



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

TORONTO, ON – Tangled Art + Disability announces upcoming Fall exhibition series - Flourishing - produced in partnership with The Canadian Association for Community Living, to open in September of 2018 at Tangled Art Gallery in Toronto.

Tangled Art + Disability joins Canadian Association for Community Living Research and Development on Inclusion and Society (IRIS), Adjacent Possibilities, and noted disability scholar Catherine Frazee, to explore the concept of human flourishing within the arts, academia, and health sectors. Led by CACL, this collaboration seeks to expand the concept of human flourishing to include diverse experiences of frailty, disability and suffering.

Krista Carr, Executive Vice President of CACL and Project Executive for the Human Flourishing initiative, explained the collaboration in its larger context. "The Canadian Association for Community Living welcomes this opportunity to partner with Tangled Art + Disability at this pivotal moment in history. Barriers to self-respect and dignity are mounting as the conversation about medical aid in dying (MAiD) increasingly shapes public understanding of disability. We need a fresh way to see our human lives and imagine diverse pathways to well-being. Disability and flourishing are not mutually exclusive. Many people perceived only as frail and suffering in fact live good lives. Others could flourish and must be supported to do so. The Human Flourishing project invites us into a more inclusive vision of valued life, even in the shadow of Canada's MAiD system. We hope it will serve as a point from which people who live with significant disability, frailty and suffering can newly imagine and respect themselves."

As part of this expansive project, Tangled will select seven artists to be part of a series of exhibitions at Tangled Art Gallery titled **Flourishing**. Through a nationwide call for submissions and community engagement, the selected artists from across Canada will be invited to explore unexpected worlds of "flourishing" in ways that spring from their lived experiences as Deaf, Mad and disability-identified folk.



"Ideas about the meaning and value of our lives are drawn from a deep well of collective imagination. If that well is tainted by ableism, its waters will constrict our ability to imagine flourishing when we experience frailty or suffering. Popular culture bombards us with stories of death as deliverance from a "spoiled life". Resisting that barren landscape, this project looks to artists from the Tangled community to re-imagine flourishing and disability together, in expansive and inclusive motifs."

- **Catherine Frazee**, Professor Emerita at the School of Disability Studies at Ryerson University, and Content Director for the Human Flourishing initiative.

For more information on the Human Flourishing project or the exhibition series, please email Yousef Kadoura, Tangled's 2018 Curator-in-Residence at yousef@tangledarts.org.

Artists who are interested in the opportunity to be part of the exhibition series Flourishing can apply through our online form on Tangled's website, here: <http://tangledarts.org/flourishing-application/>

ABOUT TANGLED ART + DISABILITY

Tangled Art + Disability is a not for profit art + disability organization dedicated to connecting professional and emerging artists, the arts community and a diverse public through creative passion and artistic excellence. Our mandate is to support Deaf, Mad and disability-identified artists, to cultivate Deaf, Mad and disability arts in Canada, and to enhance access to the arts for artists and audiences of all abilities. In 2016, we opened Tangled Art Gallery: Canada's first fully accessible disability arts gallery dedicated to advancing accessible programming and curatorial practices. Tangled Art Gallery is proud to be barrier-free, cost-free, and open to the public.

ABOUT CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR COMMUNITY LIVING

The Canadian Association for Community Living is a family-based association assisting people with intellectual disabilities and their families to lead the way in advancing inclusion in their own lives and in their communities. We do this in Canada and around the world by sharing



information, fostering leadership for inclusion, engaging community leaders and policy makers, seeding innovation and supporting research. We are dedicated to attaining full participation in community life, ending exclusion and discrimination on the basis of intellectual disability, promoting respect for diversity and advancing human rights to ensure equality for all Canadians.

CONTACT / INTERVIEWS

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