



TOWERING CONTRAST DIGITAL COLLAGE BY ANI COLLIER SELECTED AS A SEMI-FINALIST IN BOMBAY SAPPHIRE'S ARTISAN SERIES

GAINESVILLE, Fla, Aug. 21, 2017 – Black C Art Gallery is pleased to announce that *Towering Contrast* (2014), a digital collage by Ani Collier from her NY Series, has been selected as a semi-finalist for Bombay Sapphire's Artisan Series competition. The work was chosen by a panel of judges that includes local and nationally recognized curators, artists, gallery owners and collectors, which had been vetted and selected by Artsy.

The Bombay Sapphire Artisan Series is a national search to discover the next class of great emerging visual artists. Created in partnership with Danny Simmons' Rush Philanthropic Arts Foundation, the Artisan Series, an art competition, has offered under-represented artists a national platform to showcase their work since 2009. The goal of the Artisan Series is to provide emerging artists with an international platform to showcase their work to a broader audience and demonstrates Bombay's commitment to artistry. Now in its eighth year, the Bombay Sapphire Artisan Series is partnering with Artsy and SCOPE Art Fair to help share artists' work with more curators, collectors, and art enthusiasts.

Rush Philanthropic Arts Foundation (Rush Arts) is dedicated to providing underserved youth with contemporary art education, and developing and supporting artists, curators, and new audiences. Rush was founded in 1995 by three brothers: Danny Simmons, visual artist and community builder; media mogul Russell Simmons; and Joseph "Rev. Run" Simmons of the legendary hip-hop group Run-DMC. Their goal was to fill the gap that the disenfranchised and people of color faced in both accessing the arts and exhibition opportunities. Over the past 20 years, Rush has been able to develop two program areas – Rush Education, which supports art programs for youth, and Rush Arts Galleries, which supports and features emerging artists nationwide.

For more information on Ani Collier, the Artisan Series competition and Rush Arts, visit <https://www.blackcproduction.com/ani-collier>, <https://www.bombayartisan.com>, and <http://rushphilanthropic.org/>.

Ani Collier

Ani Collier is a dancer, choreographer, director, and visual artist specializing in photography, film, and performance art. Collier was born in Bulgaria, graduated from The State Ballet School in Sofia, and danced principal roles in ballets such as *The Nutcracker* and *Rite of Spring*. Collier has directed and choreographed numerous dance and theatre performances both in Florida and Bulgaria. Her travels have taken her to dance festivals around the world and her own work has been influenced by her experiences.

After retiring her pointe shoes, Collier received an MBA from the University of Florida and founded ETUD Gallery in Sofia, Bulgaria and Black C Art Gallery in Gainesville, Florida. Collier's photographs have been exhibited throughout Florida, as well as venues in North Carolina, New York City, Italy, and Bulgaria.



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