



## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 29, 2016

### **Tangled Art + Disability launches Tangled Art Gallery**

***Canada's first ever art gallery dedicated to showcasing disability art and advancing accessible curatorial practices***

Featuring *Constructed Identities*, a show of new work by Persimmon Blackbridge on exhibit from April 28-July 6, 2016.

**Press Preview:** April 28, 7:00-9:00 pm

**Opening Reception:** May 4, 7:00-9:00 pm

**TORONTO, ON – Tangled Art Gallery (TAG)**, Canada's first gallery dedicated to showcasing **disability arts** and **advancing accessible curatorial practices** will open in the iconic arts building, **401 Richmond**, in **Toronto**. *Constructed Identities*, a major show of new work by Canadian artist **Persimmon Blackbridge**, will be the first exhibit in TAG.

For the past 15 years, **Tangled Art + Disability** has been cultivating disability arts across Canada by developing artists, exhibiting disability art in Toronto, and touring disability art across Ontario. Tangled is now opening an art gallery that will showcase the best of Canadian disability art and advance accessible curatorial practices in exciting, innovative ways. TAG audiences can expect to engage with art that reshapes understandings of disability, encounter disability artists who invigorate the art world, and interact with inclusive technologies that reimagine how we experience art.

*Constructed Identities*, TAG's opening exhibition by Persimmon Blackbridge, features a large collection of small sculptural works created from wood, metal, and found objects represent disability and bodily difference, as well as race and gender difference, as essential to the aesthetics of bodily forms. In doing so, Blackbridge refigures the meaning and aesthetics of disability as delightfully disruptive and altogether satiating. The integration of a tactile piece of art, created by Blackbridge for the purposes of being touched, a complete audio description track, and accessibility hung work creates an artistic experience that is fully inclusive.

Tangled is proud to launch their gallery with Blackbridge's *Constructed Identities*:

*Blackbridge's craftsmanship and curatorial eye comes through in each sculpture and, together, these pieces create one of the most powerful exhibitions I've seen... this is a show that will never leave you,"* says Tangled's Artistic Director, Eliza Chandler. *"This, along with the ways Blackbridge has collaborated with Tangled to enliven the aesthetics of this show through*

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*accessibility features—tactical art, audio description, and inclusive curatorial practices— make Constructed Identifies relevant and accessible to all.”*

### **ABOUT TANGLED ART + DISABILITY**

Tangled is boldly redefining how the world experiences art and those who create it. We are 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. Tangled’s inclusive programming and expertise inspire curiosity, help untap potential, and transform the expected into the unexpected.

### **ABOUT 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-Fridays.

Interviews can be arranged with Tangled’s Artistic Director, Eliza Chandler, and artist of *Constructed Identities*, Persimmon Blackbridge by appointment from **April 28<sup>th</sup> to May 4<sup>th</sup>**.

For images, interviews or more information please contact:

#### **Sean Lee**

P: 647 725 5064

E: [info@tangledarts.org](mailto:info@tangledarts.org)

**Website:** [tangledarts.org/](http://tangledarts.org/)

**Facebook:** [Tangled Art + Disability](https://www.facebook.com/TangledArt+Disability)