



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 20, 2016

**Tangled Art + Disability presents *MAD ROOM*, an immersive mixed media art installation by Gloria Swain**

***Tangled's 2016 Artist in Residence highlights Black women's experience of mental health and trauma by inviting audiences to experience a personal space***

**Exhibition: September 23 – December 3, 2016**

**Press Preview: September 22, 5:00-7:00 pm**

**Opening Reception: September 22, 7:00-9:00 pm**

**Artist Talk: September 27, 5:30-7:00 pm**

**TORONTO, ON – Tangled Art Gallery (TAG)**, Canada's first gallery dedicated to showcasing **disability arts** and advancing **accessible curatorial practices** is presenting the second show of its inaugural season. **Mad Room** is an immersive mixed media installation by **Gloria Swain**, Tangled's 2016 **Artist in Residence**, which invites audiences into a replicate of Swain's actual bedroom. Swain artistically guides audiences through an immersive and intimate journey of art working, with over 50 paintings and sculptural items, which create a rich narrative of her personal and political experiences throughout her lifetime.

*"Gloria's artwork does the critical and necessary work of animating her experience with mental health and the mental health system as a Black woman, effectively demonstrating how, for her, experiences of mental health are attached to experiences of anti-Black racism, state-sanctioned violence against Black people and people of colour, and legacies of colonialism,"* says Tangled Artistic Director, Eliza Chandler.

Mad Room opens up conversation about the politics of mental health along with themes of institutionalization, forced treatment, domestic abuse, sexual abuse and the stigmas associated with depression. The exhibition complicates the boundaries of professional and community arts as Swain deliberately positions her work as both therapeutic and political.



#### **ABOUT THE ARTIST:**

Gloria Swain is a multidisciplinary artist who uses art to engage and explore mental health and (intergenerational) trauma. Her art is an opportunity to share her own stories of mental health and create dialogue to remove stigma. As a Black woman artist, Gloria recognizes the lack of economic resources for marginalized people living with mental health issues and hopes to reduce the stigma of mental illness. She is currently completing her Masters in Environmental Studies at York University.

Gloria's work has shown across Ontario, including at the Gladstone Hotel and Crossroads Gallery in Toronto. She is a recipient of the Canadian International Black Women's 100 Black Women to Watch.

#### **ABOUT TANGLED ART GALLERY (TAG)**

TAG is Canada's first disability arts gallery dedicated to advancing accessible programming and curatorial practices. TAG offers programming throughout the year and is proud to be barrier-free, cost-free, and open to the public.

#### **CONTACT / INTERVIEWS**

TAG is located in studio 122, main floor of the 401 Richmond Building at Spadina and Richmond Street West. Our hours are 11:00-6:00 pm, Tuesdays-Saturdays.

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Interviews can be arranged with the artist of *MAD ROOM*, Gloria Swain or a Tangled representative by appointment.

For images, interviews or more information please contact:

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