

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



**“Kale Barr: A Retrospective” - A Solo Exhibition Featuring:  
Contemporary Artworks by Canadian Artist Kale Barr**



**Banff, Alberta, November 10, 2021:**

Atlas Development Corporation and AT Art and Interiors are hosting a one month selling exhibition, “Kale Barr: A Retrospective”, featuring a series of abstract and pop abstract works by Calgary artist Kale Barr. The exhibition is a retrospective of Kale Barr’s artworks, showcasing the entire oeuvre of the artist’s career. The exhibition explores issues of mental health, justice, and redemption. The exhibition opens **December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and runs until January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022** at Cascade Plaza (317 Banff Avenue) in Banff, Monday to Friday, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm. Weekends by appointment only. All works will be available for purchase.

**Kale Barr** is a Canadian artist living and working in Calgary, Alberta. Barr's dream-like abstract expressionist paintings are inspired by a combination of his real-life experiences and the transformative nature of his surroundings. Inspired by Jackson Pollock, Jean-Michel Basquiat, and George Condo, Barr uses a unique blend of color layering that utilizes acrylic and oil paint with wild yet calculated paint splashes. His painting technique creates works that simultaneously enthrall and still the viewer. His work invites the viewer into his raw yet animated world of swirling color and dark chaos. Within Barr's work is a balance of harmony and destruction, letting go of perfection and symmetry, leaving behind a "beautiful mess." Having lived across Canada, Nevada, and Washington, Barr's life has been one of ever-changing dramatic surroundings, both naturally and personally. His work emotes a shared journey in all of us, through dark and through light. Created from within his world of vivid subject matters that he draws out from within, he leaves a piece of his story in each of them.

While gazing upon Barr's art, the viewer is launched both into motion and stillness, peace and madness. Barr's art speaks without words, both an expression of the immediate moment in time and timelessness itself. The works lend themselves to his abuse as a child, the warpath he created, and his unshaken redemption. Within Barr's paintings are his signature triple "X" marks which represent occasional symbolism and his sometimes cryptic poetry carry Barr's signature sense of style and elusive technique. Animated, emotional, emulating of George Condo, De Kooning, Pollock, abstractive, distinctive in style; are some of the many words used to describe Barr's work. To some, butterflies dance across his canvas, their wings take flight as splatters of vibrant color; to others, lions, crowns, eyes, and faces peer out from beneath the canvas. Due to the elusive nature of Barr's paintings, finding the true message behind his work has become an obsession to many of his viewers. And so, it is indeed not the specific subjects themselves taking precedence when it comes to Kale Barr; it is that each abstract painting adapts a unique communication of its own depending on the viewer.

**"Kale Barr: A Retrospective"** exhibition showcases 12 abstract and pop abstract artworks by Kale Barr. The paintings range in size from 61 x 61 inches (2 x 2') to 122 x 183 cm (4 x 6'). This exhibition showcases a comprehensive progression in artistic styles throughout Kale Barr's art career. This series of artworks displays the exceptional evolution and diversity in artistic styles Kale Barr has experimented as an emerging artist in a remarkably short timeframe. The exhibition demonstrates the emotions Kale Barr has been put through as a result of the traumatic and complex events that have transpired in his life; which involve sexual abuse, trauma, and gang life. Although there are many emotions that come through in these works there is a constant theme of utilizing art as a therapeutic process to understand and decipher his inner feelings and thoughts. Aesthetically the exhibition demonstrates Kale Barr's meticulous and precise manipulation of color, shape and form. Specifically, Kale Barr is fascinated in pushing the boundaries of color composition, testing the principles of color theory, and applying his own techniques and discoveries in his works to create harmony and individuality. Kale Barr's hope from this series of work is to create connection, understanding and optimism. He encourages the viewer to take their emotions while viewing the work and perceive them for how they make them feel – 'art is in the eye of the beholder'.

In addition to the debut of this body of work, the gallery will host a mental health focused events during the duration of the exhibition; creating opportunities to engage the public in learning about mental health issues involving sexual abuse, depression and trauma. The event will be in collaboration with S.T.A.N.D.

- \* **Public Opening Night Reception: December 10, 2021, 7:00 – 9:00 pm**
- \* **Mental Health & Artist Talk: January 7, 2022, 6:00 – 9:00 pm**
- \* **Gallery hours: Monday – Friday, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm**

**Atlas Development Corporation - [www.atlasdevco.com](http://www.atlasdevco.com)**  
**AT Art and Interiors - [www.allisonthompsonstudio.com](http://www.allisonthompsonstudio.com)**  
**Kale Barr- [www.kalebarrartist.com](http://www.kalebarrartist.com)**

---

For media enquiries and interviews please contact:

**AT Art & Interiors**

*Work:* (604) 992 - 7204

*Email:* [atartandinteriors@gmail.com](mailto:atartandinteriors@gmail.com)