

BRIAN HARVEY

Toronto, ON

BIOGRAPHY

Toronto born painter Brian Harvey studied at The Art Centre at Central Technical School, Toronto School of Art, and received a BFA from OCAD University in 2016. Upon graduating from The Art Centre in 2003, Harvey focused on building an oil painting practice and within a few years he began working full time as an artist. He has been painting for two decades and his work has been widely collected across Canada, the United States and beyond. He is inspired by the commonplace and the typically mundane; the everyday objects, spaces and landscapes that surround him. He strives to explore and monumentalize these overlooked and forgotten pockets of Toronto's urban landscape.

ARTIST STATEMENT

Through painting, I create space to observe frequently overlooked aspects of the contemporary urban setting and document the changing landscape. I feel strongly for places that are connected to the past or in danger of being forgotten. The greasy spoon diner, the back laneway, and the corner convenience store are reoccurring subjects; local haunts that harbour a sense of community and the warmth of a family run atmosphere. As generations pass, changes inevitably and slowly shift our surroundings and the memories of the places we love.

My handling of paint and attention to light's effect on atmosphere invites viewers into the enclosed, intimate experience of the everyday individual. Capturing the sentiment of banal daily moments is at the core of my practice. My works are quintessentially Canadian, inspired by the surroundings of my hometown of Toronto. Despite the works' specific locales, there is an openness to how I approach each scene, allowing one to connect the overarching atmosphere of each canvas to daily lived experiences in cities with similar sites of urban living such as Toronto and Ottawa.

The Other Day – Curatorial Statement

The Other Day suggests the beginning of a story, one without a distinct date and time – *the other day* could be a week ago, three months ago, or yesterday. It pulls us from the *now* to the *then*.

In Harvey's latest body of oil paintings depicting Toronto's urban landscape, there is an underlying sensation of time passing. Harvey is adept at depicting the moments where time lives in small ways; whether it is the overgrowth of weeds surrounding a van in a back alley or the slow meander of a meal in good company at a local diner. These mark pockets of time, our daily movements as we transition from place to place.

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Harvey's sensitivity to atmosphere, light, and perspective throughout the works in *The Other Day* offers us moments to pause and reflect with a sense of ease. Slowing down through painting allows Harvey the chance to pick apart and magnify the wisps of moments that make us feel present and connected to our environment.

In *Autumn Jungle*, Harvey's energetic sweeps and dashes of reds, yellows, and olive greens emanates the rustling of fall leaves overhead. There is extreme care taken in expressing the fleeting moments that set a scene; the slants of blue shadows in *Hanging On*, or the fragments of light scattered over puddles and fences along a tree-shaded back lane in *Wet Leaves Underfoot*. Harvey speaks to a romantic appreciation for these transitional spaces, a quiet pause amidst the hustle of the architectural jungle of the city.

Across Harvey's canvases, atmospheric shifts in light and changes in the seasons weave together moments in time. He creates an undulating map of the everyday; from the comfort of routine in learned shortcuts to the Sunday brunch spot.

Beyond the commemoration of the slow slipping of time in the everyday, is the dutiful recording of the history of a changing urban landscape. Amidst constant development are the local haunts that refuse to give in to gentrifying forces. Harvey's dedication to depicting these spaces comes from an understanding of the need to memorialize their importance within the fabric of community.

Our Place and *The Cook* celebrate the community mainstay that is the family-run diner. *The Cook* features an elderly chef enveloped in a warm orange glow in the familiar space of his kitchen. Harvey set us in a scene of early light, voyeuristically gazing into the morning routine of his intimate workspace. A masterful storyteller, Harvey pulls focus to the individual — the heart of the business — and their passionate dedication day in and day out. It is in small family run spaces like these that the owner's presence builds the business' true personality and deep roots within a community.

The Other Day is a testament to appreciating what is present in front of us. Harvey's urbanscapes and cherished diner scenes remind us to slow down and not take for granted the places and moments that seem timeless.

- Tiffany April
Curator

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WALL SPACE GALLERY
358 Richmond Rd. Ottawa, ON. K2A 0E8 | 613.729.0003 | info@wallspacegallery.ca



CV

EDUCATION

- 2010-2016** BFA, Drawing and Painting, OCAD University, Toronto, ON
2000-2003 Three Year Post-Secondary Specialized Art Program, The Art Centre at Central Technical School, Toronto, ON
2001-2003 Part Time Studies, Toronto School of Art, Toronto, ON
1999-2000 Art Fundamentals Certificate, Part Time Studies, Sheridan College, Oakville, ON
1997-1998 Digital Media Arts Diploma, Seneca College, Toronto, ON

SELECT SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2023** *The Other Day*, Wall Space Gallery, Ottawa, ON
2021 *Drift*, Abozzo Gallery, Toronto, ON
2020 *You Had to Be There*, Solo Exhibition, Wall Space Gallery, Ottawa, ON
2019 *Toronto Outdoor Art Fair*, Toronto, ON
2019 *In Passing*, Abozzo Gallery, Toronto, ON
2018 *Sense of Place*, Wall Space Gallery, Ottawa, ON
2018 *Under the Sun*, curated by Abozzo Gallery for FCP Gallery, Toronto, ON
2017 *Feature Artist*, Petroff Gallery, Toronto, ON
2016 *Guest Artist*, Abozzo Gallery, Toronto, ON
2016 *Facade*, Project Gallery, Toronto, ON
2014 *Brian Harvey: Paintings*, Marlow Gallery, Barrie, ON
2013 *You've Been Here Before*, Wall Space Gallery, Ottawa, ON
2012 *Brian Harvey: Selected Works*, Cowbell Restaurant, Toronto, ON
2009 *Brian Harvey: Selected Works*, Cowbell Restaurant, Toronto, ON
2008 *Brian Harvey: Selected Works*, Cowbell Restaurant, Toronto, ON

