

P.S. —

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Aaron Jones  
Christina Leslie  
Dainsha Nugent-Palache  
Bidemi Oloyede  
Movers and Makers



Previous spread  
Aaron Jones  
Detail from *M/2K*  
2021  
COURTESY AARON JONES

**WHILE THE PAST** eighteen months have had a devastating impact on many people, it has been especially hard for those of the Black diaspora, as the two overlapping catastrophes of racism and the pandemic have taken a profound toll. *Movers and Makers* speaks to the challenges of the present moment by invoking a desired future of Black optimism. It does so by furthering the goal of its precursor *Movers and Shakers* (2018) to provide a much-needed exhibition opportunity for early-career artists in Toronto, while critically shifting toward Black artists who address their subjectivity through artistic strategies of photographic experimentation in this “post-photographic era.”

Aaron Jones uses collage to express his perspectives on art and contemporary culture in relation to his evolving sense of self. His techniques of constructing, deconstructing and re-creating with paper-on-paper yield works that are multilayered in visual and experiential meaning. His most recent works play with the visual language of abstraction, while emphasizing the presence and power of the human body.

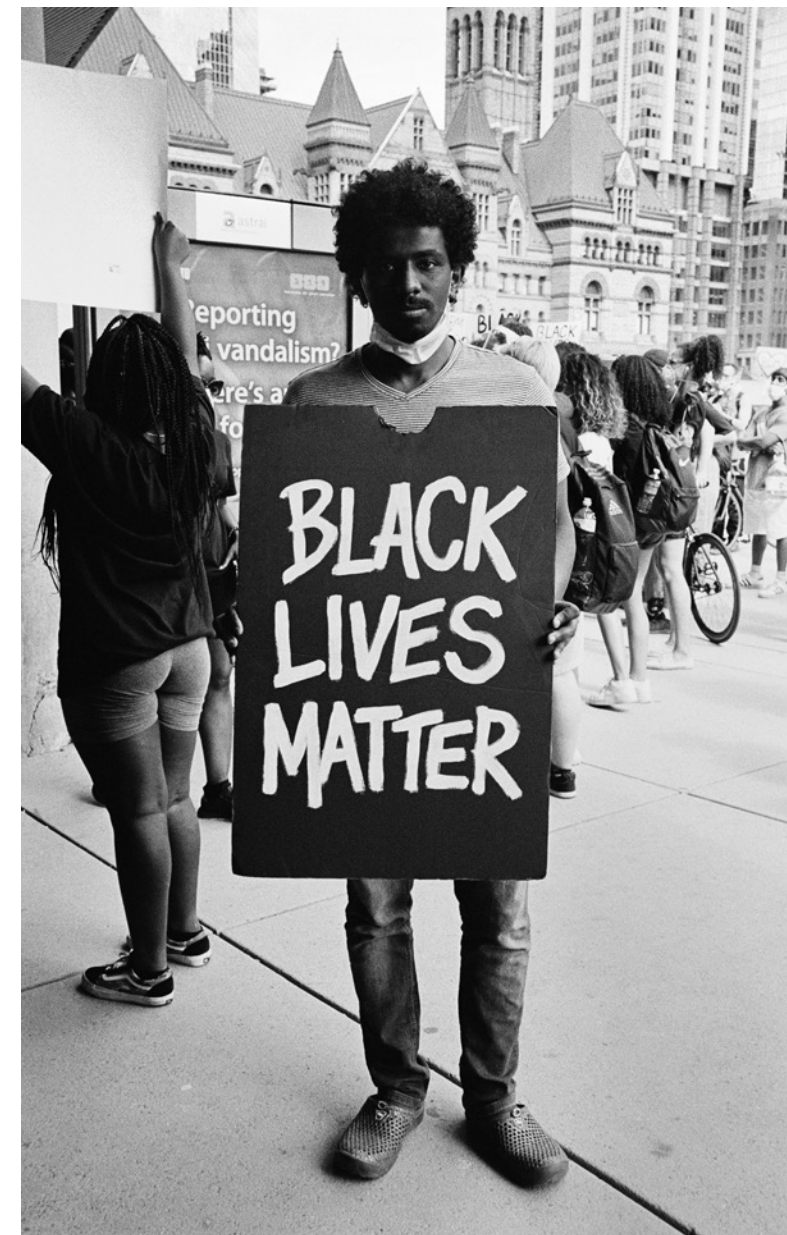
Christina Leslie utilizes historical photographic methods in an artistic response to the predominance of the digital in contemporary photography. Influenced by art history and responding to the colonial gaze, she produces intimate pinhole portraits of family and friends. These portraits express the beauty and humanity of those who are often overlooked.

