

TOPAZ ARTS Visual Arts Program presents

**New Large-Scale Paintings by  
Todd B. Richmond**

on view Oct 24 to Dec 10, 2021

(clockwise from entrance)

*“Queensboro Bridge” Series:*

*QBB Dawn, 2020*

*QBB Dusk, 2020*

*QBB Evening, 2020*

*QBB Westbound 01, 2021*

*QBB Westbound 02, 2021*

*Tree SMCP, 2021*

*UTOPIA, 2020*

*Flowers in the Desert, 2021*

In his third solo exhibition at TOPAZ ARTS in its 21-year history, founding artist Todd B. Richmond presents his latest body of work. Richmond's large-scale oil paintings explore the interplay of light, hue, tone, materiality, form, composition. Richmond's paintings are a contemporary view of the impact and influence that the subjects have culturally and historically. Such as in featuring Central Park's Sheep's Meadow Plain Tree planted in what once was a sheep's pasture which became a Civil War training area that today is a place of rest and contemplation with nature – the rings of the tree are highlighted alluding to the tree's knowledge as well as similarity to a human fingerprint.

**Todd B. Richmond**, visual artist, curator, filmmaker, and composer, received his MFA in Fine Arts at Otis College of Art & Design, and California Institute of the Arts/CalArts MFA Graduate Program of Art & Technology; BA from City College of New York in Music & Audio Technology with Film Studies, where he was awarded The ASCAP Foundation Warner/Chappell City College Scholarship honoring George and Ira Gershwin. As a visual artist, he was assistant to renowned artist Richard Artschwager from 1990-95 creating major works for museums and galleries worldwide. Richmond's large-scale paintings and installations have been shown in NYC and Los Angeles; collaborations with renowned artist Manuel Ocampo at Tyler Rollins Fine Art, NY (2018); solo exhibition at Bolsky Gallery, Los Angeles; group exhibitions at Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery; Otis Open Studios LA; Fountain Art Fair at the Armory, NY, among others. Richmond has designed sets, sculptures, and music for choreographers including Paz Tanjuaquio, Molissa Fenley, among many others. He has received awards for his compositions from the National Endowment for the Arts, Meet The Composer Commissioning/USA, among others. Todd B. Richmond is Co-Founding Director of TOPAZ ARTS, Inc. – a nonprofit arts organization, which he founded with Paz Tanjuaquio in 2000, establishing a creative development center for contemporary performance and visual arts. Richmond is a recipient of the 2021 City Artists Corps Grant.

(in alcove)

***Floored in the Covid Era, 2020: Pill and Bottles***  
a new installation piece by **Wenyon and Gamble**

on view Sunday, Oct 24, 2021

In lockdown, artists Susan Gamble & Michael Wenyon made holograms on their bathroom floor, using their own medicines as the subject. They were surprised by the results – *Floored in the Covid Era, 2020: Pills and Bottles* is a visual memento of an anxious time.

**Susan Gamble** and **Michael Wenyon** are artists working with photo-technologies: digital photography and holography. Before the pandemic, they have taught annual workshops on holography at the Penumbra Foundation, E.30thSt. NYC. During lock-down, last year, they produced the work: *'Floored During the Covid Era, 2020'* which was exhibited in a group show *'Precision: Illustrative Technique in Art & Science'* at Eastern Connecticut State University, Gallery, March 15-April 25, 2021. They also participated in an online discussion, open to the public with this exhibit. In June 2021, Gamble gave a virtual presentation of a paper for the international Stereo and Immersive Media Conference, Lisbon. Collaborators since 1983, Wenyon and Gamble have exhibited at the Whitney Museum, New Film and Video Series, 1991; The Queens Museum, 2002; The New York Hall of Science, 1993; & The MagnanMetz Gallery, W. 26th St, in 2007, 2012, 2016; The List Visual Arts Center, MA. Their work is in collections of the National Portrait Gallery, Washington; The DeCordova Museum; The MIT Collection, the Boston Athenaeum, the Victoria & Albert Museum, London. In 1993, Gamble was an international UNESCO Laureate for the aesthetic development of New Technology. The artists have lived in NYC since 2000. Wenyon & Gamble are recipients of the 2021 City Artists Corps Grant. [www.wengam.com](http://www.wengam.com)



Support TOPAZ ARTS' 21st Year!

Help us #keepTOPAZrunning

<http://www.topazarts.org/donate/>

TOPAZ ARTS, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts organization founded in 2000 by Todd B. Richmond (visual artist/composer) and Paz Tanjuaquio (choreographer/dancer) to support the creative process and foster new works in contemporary performance and visual arts. Celebrating 21 years, our programs seek to support the artistic process while engaging creative and cultural exchange with audiences. Since our inception in 2000, TOPAZ has been a vital presence, making an impact on the lives of artists and local community, largely supporting immigrant and BIPOC artists. Through artistic explorations, our vision is to bring works that reveal and inspire new ideas, making cultural connections within NYC.

