

NEWS

Mississauga artist to share in BDC funding

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A Mississauga woman is one of a number of Ontario artists to receive a loan from Rise Asset Development, funded by the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC).

On Wednesday, March 21, BDC announced that it is financing \$325,000 in loans to be distributed by Rise Asset Development to support entrepreneurs with mental health and addiction challenges.

The amount will be disbursed over two years in the form of loans of \$5,000 to \$10,000. The financing will allow Ontario-based Rise to expand its program to other provinces.

Rise gives low-interest small business loans and mentorship support to entrepreneurs living with mental health or addiction issues, who often have difficulty accessing traditional financing.

Camille Lauren, of Mississauga, owner of Art of Ciel is one of the artists to receive funding. Other artists to receive funding are: Darren Leu, owner and director of Darren Christopher Projects; and Apanaki Temitayo Minerve, owner of Apanaki Designs. Leu



Justin Greaves/Metroland

Camille Lauren, of Mississauga, painted this picture for Hair 2 Desire owner, Beatrice Romero, as part of a previous exhibit. Lauren is one of a number of Ontario artists to receive funding from Rise Asset Development.

and Minerve are both from Toronto.

Rise has provided more than \$1 million in loans since it was founded in 2010 by the Rotman School of Management and the Centre for Addictions and Mental Health.

Rise currently operates in Ontario and has business advisers in six locations throughout the province - Toronto, Ottawa, Kingston, London, Sudbury and St. Catharines. Rise has a national expansion plan to open 10 new locations in eastern and western Canada as well as northern Indigenous locations by 2021.

Over the past three years, Rise Asset Develop-

ment's Peer Supported Startup Program has provided educational, business advisory, and mentorship support to 80 people at the Mississauga campus of Sheridan College.

"Today's investment by the BDC to support Rise Asset Development and its work holds the potential to be transformative for many hardworking Canadians who need it most," said Waterloo MP Bardish Chagger, minister of small business and tourism, in a press release.

"I am so encouraged by the work of Rise to help new entrepreneurs who are working hard to overcome past challenges," Chagger added.