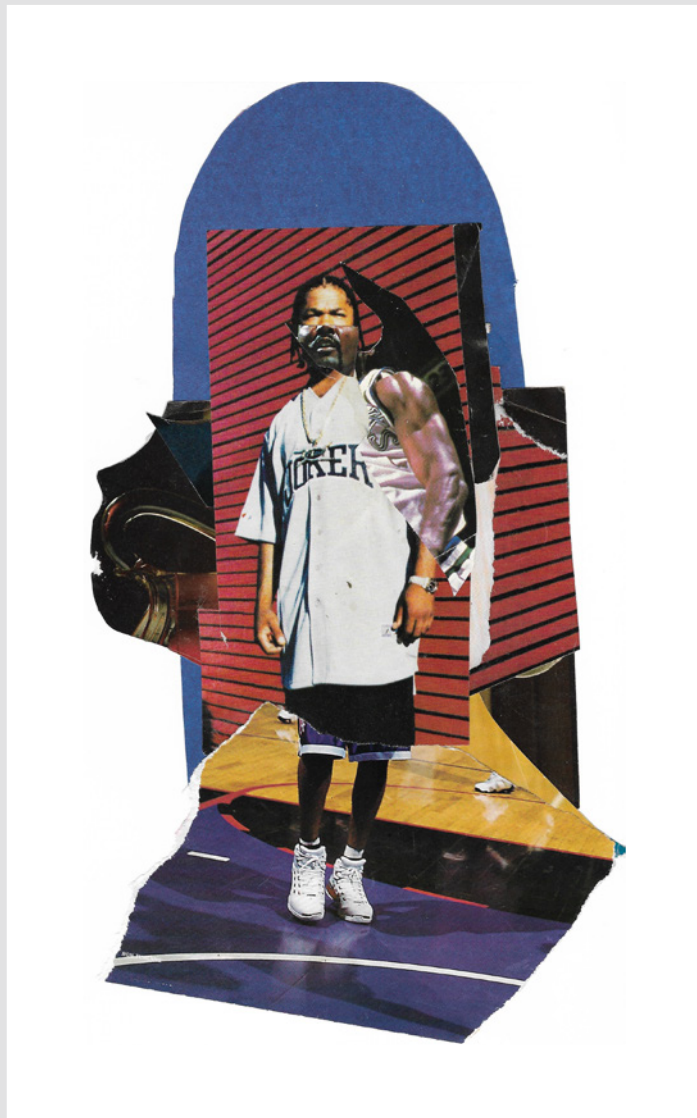
Dainesha Nugent-Palache experiments with colour, light and domestic space to create still lifes that depict the real and the unreal qualities of comfort and alienation. Her evocative images pay homage to her family and her ancestors, as she employs objects to share narratives of belonging and separation.

Bidemi Oloyede uses analogue black-and-white photography to explore his position as an observer and a participant in public protests. His images capture the collective energy of the marches for social justice held in the spring of 2020, which demanded an end to anti-Black racism and pleaded for a more peaceful and equitable future.

