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## Mike Rachlis



My painting practice aims to exist in a challenging place, between representation and abstraction, fragmenting and making reference to art history with equal parts admiration and disdain. Celebrating the universal duality that exists in all people and systems. Primarily painting the figure and portrait the subject matter of my paintings is equally important to the application and surface of the paint. I create paintings that celebrate the mastery of oil paint and the surrender to its untamable nature. This is reflected in the images I choose to create or reference. In one hand a love letter in the other the middle finger.

My paintings are often large formatted always oil on canvas or linen. They are painted in quick bursts with long periods of consideration between each frenetic painting session. I often work on several paintings at once and often discarding and restarting more paintings than are finished.

While I am compelled to paint the why still alludes me, however I've come to realize that understanding why isn't as important.

Since graduating from OCAD University in 2013 Mike Rachlis has been living and working in Toronto. He has exhibited in Canada and the United States his work is included in private collections around the world.

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### Education

2013 Bachelor of Fine Arts, OCAD University, Toronto, ON

### Selected Exhibitions

- 2026 Heads, She Said Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 2025 First Impressions Vol 2, Cry Baby Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 2025 No Negroni Without Campari, Cry Baby Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 2023 Positive Masculinity 5<sup>th</sup> Edition, Maison Depoivre, Picton, ON
- 2022 Works on Paper, Elaine Fleck Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 2022 Vandalized History, Elaine Fleck Gallery, Toronto, ON

2022 New Works by Mike Rachlis, Elaine Fleck Gallery, Toronto, ON  
2021 Gallery Represented, Elaine Fleck Gallery, Toronto, ON  
2021 Mike Rachlis New Works, Elaine Fleck Gallery, Toronto, ON  
2021 Mike Rachlis Solo Exhibition, Elaine Fleck Gallery, Toronto, ON  
2020 Forty Under 40, Joseph D. Carrier Art Gallery, Columbus Centre, Toronto, ON  
2020 The Artist Project 13, Toronto, ON  
2020 Brilliant Minds, Elaine Fleck Gallery, Toronto, ON  
2020 Mike Rachlis, Elaine Fleck Gallery, Toronto, ON  
2020 Mike Rachlis a Solo Exhibition, Elaine Fleck Gallery, Toronto, ON  
2019 Toronto Outdoor Art Fair, Toronto, ON  
2019 Moon Landing, Mad Ones Gallery Toronto, ON  
2019 Benefit For Stella Cade, Our Gallery Toronto, ON  
2018 Selected art works on display, Mark Bettis Studio and Gallery, Asheville N.C. USA  
2015 A Collection of Favourites, Navillus Gallery, Toronto, ON  
2015 Embodiment, Artscape Youngspace, Toronto, ON  
2015 Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition, Toronto, ON  
2015 Why the %!\$# Do You Paint? Gladstone Hotel, Toronto ON  
2015 You and Me, Navillus Gallery, Toronto, ON  
2015 30 Under 30, John B. Aird Gallery. Toronto, ON  
2014 OCADU Alumni Exhibition, Toronto, ON  
2013 OCADU 17th Annual Figure Show, Toronto, ON  
2013 OCADU 98th Annual Graduate Exhibition, Toronto, ON  
2013 Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition, Toronto, ON