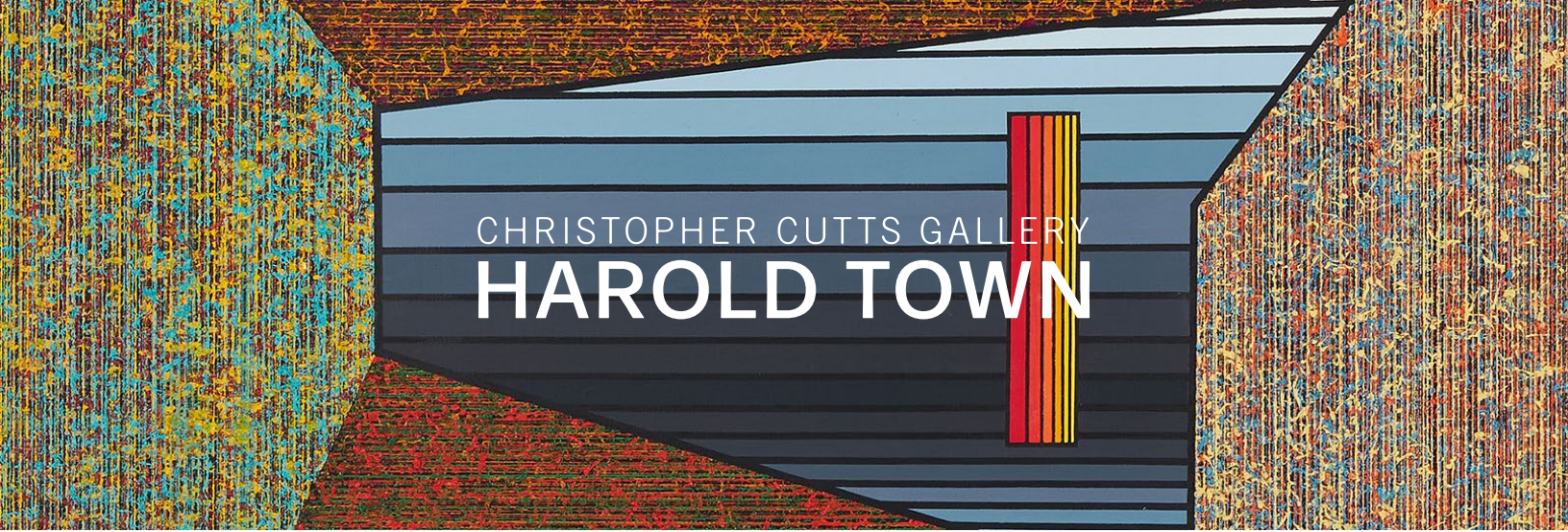




CHRISTOPHER CUTTS GALLERY
HAROLD TOWN



Born on June 13, 1924, Harold Town was a seminal figure in 20th Century Canadian art –a formidable painter, accomplished draughtsman, revolutionary printmaker, and a member of the abstract collective Painters Eleven.

Harold Town rose to fame in the 1950s and 1960s with record-breaking sales, international exhibitions, and his controversially bold personality. He represented Canada at the Venice Biennale in 1956 and 1964. From the beginning of his career as the face of Toronto’s abstract expressionists to his 1986 retrospective at the Art Gallery of Ontario, he experimented with style and medium –from Single Autographic Prints to large abstract oil paintings, from Snap paintings to the Eccentrics series, and so on.

He was Canada’s most famous artist for decades, possessing a level of celebrity that allowed him to generate both excitement and controversy surrounding Toronto arts with his brash personality, outspoken opinions, and provocative ideas. Famously, the artist did not attend international biennales and exhibitions, choosing to spend all his time in Toronto and surrounding cities. He was extremely loyal to Toronto’s art scene despite all of his criticisms of Canadian ‘complacency’ and the lack of investment in arts and culture. He wanted to see it reformed, and be part of the reformation, rather than move to a potentially more boisterous international market. He was dedicated to transforming the landscape, and is now credited with proving that Canada could produce art and artists equivalent to those on the international stage. He and the members of the Ontario-based collective Painters Eleven have often been praised for forcing abstraction into the public consciousness.