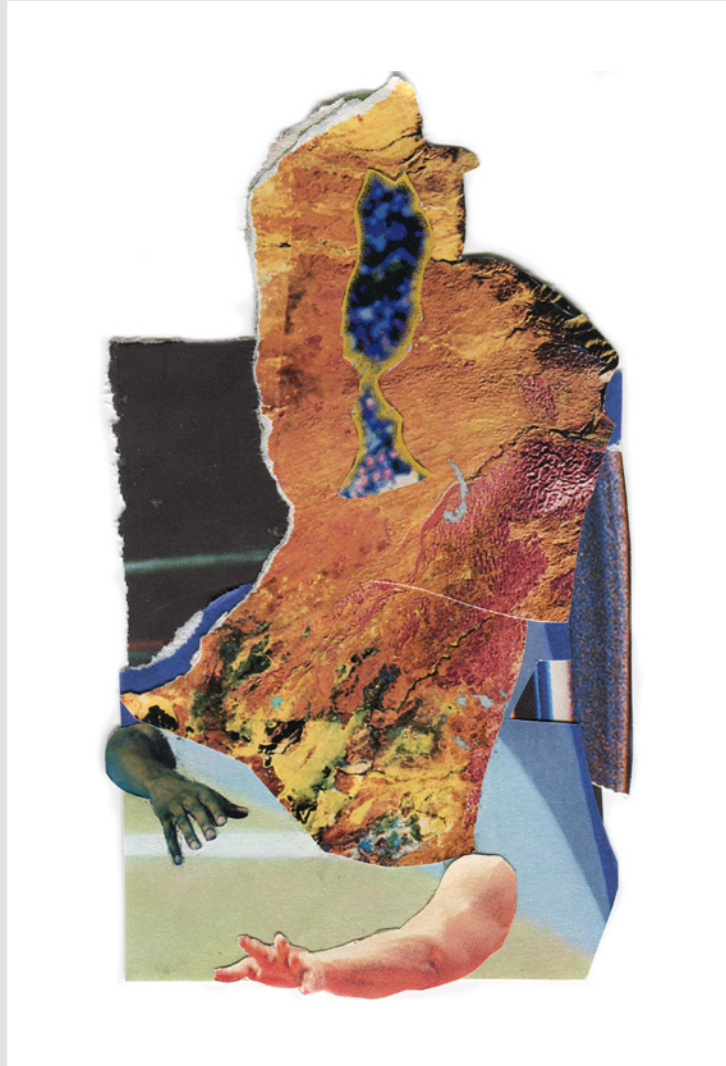
As themes of cultural and racial presence have become a more pressing part of current conversations, the four artists in *Movers and Makers* demonstrate their growing commitment to examine the complications and complexities of their experiences through their work. Creating beyond the limited possibilities of the status quo, they collectively revitalize the aesthetic use of black-and-white photography, push the signifying power of colour photography and expand upon traditional approaches to portraiture. In so doing, they challenge the aesthetic, conceptual and theoretical working assumptions of lens-based artistic creation, opening up the possibilities for photography as art in the twenty-first century.

