

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dainesha Nugent-Palache appointed to new role of TD Assistant Curator of Education and Exhibitions at the Koffler Centre of the Arts

Position made possible by the generous support of TD Bank Group through the TD Ready Commitment

Toronto, ON, July 9, 2020 – The **Koffler Centre of the Arts** is thrilled to welcome artist, curator and arts educator **Dainesha Nugent-Palache** to the new role of **TD Assistant Curator of Education and Exhibitions**. This new position is made possible by the generous support of the **TD Bank Group** through the **TD Ready Commitment**.

Dainesha Nugent-Palache joined the Koffler as Education and Public Engagement Assistant in 2017 through a Young Canada Works internship and was involved in the conceptualization, research, and execution of workshops and education initiatives. Upon the completion of her internship, she was hired as Education & Exhibitions Coordinator to oversee the delivery of **Koffler Studio Offsite**, an enriched afterschool visual arts program for mostly newcomer children living in underserved neighbourhoods. With the success of the first offsite program at Thorncliffe Park Public School, Nugent-Palache went on to produce and deliver an expanded slate of community-based educational programs, collaborating with organizations such as SKETCH, Tropicana and the Toronto District School Board. She and Koffler's Education and Public Engagement Manager Patricia Ritacca were recognized for their exemplary work in the field of arts education by the Ontario Association of Art Galleries, through a 2019 nomination for OAAG's Education Award for best arts education program in the province.

A practicing visual artist, Nugent-Palache graduated from OCAD University's photography program where she was the recipient of the Dorothy Hoover Research Award, and the OCAD University Photography Faculty and Friends Award. Her artwork has been exhibited nationally through venues such as the AGO, Gallery TPW, and TRUCK Contemporary (in Calgary), and internationally in New York, Finland, and Vienna. Nugent-Palache's artworks are included in the Wedge Collection and TD Bank Art Collection, as well as several private collections.

Through her performative video works and photographs, Nugent-Palache explores the dichotomies and paradoxes inherent in representations of Afro-Caribbean femininities. With an exuberant approach to colour and display, her work often negotiates with forms of glamour, excess, and other photographic strategies inherent to the visual cultures of capitalism. Flirting with anthropological and archaeological realms, often produced as a result of her familial digging, Nugent-Palache's practice is concerned with visualizations of Black diaspora across pasts, presents, and speculative futures, producing portraits and other still life-based works.

In her new role as TD Assistant Curator of Education and Exhibitions, Nugent-Palache will continue to grow the Koffler Studio Offsite program through ongoing collaboration with Thorncliffe Park PS and the expansion of the program into other underserved Toronto communities. Nugent-Palache will also continue to build her curatorial practice through supporting Koffler Gallery Director/Curator Mona Filip with exhibition research and production.

"We are thrilled to welcome Dainesha Nugent-Palache to the expanded position of TD Assistant Curator of Education and Exhibitions," said Koffler Centre of the Arts Executive Director Karen Tisch. "Since joining the Koffler, Dainesha has brought her talent and versatility as an artist, educator and emerging curator, as well as extraordinary passion and dedication, to her work. She is deeply committed to dismantling barriers to arts

participation and her vision and energy has greatly enhanced our community-based arts education programs. We are deeply grateful to TD for supporting this new position and for its remarkable leadership in nurturing young talent and promoting equity within the visual arts field.”

"The arts is a powerful platform for amplifying diverse voices and underrepresented stories," says Stuart Keeler, Senior Curator, TD Art Collection. "That's why through the TD Ready Commitment, our global corporate citizenship platform, we are supporting opportunities like the TD Assistant Curator position that provide critical professional experience to emerging artists and help create conversations that matter in building an inclusive tomorrow. We are excited to see what Dainessa will do with this opportunity to facilitate programming that breaks down barriers in the arts."

For more information on the Koffler Centre of the Arts, please visit kofflerarts.org



TD Assistant Curator of Education and Exhibitions is generously supported by TD.

ABOUT TD GLOBAL CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP

TD has a long-standing commitment to enriching the lives of its customers, colleagues and communities. As part of its corporate citizenship platform, the TD Ready Commitment, the bank is targeting CDN \$1 billion (US \$775 million) in total by 2030 towards community giving in four areas critical to opening doors for a more inclusive and sustainable tomorrow – Financial Security, Vibrant Planet, Connected Communities and Better Health. Through the TD Ready Commitment, TD aspires to link its business, philanthropy and human capital to help people feel more confident - not just about their finances, but also in their ability to achieve their personal goals in a changing world. For further information, visit www.td.com/tdreadycommitment

ABOUT THE KOFFLER CENTRE OF THE ARTS

The Koffler Centre of the Arts is a cultural platform that explores critical ideas and concerns of our time through exhibitions, publications, performances, literary events and digital initiatives. We examine complex issues through transformative art experiences that stimulate intercultural dialogue and position Jewish identity in conversation with diverse perspectives and global voices. The Koffler Gallery and its administrative offices are located at Artscape Youngplace, in Toronto's vibrant West Queen West art and design district.

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