Though part of the abstract collective, Harold Town never limited himself to adhering to any movements or trends in style or content. While his peers established signature styles, Town developed a recognizable yet broad vernacular spanning numerous collage, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, and painting series. For example, when he observed his contemporaries exploring the central image, he looked outward, focusing on the corners of the canvas, and created the Tyranny of the Corner series.

Town constantly developed new techniques of abstract painting, such as the oil-on-string method he used to create the Snap paintings. Made by laboriously snapping a string loaded with paint against his canvases thousands of times to achieve the final effervescent textile-like artworks, the Snaps are as much documents of performance as they are art objects. They took months to complete and eventually led to a shoulder injury from the repetitive movements.

The Christopher Cutts Gallery is proud to represent his extensive oeuvre, which has retained a timeless quality even decades after its creation. Each of his pieces carries a sense of contemporaneity, as if they were created today. This selection touches upon aspects of Town’s diverse practice from the 1950s to the 1970s, showcasing major iconoclastic paintings that transformed Toronto’s art scene.

CHRISTOPHER CUTTS GALLERY
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south gallery, north wall

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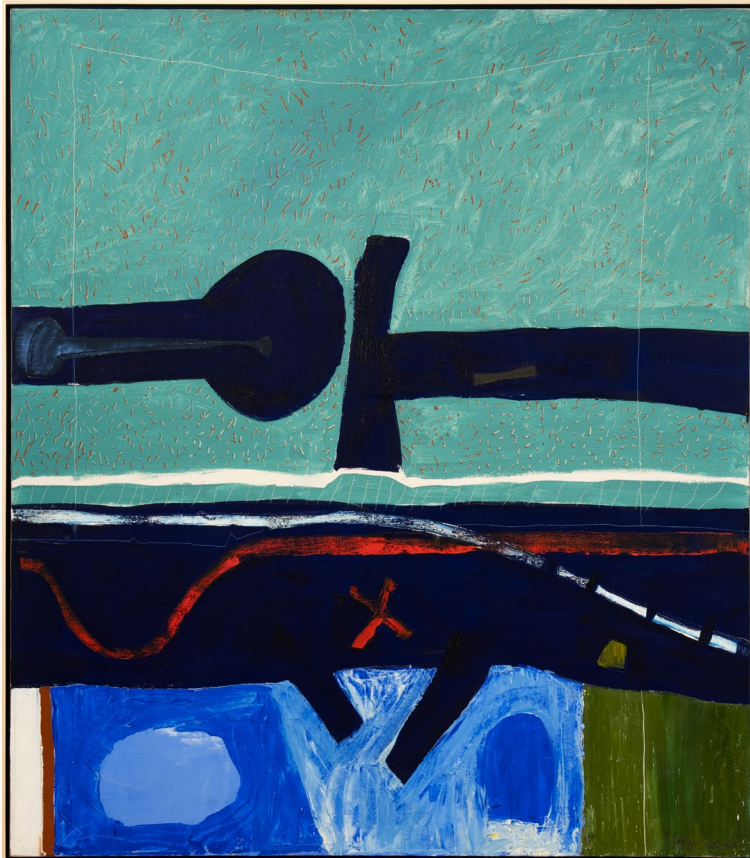
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HAROLD TOWN

Mountain Maker

1960 - 1961

oil and lucite on canvas

78 x 68 inches (198.1 x 172.5 cm)

\$110,000 CAD

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south gallery, east wall

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HAROLD TOWN

Untitled

c. 1958

oil on masonite

48 x 96 inches (121.9 x 243.8 cm)

49.5 x 97.5 inches (125.5 x 247.5 cm) framed

\$95, 000 CAD

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HAROLD TOWN

Untitled

c. 1958

oil on masonite

48 x 48 inches (121.9 x 121.9 cm)

49.5 x 49.5 inches (125.5 x 125.5 cm) framed

\$60,000 CAD

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HAROLD TOWN

Throw With White

1959-60

oil on masonite

48 x 48 inches (122 x 122 cm)

49.5 x 49.5 inches (125.5 x 125.5 cm) framed

\$60,000 CAD

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HAROLD TOWN

Untitled

c. 1958

oil on masonite

48 x 48 inches (121.9 x 121.9 cm)