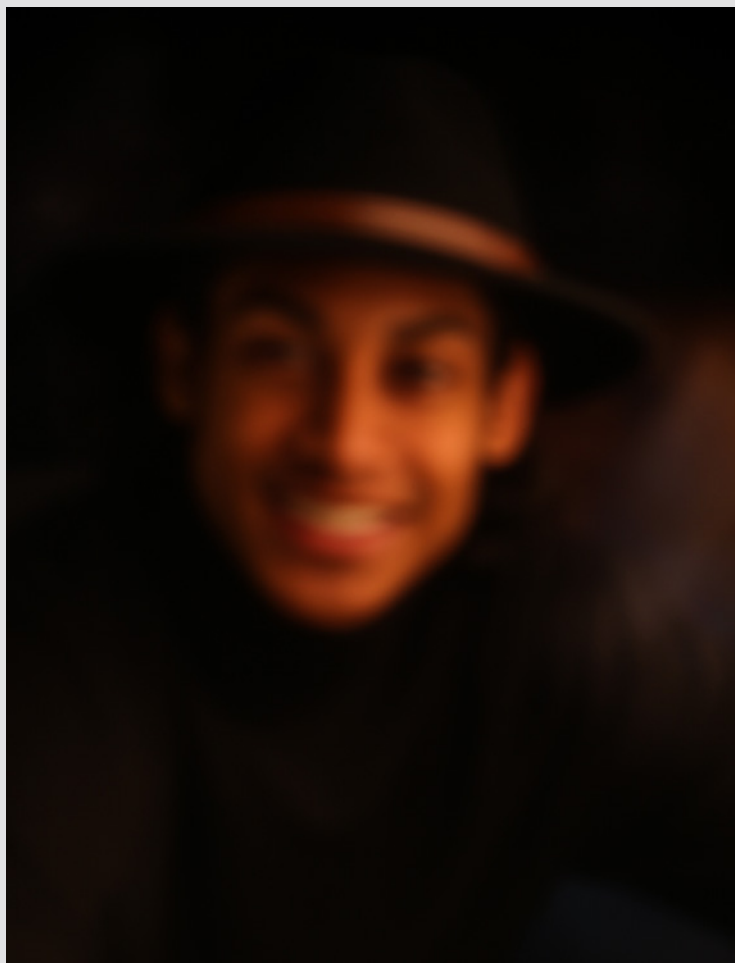
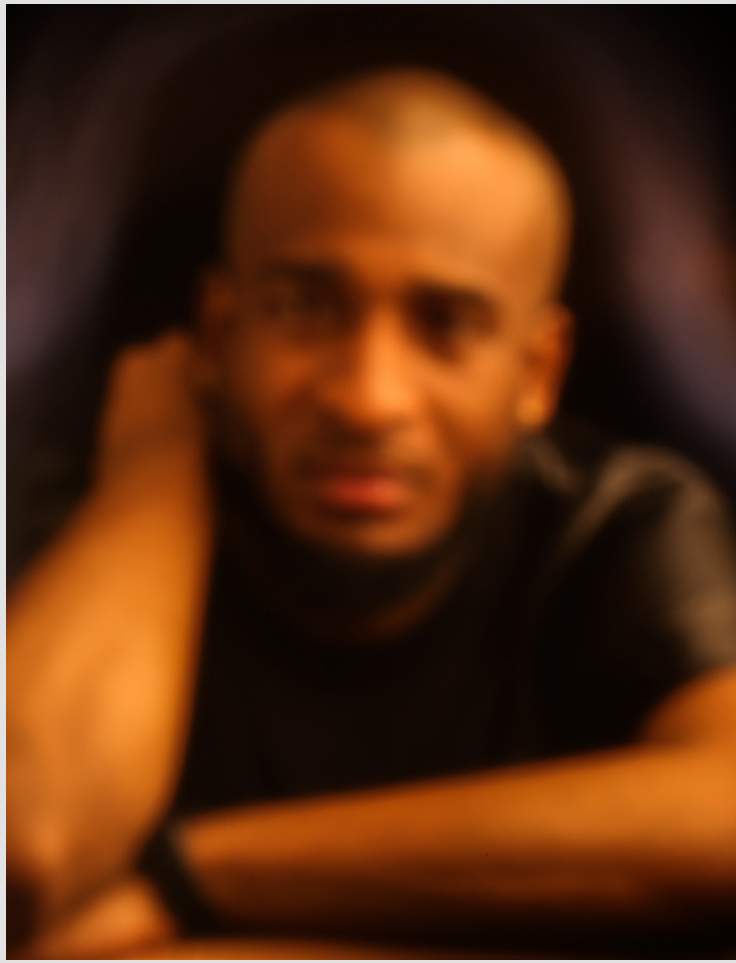
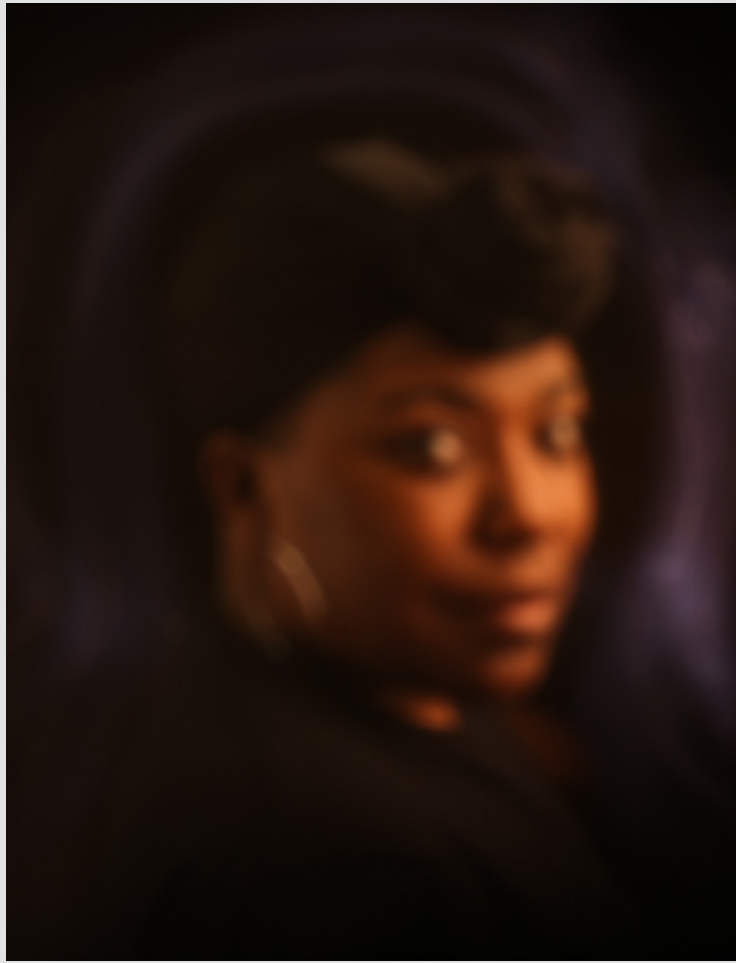
“Untitled, Toronto, May–June 2020”  
from *Not Another Black Life* (2020)  
by Bidemi Oloyede  
COURTESY BIDEMI OLOYEDE





