists' studios. All the artists I knew were experiencing the same thing and I couldn't help but think about all the suddenly quiet, empty studio spaces. This is not how it's supposed to be.

For many years, I have methodically divided up the surfaces of paintings. I have needed and found ways to break up images into pieces, to create hard-edged structures where intuition and accidents can get to work. The imagery in this exhibition presents different kinds of situations and states. Each painting in its own way is a product of the difficult and frightening time of its creation. The lines are sharp and the shapes are flat, but the colour is alive and generous. My goal has been to make paintings that are true to the chaos of this strange moment, as chaotic as it has been, but to depict it with a visual language of optimism and joy.







Acrylic on canvas 14 x 18 in. / 35.56 x 45.72 cm

\$1,100

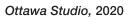




Chicago Studio 1, 2020Acrylic on canvas
14 x 18 in. / 35.56 x 45.72 cm

Chicago Studio 2, 2020Acrylic on canvas
14 x 18 in. / 35.56 x 45.72 cm

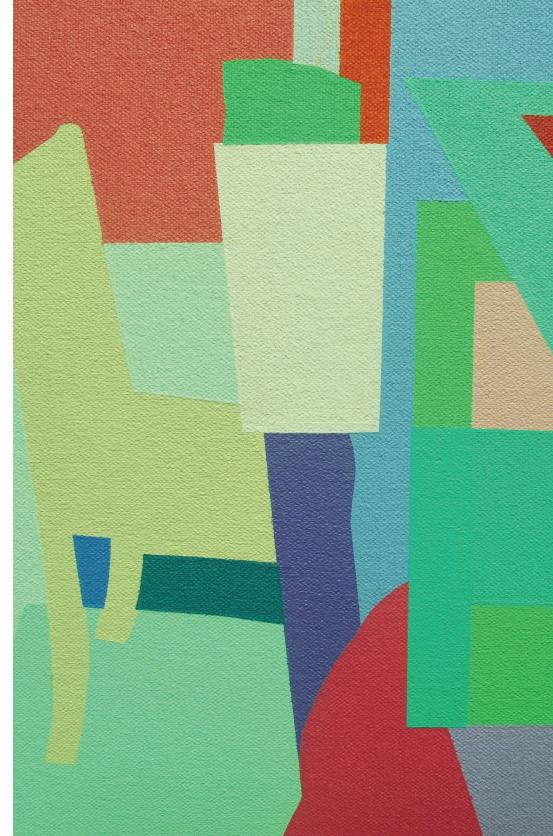




Acrylic on canvas 14 x 18 in. / 35.56 x 45.72 cm

\$1,100

8







DeWalt, 2018Acrylic on canvas
14 x 18 in. / 35.56 x 45.72 cm

Road to Arras, 2020Acrylic on canvas
14 x 18 in. / 35.56 x 45.72 cm

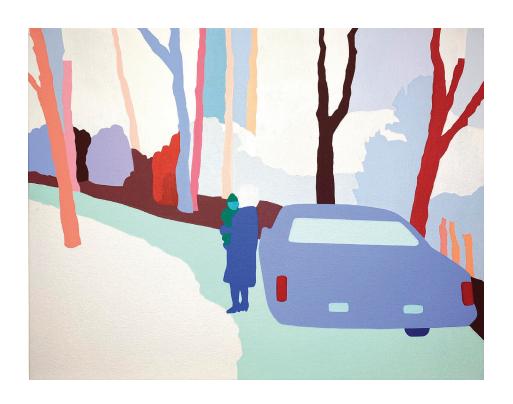






France, 2018Acrylic on canvas
14 x 18 in. / 35.56 x 45.72 cm

The Couple, 2018 Acrylic on canvas 14 x 18 in. / 35.56 x 45.72 cm





Leaving, 2020Acrylic on canvas
14 x 18 in. / 35.56 x 45.72 cm

Tom's Pistol, 2020Acrylic on canvas
14 x 18 in. / 35.56 x 45.72 cm





Birthday, 2018Acrylic on canvas
18 x 14 in. / 45.72 x 35.56 cm





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