49.5 x 49.5 inches (125.5 x 125.5 cm) framed

\$60,000 CAD

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south gallery, south wall

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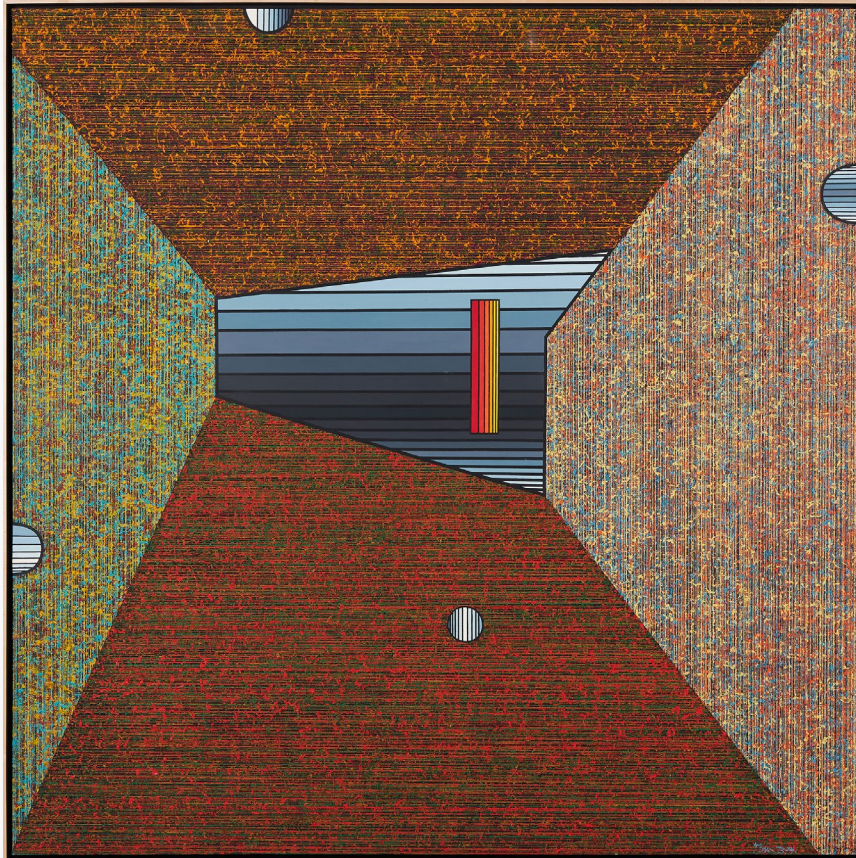
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HAROLD TOWN

Snap #68

1973 - 1974

oil on canvas

72 x 72 inches (182.9 x 182.9 cm)

73.5 x 73.5 inches (186.5 x 186.5 cm) framed

\$85,000 CAD

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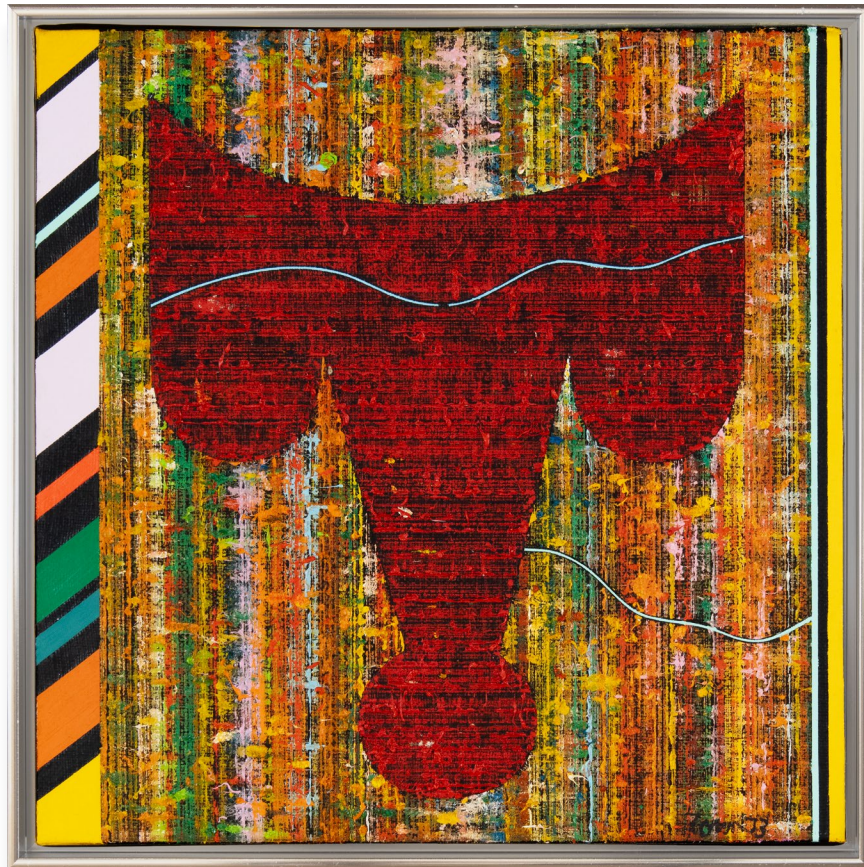
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HAROLD TOWN