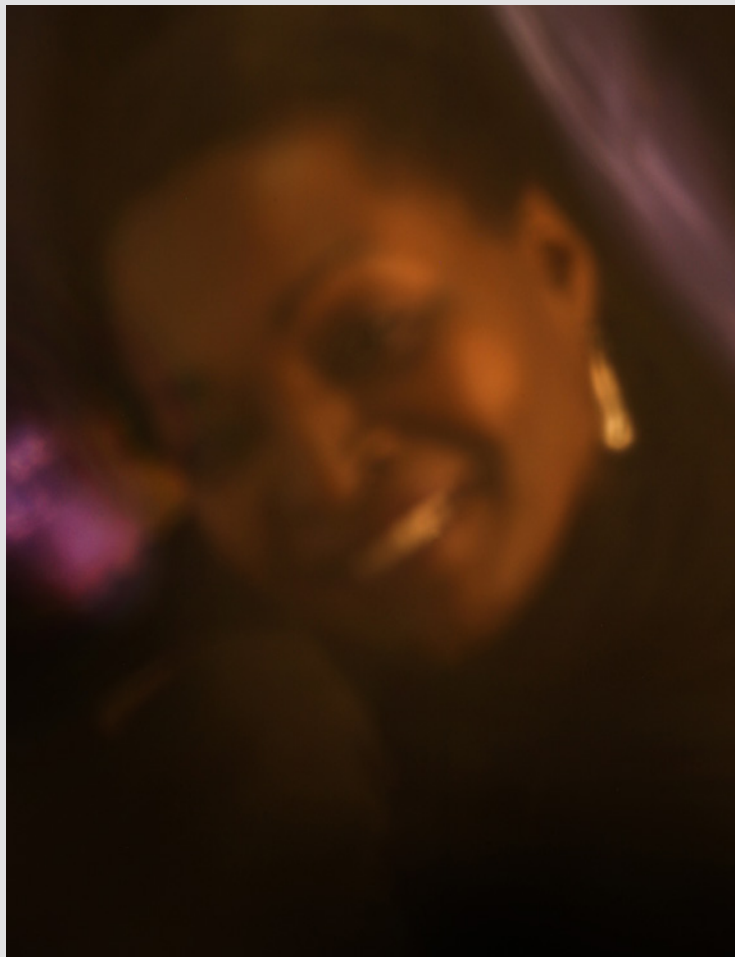
Aaron Jones  
From left to right:  
*In the Stilted Doorway*, 2021  
*Refresh*, 2020  
*MJ2K*, 2021  
COURTESY AARON JONES





Christina Leslie  
From left to right:  
"Monique"  
"Aundre"  
"Caleb"  
"Dad"  
from *Pinhole Remix*  
2020  
COURTESY CHRISTINA LESLIE

Christina Leslie  
From left to right:  
"Ro"  
"Stephanie"  
"Carol"  
"Melissa"  
from *Pinhole Remix*  
2020  
COURTESY CHRISTINA LESLIE





