

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery Welcomes Two Artists in Residence for Winter/Spring 2025

WATERLOO (ONTARIO) CANADA, March 6, 2025 – The Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery is thrilled to announce that we are welcoming **Olivia Fay and Mengya Zhao as our artists in residence for Winter/Spring 2025 in the second year of our Ceramic, Glass, and Enamel Arts TD Residency for Black, Indigenous, and Underrepresented Peoples and Communities.** Generously supported by TD Bank Group (TD), this program provides two residencies each year for emerging artists to complete a body of work in the Gallery's fully equipped studio and gain critical mentorship and experience.

Since January, Olivia Fay has been working in the Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery's studio as she has developed a new body of work featuring patterned vase forms that continue her experimentations with Islamic architecture, landscape, and philosophy within her ceramics. Fay has also supported the Gallery's outreach programming through Youth Guild, Gather at the Gallery for seniors, and public programs.

In March, we will be joined by Mengya Zhao as she begins her 8-week residency exploring wearable ceramic art and sculptures. Engaging with the theme of "minor discomfort", Zhao will create new works that reflect her Asian heritage and identity as an artist with hearing loss, bringing these themes into the forms that she builds. Zhao will also contribute to the Gallery's outreach with public programs for all ages in April and May.

"It has been a pleasure having Olivia Fay in our studio and we are excited to welcome Mengya Zhao," Denis Longchamps, Executive Director stated. "Both of these artists bring new and diverse perspectives to ceramics, and we are thrilled to be able to support the development of each of their practices. Through this program, we are grateful to have these emerging artists in our space and to be able to share their talents with our community through public programming."



Olivia Fay



Mengya Zhao

"Congratulations to Olivia Fay and Mengya Zhao on their Winter/Spring 2025 artist residencies at the Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery. Residencies offer a vital platform for artists to bring their unique perspectives and creative practices to experiment, reflect, and engage with community," said Stuart Keeler, Senior Art Curator, TD Bank Group. "Through the TD Ready Commitment, our corporate citizenship platform, TD is proud to support meaningful pathways for artists from communities facing barriers to the sector to help grow their careers, spark dialogue, and foster connections through community arts programming."

#### **ABOUT OLIVIA FAY**

Olivia Fay is an emerging artist with a focus in ceramics and a passion for craft and design. Olivia was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba and raised between her hometown, Vancouver, British Columbia and Denver, Colorado. She has a mixed racial and cultural heritage and is a practicing Muslim. Her approach to being informs aesthetic preferences in evanescence in a philosophical sense and aesthetic beauty as a main objective in making. She received her BFA with a major in Ceramics from NSCAD University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. She has shown in galleries in Halifax and has been recognized in a digital publication.

#### **ABOUT MENGYA ZHAO**

Mengya Zhao is a multidisciplinary artist primarily focusing on ceramic sculptures. She also explores her imaginative world through printmaking, illustration, and various forms of paper art. Her work delves into the space between reality and the imaginary, often highlighting subtle peculiarities in daily life. Mengya has participated in several public projects, including the Vancouver Mural Festival and the Suzhou Alley Women Mural in Vancouver's Chinatown. She draws on her Asian heritage and cultural references to offer a unique perspective on human experiences, aiming to find commonality and foster open conversations with viewers through her art.

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#### **ABOUT THE CANADIAN CLAY & GLASS GALLERY**

The Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery is an award-winning, national institution based in Waterloo Region celebrating the art and craft of clay, glass, and enamel. As a dynamic cultural organization, we continue to amplify diverse stories — opening dialogue and inspiring social change. Through exhibitions that address issues relevant to our times, an impressive selection of works in our Gallery Shop, and intriguing public programs that engage, educate, and excite — we are accessible to all. For more information, visit: [www.theclayandglass.ca](http://www.theclayandglass.ca)

#### **CONTACT**

To schedule a media interview or for more information, contact Denis Longchamps, Executive Director & Chief Curator, at 519-746-1882 ext. 231 or [director@theclayandglass.ca](mailto:director@theclayandglass.ca)