Snap #27

1973

oil and lucite, stand oil and tube paint on canvas

20 x 20 inches (50.8 x 50.8 cm)

21.25 x 21.25 inches (54 x 54 cm) framed

\$23,000 CAD

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south gallery, west wall

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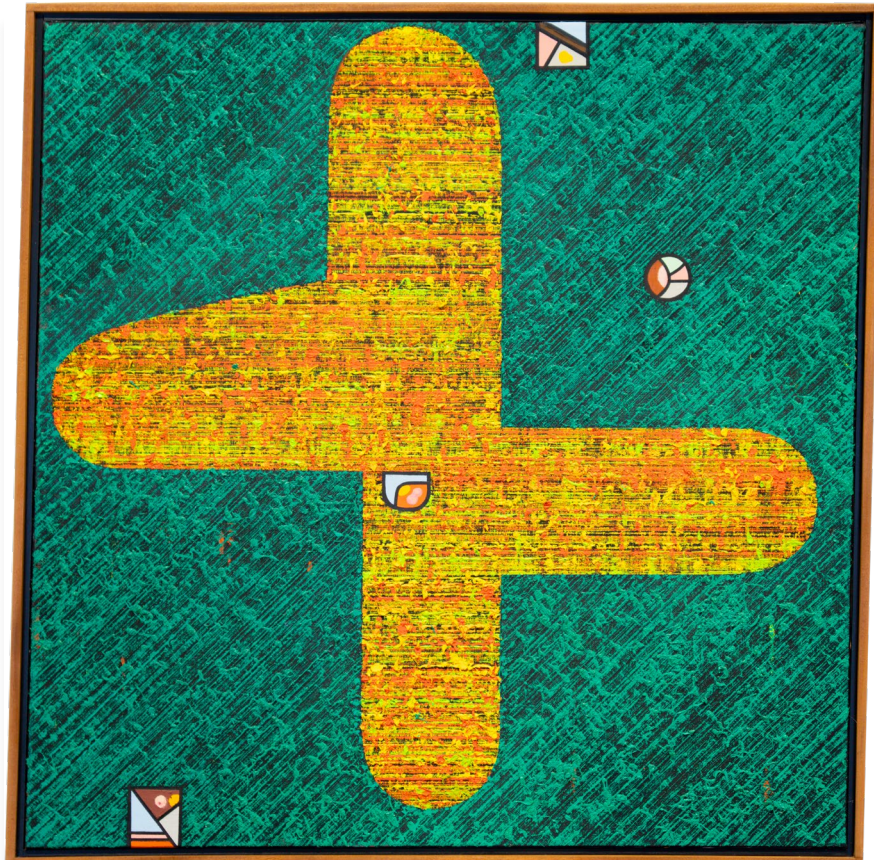
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HAROLD TOWN

Untitled (Snap)

c. 1973

oil and lucite 44 on canvas

30 x 30 inches (76 x 76 cm)

31.5 x 31.5 inches (80 x 80 cm) framed

\$33,000 CAD

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HAROLD TOWN

Carnival Nodule

c. 1973

oil on canvas

24 x 24 inches (61 x 61 cm)