Dainsha Nugent-Palache  
From left to right:  
*Bromeliad*, 2020  
*Red Earth of St. Elizabeth (What Brought Us Here)*, 2019  
*Orbs and Vessel*, 2021  
COURTESY DAINSHA NUGENT-PALACHE



Dainesha Nugent-Palache  
From left to right:  
*Potted and Staged*, 2020  
*Porcelain Ponies*, 2021  
COURTESY DAINESHA NUGENT-PALACHE





Bidemi Oloyede  
Selections from "Untitled, Toronto, May–  
June 2020" from *Not Another Black Life*  
2020

COURTESY BIDEMI OLOYEDE

Bidemi Oloyede  
Selections from "Untitled, Toronto, May-  
June 2020" from *Not Another Black Life*  
2020  
COURTESY BIDEMI OLOYEDE



**Tour Itinerary (to date)**

McMaster Museum of Art  
McMaster University  
1280 Main Street West  
Hamilton, Ontario  
Canada L8S 4L6

September 15 to  
December 23, 2022

**List of Works**

Aaron Jones  
*Conscious Energy*  
2021  
Collage  
29 cm x 21 cm  
COURTESY AARON JONES

Aaron Jones  
*In the Stilted Doorway*  
2021  
Collage  
38 cm x 25 cm  
COURTESY AARON JONES

Aaron Jones  
*Like Cerulean*  
2017  
Collage  
27 cm x 20 cm  
COURTESY AARON JONES

Aaron Jones  
*Living Touch*  
2021  
Collage  
26 cm x 29 cm  
COURTESY AARON JONES

Aaron Jones  
*MJK*  
2021  
Collage wall work  
188 cm x 183 cm  
COURTESY AARON JONES

Aaron Jones  
*Refresh*  
2020  
Collage  
30 cm x 36 cm  
COURTESY AARON JONES

Christina Leslie  
“Andre”  
“Caleb”  
“Carol”  
“Dad”  
“Melissa”  
“Monique”  
“Ro”  
“Stephanie”  
from *Pinhole Remix*  
2020  
Colour photographs  
55 cm x 41 cm each  
COURTESY CHRISTINA LESLIE

Christina Leslie  
*Unheard Conversations*  
2021  
Single-channel video  
installation  
Colour, sound, 9:00 minutes  
Variable dimensions  
COURTESY CHRISTINA LESLIE

Dainesha Nugent-Palache  
*Bromeliad*  
2020  
Colour photograph  
76 cm x 55 cm  
COURTESY DAINESHA NUGENT-PALACHE

Dainesha Nugent-Palache  
*Orbs and Vessel*  
2021  
Colour photograph  
80 cm x 67 cm  
COURTESY DAINESHA NUGENT-PALACHE

Dainesha Nugent-Palache  
*Porcelain Ponies*  
2021  
Colour photograph  
80 cm x 76 cm  
COURTESY DAINESHA NUGENT-PALACHE

Dainesha Nugent-Palache  
*Potted and Staged*  
2020  
Colour photograph  
152 cm x 118 cm  
COURTESY DAINESHA NUGENT-PALACHE

Dainesha Nugent-Palache  
*Red Earth of St. Elizabeth*  
*(What Brought Us Here)*  
2019  
Colour photograph  
152 cm x 103 cm  
COURTESY DAINESHA NUGENT-PALACHE

Bidemi Oloyede  
Selections from “Untitled,  
Toronto, May–June 2020”  
from *Not Another Black Life*  
2020  
Black-and-white photographs  
28 cm x 43 cm, 41 cm x 61 cm  
and 51 cm x 76 cm  
COURTESY BIDEMI OLOYEDE

