

For Immediate Release
Attn: Jason Logan, Metro News

Girl Talk

Finding Magic in a Bathroom Stall at Nuit Blanche Toronto 2016

Toronto September 26, 2016 – Ever wondered what secret notes girls scrawl on the bathroom stall wall?

Toronto based photographer Zahra Saleki has collected drawings and words from more than 500 girls' bathrooms found in the bars of Toronto, New York, and Montreal and is sharing the intimate thoughts of women as part of ***Girl Talk*** at Toronto's 2016 Nuit Blanche.

After photographing the girls' graffiti in public washrooms, Saleki separated the small drawings from their environment, making each its own separate piece of art.

Every photo is printed black-and-white on semi-transparent paper and will line the inside of a greenhouse illuminated from the outside, turning it into a huge lightbox inviting audiences to experience graffiti in a new light.

Saleki says, "I have a great passion to hunt the simple stories around me and create the magical fantasy from them...I promise if you come see ***Girl Talk*** you will also agree that you can find magic in a washroom."

Girl Talk at Nuit Blanche Toronto 2016

Artist: Zahra Saleki

401 Richmond Street West

October 1, 2016, Sunset to Sunrise, 6:58 pm to 7 am.

Parental guidance advised.

This project is indoors.

For more information, contact:

Claire Ferris, 519-965-3233, cferris1@my.centennialcollege.ca

Images included in Zip file.

Nuit Blanche Project Page: https://nbto.com/project.html?project_id=172

For Immediate Release
Attn: James Adams, The Globe and Mail

Girl Talk

Photographing the Secret Souls of Girls

Toronto September 26, 2016 - Toronto based photographer Zahra Saleki spent two years photographing the graffiti from the girls' washrooms of nearly 500 Toronto, Montreal, and New York bars. Saleki will be displaying her collection as an independent project titled ***Girl Talk*** at Nuit Blanche Toronto 2016.

After capturing the graffiti on film, Saleki isolated the image from its background, to give it permanence and allow it to be the individual piece of art it is. "This project highlights a small part of the subterranean urban culture, which is normally not intended to be permanent or publicly viewed," says Saleki, "No one really knows who drew them, and the artifacts could be erased anytime!"

For Nuit Blanche, Saleki has covered the inside of a greenhouse with the images, and lit it from the outside, further highlighting and illuminating each individual piece of art. Like in a bathroom stall, the viewer will be surrounded by the graffiti, but will have the opportunity to give pause and reflect on the mystery of the girls behind the scribbles.

Saleki hopes the viewers will feel as inspired as she did the first time the bathroom graffiti really caught her eye. "I feel many of us are wild, crazy artists inside, but scared to show others because we worry it is too silly or too childish. The truth is, many of these drawings reveal the wild soul we have otherwise learned to tame in a very conservative way."

Saleki's believes that "photography forces us to be more aware and conscious of the world around us. It pushes us to observe and wonder rather than look and pass by. And it gives us a medium to tell our stories. My photography is your window into the big weird world of a crazy little girl." And, In the case of ***Girl Talk***, Saleki's photography is a window into the secret, big, weird world of many passionate girls.

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Please also visit: <http://www.zahrasaleki.com>