25.25 x 25.25 inches (64 x 64 cm) framed

\$26,000 CAD

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HAROLD TOWN

X

1957

oil and lucite 44 on linen

30 x 18 inches (76 x 45.5 cm)

32.25 x 20.25 inches (82 x 51.5 cm) framed

\$30,500 CAD

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HAROLD TOWN

The Burn

1959

oil on canvas

32 x 22 inches (81.5 x 56 cm)

33.5 x 23.5 inches (85 x 59.5 cm) framed

\$34,500 CAD

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HAROLD TOWN

Untitled

1959

oil on masonite

12 x 12 inches (30.5 x 30.5 cm)

13.5 x 13.5 inches (34.5 x 34.5 cm) framed

\$15,000 CAD

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north gallery, north wall

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HAROLD TOWN

Atlantis

1959 - 1960

oil on canvas

68 x 78.25 inches (172.7 x 198.8 cm)

69.25 x 79.5 inches (176 x 202 cm) framed

\$110,000 CAD

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north gallery, east wall

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HAROLD TOWN

Interior with Hand Jug

1956

oil on linen

46 x 29.75 inches (117 x 75.5 cm)

47.75 x 31.25 inches (121.5 x 79.5 cm) framed

\$48,000 CAD

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HAROLD TOWN

Forest Pendulum

1960

oil on linen

34 x 34 inches (86.5 x 86.5 cm)

36.75 x 37 inches (93.5 x 94 cm) framed

\$43,000 CAD

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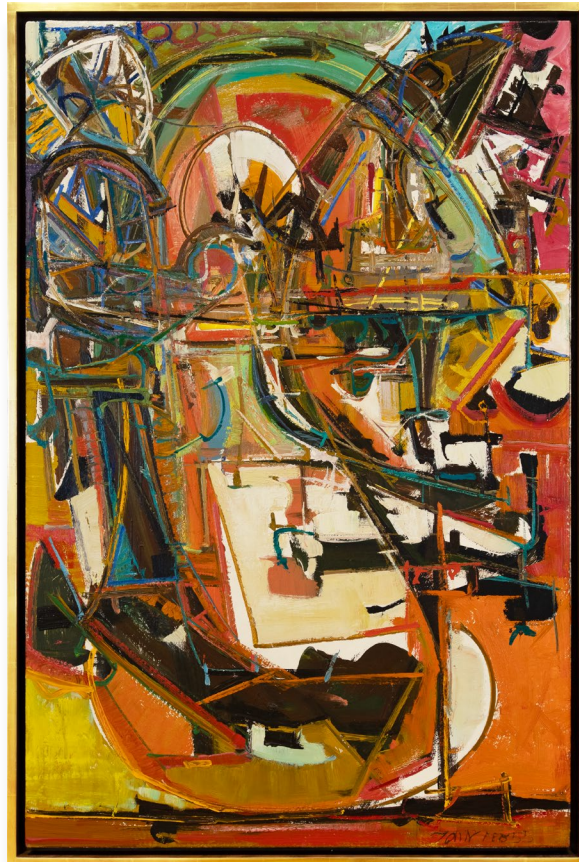
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HAROLD TOWN

Refraction

1955

oil on board

41 x 27 inches (104 x 68.5 cm)

43 x 28.75 inches (109 x 73 cm) framed

\$45,000 CAD

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north gallery, south wall

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HAROLD TOWN

To Throw a Stone at Midnight

1959

lucite 44 and oil on masonite

60 x 48 inches (152 x 122 cm)

61.25 x 49.25 inches (155.5 x 125 cm) framed

\$69,000 CAD

CHRISTOPHER CUTTS GALLERY



north gallery, west wall

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HAROLD TOWN

Untitled

1952 May. 29

gouache and ink on card

21.5 x 28 inches (54.5 x 71 cm)

25.5 x 31.5 inches (65 x 80 cm) framed

\$28,000 CAD

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HAROLD TOWN

Imperial M No. 2

1959

mixed media collage

8.75 x 16 inches (22.2 x 40.6 cm)

17.5 x 24.5 inches (44.5 x 62.2 cm) framed

\$12,500 CAD