TOPAZ ARTS public programs are made possible, in part, with support from NYC Department of Cultural Affairs; Cultural Immigrant Initiative in partnership with City Council; NYS Council on the Arts, a state agency. Foundation support from Howard Gilman Foundation; Foundation of Contemporary Arts Covid Relief. TOPAZ ARTS Dance Program is made possible with support from Dance/NYC with funds from Andrew W. Mellon Foundation; Mertz Gilmore Foundation; NYState DanceForce with funds from NYSCA Dance Program; and by the generosity of private individuals. [www.topazarts.org](http://www.topazarts.org)



This event is made possible, in part, by Restart NY from NYS Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.





**TOPAZ ARTS Celebrates 21 Years with New Works  
Sunday, October 24, 2021, 3pm & 5pm**

TOPAZ ARTS, Inc. presents

***Ghosts in the Desert***

Based on **Luis H. Francia's** two poetry texts,  
*The Beauty of Ghosts* and *The Sahara of I*,  
***Ghosts in the Desert*** explores complex personal  
and communal experiences.

performed by

**Luis H. Francia**

**Claro de los Reyes**

**Paz Tanjuaquilo**

with a new digital dance  
***Dead Stars Still Dance***

made in collaboration with **Onome Ekeh**,  
music by **Todd B. Richmond**

inspired by **Dead Stars** a short story by Paz Benitez-Marquez,  
incorporating poetry texts from *The Sahara of I* by Luis H. Francia.

***Epilogue: The Beauty of Ghosts***

about the artists

**Luis H. Francia** is a poet, playwright, nonfiction writer, and an Adjunct Professor of Filipino language and culture at New York University. His latest poetry collection is *Thorn Grass* (University of the Philippines Press). *Eye of the Fish: A Personal Archipelago*, his memoir, won both the 2002 PEN Open Book and the Asian American Writers awards. His full-length play, *Black Henry*, on Magellan's 1521 landfall in the Philippines, was virtually staged by the Atlantic Pacific Theatre Group through NYU last April 2021. Francia is a recipient of the 2021 City Artists Corps Grant.

**Claro de los Reyes** (he/him/his) is NYC-based actor, playwright, and a social practice theatre artist. As an actor he has performed with NY theater companies that include NAATCO, Pan Asian Rep, Leviathan Lab, and International WOW. He has had the honor of co-creating theatre alongside community members in NYC, Minnesota, the Philippines, and Rwanda. Claro is the founder and director of Atlantic Pacific Theatre, a theater company committed to exploring cross cultural exchange and pluralism. [www.atlanticpacifictheatre.org](http://www.atlanticpacifictheatre.org)

**Paz Tanjuaquilo** is a choreographer, performer, educator and a 7-time marathon runner. She has been creating dances in NYC since 1990. She is Co-Director of TOPAZ ARTS, Inc. a nonprofit arts center for contemporary performance and visual arts which she co-founded in 2000 with artist Todd Richmond. Her choreography has been presented locally in NYC at many venues, nationally and internationally through artist residencies. She received her MFA in Dance from NYU Tisch School of the Arts, and her BA in Visual Arts from University of California, San Diego. She has received support for her work from National Endowment for the Arts, NYFA, Foundation for Contemporary Arts/Emergency Grant, among others. She is Chair of the Steering Committee of The Bessies/NY Dance & Performance Awards, and serves on the Executive Committee of the NYS DanceForce. She currently teaches choreography as Adjunct at NYU Tisch School of the Arts/ Experimental Theatre Wing, and previously taught Dance full-time at SUNY/Nassau Community College. Paz is a recipient of the 2021 City Artists Corps.

**Onome Ekeh**, born and raised on both sides of the Atlantic, OE started out as a painter, gravitated towards design and fell in love with cinema. Somewhere in the collusion she went digital. She has produced works for film, theater and radio and is the recipient of several fellowships including Jerome Foundation, Greenwall Foundation and the Kunsterhaus Buchsenhausen Fellowship. She is the co-founder and conceptual gear-machinatrix behind [Futurezoo.net](http://Futurezoo.net).

Technical Director: Todd B. Richmond

House Manager: Vina Orden

Videographer: Ron Jean-Gilles

Photographer: Midori Yamamura

This event supports the City Artist Corps Grants program, presented by The New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA) and NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, with support from the Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment (MOME) and Queens Theatre. City Artist Corps Grants are intended to support NYC-based working artists who have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, distributing one-time grants to over 3,000 artists to help sustain their practice and engage the public across New York City's five boroughs.

