

Richmond Hill Public Library Launches a New Chapter with Dynamic Exhibits:

"Hair Today, Gone Tomorrow" and 2024 DesignTO Festival's "Braver than Loneliness,"
Marking a Renewed Emphasis on Public Art

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Dynamic art exhibits in Richmond Hill? Yes, at the Library! Richmond Hill Public Library (RHPL) proudly unveils a vibrant artistic display with two striking exhibits - "Hair Today, Gone Tomorrow" and "Braver than Loneliness." These exhibits underscore RHPL's commitment to fostering a creative community and mark the beginning of a renewed focus on public art in Richmond Hill, including the prestigious inclusion of the only 2024 DesignTO Festival exhibit in the city.

Hair Today, Gone Tomorrow Exhibit

RHPL presents "Hair Today, Gone Tomorrow," an immersive art exhibition by Nigerian Canadian artist Ehiko Odeh. Aligned with Black History Month, this exhibit explores symbols of memory and healing within Black communities, transforming the library into a space for diverse artistic expression. RHPL is also offering the community the opportunity to connect directly with the artist over Zoom on Feb. 5, to explore the themes of social identity through her art.

Artist: Ehiko Odeh

Curator: Tamunoibifiri "Firi" Fombo

Theme: Symbols of memory and healing in Black communities

Location: Central Branch; Glass Case Gallery

Duration: Until Feb. 24

Virtual Artist Event: Feb. 5 via Zoom for school-aged kids and teachers. Registration required.

Collage Workshop delivered by Ehiko Odeh: Feb. 10 for kids (9-15). Registration required.

"Art is an experience that tells stories and provokes questions, conversations, and self-reflection, so our library is a perfect place to showcase these amazing works. With 'Hair Today, Gone Tomorrow,' we aim to enrich the library as a dynamic space where art seamlessly intertwines with culture and perspectives. We believe art can bring our community together and encourage exploration, learning, and dialogue on important cultural and societal issues," says Darren Solomon, CEO of RHPL.

"By creating the Glass Case Gallery and opening our space to professional contemporary art exhibitions, we aim to enrich the artistic culture in our community and provide access to quality art exhibits," adds Anete Ivsina, Community Engagement Librarian, RHPL.

Yes, at the library.



DesignTO Festival Feature - Braver than Loneliness Exhibit

RHPL is also proud to host the only 2024 DesignTO Festival exhibit in Richmond Hill – "Braver than Loneliness." This collaborative effort by Stephanie Reimer and team, explores the complexities of human social interactions, shedding light on the alarming prevalence of loneliness, an epidemic affecting communities across Canada. Through thought-provoking art, the exhibit raises awareness and provides various coping mechanisms to address this pressing issue.

Designers: Lead designer Stephanie Reimer, in collaboration with Claudia Spengler, Heera Sen, Morgan Henwood, Victor Tsang, Piper Treadwell.

Theme: History and effects of loneliness, coping mechanisms

Location: Central Branch; Events Room

Duration: Jan. 19-31

Meet the Artist Event: Meet lead designer Stephanie Reimer on Jan. 20, 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

"We are so proud to be the only site in Richmond Hill where our community can engage in the DesignTO Festival. This recognition reinforces Richmond Hill Public Library's role as a canvas where creative expression can foster inspiration, education, sharing, and debate on different issues and points of view," emphasizes Darren Solomon, CEO of RHPL. *"We invite artists to connect with us to share their work at future exhibits and contribute to our commitment to bringing consistent, quality public art to Richmond Hill."*

"DesignTO Festival is Canada's leading and largest annual design festival that celebrates design as a multidisciplinary form of creative thinking and making. It is truly exciting to bring this prestigious festival to Richmond Hill," says Anete Ivsina, Community Engagement Librarian, RHPL.

At Richmond Hill Public Library, art is just one facet of the diverse ideas and cultural richness we bring to the community, along with literature, cultural programs, and creative technologies. Art also brings community together and enriches the tapestry of our lived and shared experiences.

For more information on these captivating exhibits and RHPL's commitment to cultural exploration, artistic expression, and community engagement throughout the coming year, learn more at rhpl.ca/exhibits or follow us on social media.

As we open our doors to these dynamic exhibits, we also extend an invitation to artists and the community. We envision expanding opportunities for artists and including community-driven exhibits in the future, fostering a collaborative spirit that resonates within our walls and beyond. Join us on this journey of artistic exploration and community connection.

Richmond Hill Public Library is committed to improving people's lives. We aim to provide everyone in Richmond Hill with free, world-class experiences that help them thrive in a world of constant change. For more than 170 years, the Library has been a cornerstone of our community. Whether you prefer a physical or digital library

Yes, at the library.



experience, we offer a rich and relevant collection of resources, programs, and hands-on experiences across four modern branches, our website, and through community outreach. RHPL is a safe, welcoming space for residents and businesses to connect with each other and to discover and explore innovative ideas and perspectives that support their wellbeing. An RHPL card is free to anyone who lives, works, or goes to school in York Region. Learn more at www.rhpl.ca.

For more information, please contact:

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