SELECT GROUP EXHIBITIONS

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- 2023** *The Artist Project, Toronto, ON*
2020 *The Artist Project, Toronto, ON*
2019 *Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition, Toronto, ON*
2018 *25th Anniversary Exhibition, Abbozzo Gallery, Toronto, ON*
2018 *Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition, Toronto, ON*
2018 *The Artist Project, Toronto, ON*
2017 *Yorkville Village Arts Festival with OCADU, Toronto, ON*
2017 *Toronto Revealed, TD Gallery at Toronto Reference Library, Toronto, ON*
2017 *Well One: The Inaugural Exhibition of the Well Collective, Arta Gallery, Toronto, ON*
2017 *Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition, Toronto, ON*
2017 *The Artist Project, Toronto, ON*
2016 *Yorkville Village Arts Festival; with OCADU, Toronto, ON*
2016 *A Fleeting Presence: Brian Harvey and Julie Himel, Wall Space Gallery, Ottawa, ON*
2016 *The Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition, Toronto, ON*
2016 *OCAD University GradEX, OCAD University, Toronto, ON*
2016 *The Artist Project, Toronto, ON*
2015 *Salon 3, Project Gallery, Toronto, ON*
2015 *Places and Spaces, Toronto, ON*
2015 *McMichael Autumn Art Sale, Kleinburg, ON*
2015 *The Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition, Toronto, ON*
2015 *Riverdale Art Walk, Toronto, ON*
2015 *Collective Horizons Pop Up Exhibition, Toronto, ON*
2015 *15 Painters, Project Gallery, Toronto, ON*
2015 *The Artist Project, Toronto, ON*
2014 *Ontario Discovered, Toronto, ON*
2014 *The Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition, Toronto, ON*
2014 *All Us To Introduce, Petroff Gallery, Toronto, ON*
2014 *Riverdale Art Walk, Toronto, ON*
2014 *The Artist Project, Toronto, ON*
2014 *Collective Horizons, Arta Gallery, Toronto, ON*
2013 *Architexture, Project Gallery, Toronto, ON*
2013 *Ontario Here and There, Toronto, ON*
2013 *Cabbagetown Arts and Crafts Show, Toronto, ON*
2013 *The Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition, Toronto, ON*
2013 *Riverdale Art Walk, Toronto, ON*
2013 *The Artist Project, Toronto, ON*
2012 *Toronto Calls, Canadian Fine Arts, Toronto, ON*
2012 *Wild Ontario, Toronto, ON*
2012 *Alone Together, Artscape Triangle Gallery, Toronto, ON*
2012 *The Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition, Toronto, ON*
2012 *Riverdale Art Walk, Toronto, ON*
2012 *The Artist Project, Toronto, ON*
2011 *Named Spaces, Earls Court Gallery, Hamilton, ON*
2011 *Art Gallery of Hamilton Art Show and Sale, Hamilton, ON*
2011 *Backhouse, Telephone Booth Gallery, Toronto, ON*
2013 *The Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition, Toronto, ON*
2011 *Riverdale Art Walk, Toronto, ON*
2011 *The Artist Project, Toronto, ON*
2010 *Paintings by Brian Harvey and Lorena Ziraldo, Buckland Southerst Gallery, Vancouver, BC*
2010 *Queen West Art Crawl, Toronto, ON*
2010 *The Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition, Toronto, ON*

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- 2010** *Riverdale Art Walk, Toronto, ON*
- 2010** *Urban Artifacts, XEXE Gallery, Toronto, ON*
- 2010** *The Artist Project, Toronto, ON*
- 2009** *Gallery Revue Show, Wall Space Gallery, Ottawa, ON*
- 2009** *Square Foot, AWOL Gallery, Toronto, ON*
- 2009** *Art Gallery of Hamilton Art Show and Sale, Hamilton, ON*
- 2009** *The Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition, Toronto, ON*
- 2009** *Landscape, Wall Space Gallery, Ottawa, ON*
- 2008** *The Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition, Toronto, ON*
- 2008** *Riverdale Art Walk, Toronto, ON*
- 2008** *Queen West Art Crawl, Toronto, ON*
- 2007** *Queen West Art Crawl, Toronto, ON*
- 2007** *Square Foot, AWOL Gallery, Toronto, ON*
- 2007** *Junction Arts Festival, Juried Exhibition, Toronto, ON*
- 2006** *The Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition, Toronto, ON*
- 2006** *Group Exhibition, Gallery One Zed Two, Toronto, ON*
- 2006** *Small Works, Buckland Southerst Gallery, Vancouver, BC*
- 2005** *The Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition, Toronto, ON*
- 2005** *Canadian Opera Art Exhibition, Hummingbird Centre, Toronto, ON*

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Government of Ontario Art Collection
 Toronto Public Library Art Collection
 City of Toronto Art Collection

MEDIA AND PUBLICATIONS

- 2019** *Review: Brian Harvey, In Passing. Solo Exhibition at Abbozzo Gallery, The Artist and the Viewer, Toronto, ON*
- 2014** *Toronto's Old Soul, Painter Puts the City's Past on His Canvases, Toronto Home Magazine, Toronto, ON*
- 2011** *Reinventing the Lay of the Landscape, The National Post, Canada*
- 2011** *Highlights of The Artist Project, BlogTO, Toronto, ON*

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