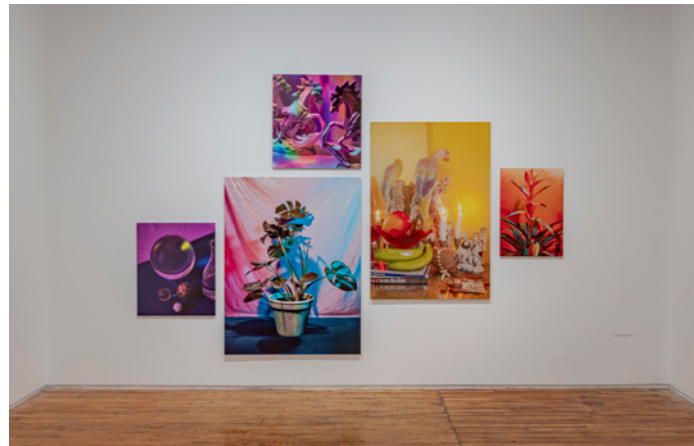
**Aaron Jones** is a multi-disciplinary artist based in Toronto. He graduated with a BA from OCAD University (Toronto) and is an active member of the BAU Collective (Toronto). Often using found imagery, he works with different forms of collage to build characters and spaces that engage with the complexities and nuances of his upbringing. Recent exhibitions include Mercer Union (Toronto), Nia Centre for the Arts (Toronto), Oakville Galleries (Oakville, ON), YYZ Artists' Outlet (Toronto) and Doris McCarthy Gallery (Toronto), the latter in partnership with the Scotiabank Contact Photography Festival. His work is included in the collections of the Ryerson Image Centre (Toronto) and Wedge Curatorial Projects (Toronto). He is represented by Zalucky Contemporary (Toronto).

**Christina Leslie**, born 1983 in Toronto, earned her BFA from OCAD University (Toronto) and is presently pursuing her MFA at SCAD: The University for Creative Careers (Georgia). Her photographic practice primarily revolves around the themes of identity, immigration, marginalization, memory, race, and her West-Indian heritage. Her photographs have been featured at the Art Gallery of Windsor (Windsor, ON), Glasgow Gallery of Photography (Glasgow), Pier 21 (Halifax, NS), Real Art Ways (Hartford, CT) and Royal Ontario Museum (Toronto), among other venues. Most recently, her work was presented on billboards for the Capture Festival (Vancouver) and published in *Murze* magazine.

**Dainesha Nugent-Palache**, through performative video and photographic works, explores the dichotomies and paradoxes inherent in representations of Afro-Caribbean femininities. With an exuberant approach to colour and display, she often negotiates the glamour and excess inherent in the visual cultures of capitalism. She graduated from the photography programme at OCAD University (Toronto), where she was the recipient of the Dorothy Hoover Research Award and the OCAD University Photography Faculty and Friends Award. Her work has been exhibited at the Art Gallery of Ontario (Toronto), Gallery TPW (Toronto) and Truck Contemporary (Calgary), as well as in venues in New York, Finland and Vienna.

**Bidemi Oloyede** is an emerging street and portrait photographer who captures the energy and emotion of social landscapes using predominantly black-and-white film. His impulsive documentary style is a reflection of the interaction or inner dialogue between the photographer and the subject. He is invested in the physicality of film—its historical legacy and its chemical context—and the laborious process of traditional darkroom techniques to expose the realities of the everyday. Originally from Port Harcourt, Nigeria, and now based in Toronto, Oloyede holds a BFA in Photography from OCAD University (Toronto).

**Betty Julian** is an off-reserve citizen of Sipekne'katnik First Nation (Indian Brook First Nation) in Nova Scotia. A curator of contemporary art, she has had a long-standing engagement with Prefix Institute of Contemporary Art (Toronto), as a founding member of the advisory council for *Prefix Photo*, as a member of the curatorial council from 2004–18, and as adjunct curator from 2019–20. In the latter capacities, she curated the group exhibitions *Movers and Shakers* and *Trade Marks*, as well as solo exhibitions by Renée Green, Nadia Myre, Lyla Rye and Lorna Simpson. Currently, she is the curator of Prefix ICA.



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 Installation views of *Movers and Makers*. Photos: Toni Hafkenscheid  
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 INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART  
 (TORONTO)

**P.S. -1.2**  
 Published on the occasion of the exhibition *Movers and Makers* held at Prefix Institute of Contemporary Art, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, from May 1 to July 17, 2021. Curated by Betty Julian and featuring the work of Aaron Jones, Christina Leslie, Dainesha Nugent-Palache and Bidemi Oloyede. Presented in partnership with the Scotiabank Contact Photography Festival.

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