

IGNITION

Ignition 4

Hamilton Artists Inc.'s Award for Distinction in the McMaster Studio Art Program

Recipients: Abedar Kamgari, DB Kellam and Lydia Santia

February 6 - March 12, 2016

Chair's Message

This year's recipients of the fourth annual Award for Distinction are Abedar Kamgari, DB Kellam and Lydia Santia, three outstanding students graduating from McMaster University's Studio Art Program. Hamilton Artists Inc. is proud to present their work in *IGNITION 4*, the annual exhibition that accompanies the Award for Distinction, as part of the centre's ongoing commitment to supporting artists at every level of their careers. To that end, the Award also includes a year of studio space at the Cotton Factory, a generous contribution from one of the Inc.'s newest partners. The facilities at 270 Sherman Avenue North are a hub of artistic activity, and will also provide the award recipients with a chance to partake in the community life there.

Congratulations to the winners! This will be a transitional year for them, as they move from school-imposed deadlines to establishing practices as emerging artists. No doubt, establishing a practice will take persistence and stamina, but it can also be an important time of experimentation and play. Studio time is both a luxury and a necessity, as are the arts in general. On behalf of the Inc., I wish them much luxurious creativity and necessary productiveness with their artistic endeavours in this forthcoming year.

Taijen Ng-Chan
Board Co-Chair
Hamilton Artists Inc.

President's Message

I am delighted to be able to celebrate, once again, the outstanding work of students in the Studio Art Program at McMaster. Thanks to the generosity of Hamilton Artists Inc., three exceptional students are being honoured this year and will receive Awards for Distinction, have their work presented within the professionally produced *IGNITION 4* exhibition, and receive a studio space for one year in the Cotton Factory at 270 Sherman Ave. North. The Hamilton Artists Inc. Award for Distinction in the Studio Art Program is presented annually to a student or students in the graduating year of the four-year program to recognize outstanding achievement in visual art. On behalf of the University, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Hamilton Artists Inc. for their partnership and support, the Cotton Factory at 270 Sherman Ave. North for making this unique space available, and congratulate Abedar Kamgari, DB Kellam and Lydia Santia on their excellent work and achievements. I have no doubt that they all have exciting, artistic careers ahead of them. Congratulations!

Patrick Deane
President and Vice-Chancellor
McMaster University

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As an artist-run centre, Hamilton Artists Inc. strives to support artists at all levels of their careers and to empower their artistic expression and research. Through *Ignition*, the exhibition space becomes the point from which each of these emerging artists can begin to launch their professional practice. The presentation of their work within this exhibition acts as the vehicle through which audiences can engage with the idea of activating or *igniting* the imagination, while providing these students with a critical, multi-layered experience. In addition to a professional exhibition, the selected graduating students are awarded a cash honorarium, certificate of distinction and studio space generously donated by the Cotton Factory at 270 Sherman for a year following the completion of their studies. In association with the Studio Art Program at McMaster University, the *Ignition* award honours exceptional graduating students.



Abedar Kamgari has lived in three countries, five cities, and seventeen different houses. She now resides in Hamilton and is pursuing a BFA in Studio Art at McMaster University with an interest in critical writing. An emerging interdisciplinary artist, Abedar's art has been exhibited in Hamilton, Toronto, and in the United States, and is owned in private collections in both countries.

DB Kellam (born Douglas Bryan Kellam) is currently studying for his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at McMaster University and is expected to graduate in 2016. Born in Brantford Ontario, he has lived throughout Southern Ontario and regularly travels to his hometown in Haldimand County. There, the local surroundings, rural landscapes, rivers, and Lake Erie provide DB with the imagery and inspiration for his prevailing practice in painting.



Lydia Santia spends her adult life challenging her comfortable suburban upbringing. She currently lives in Hamilton, Ontario and is completing her BFA degree at McMaster University. Lydia has exhibited her work in Toronto and Hamilton. Her work is owned in several private collections.



HAMILTON ARTISTS INC.

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Image Credits

pg 4: Abedar Kamgari, *Perception I* (diptych), 2016.

pg 5 top: DB Kellam, *Colborne*, 2015.

pg 5 bottom: Lydia Santia, *Transgression Bedroom* (Installation view), 2015.

Hamilton Artists Inc. would like to acknowledge the support and continued commitment of its exhibition partners and funders



School of the Arts



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