

CHRISTOPHER CUTTS GALLERY

JOHN ABRAMS
THE FIRST FOUR MINUTES

JUNE 20, 2026 – JULY 18, 2026

DIGITAL CATALOGUE



CHRISTOPHER CUTTS GALLERY

JOHN ABRAMS *THE FIRST FOUR MINUTES*

The Christopher Cutts Gallery is excited to present John Abrams's "The First Four Minutes." This exhibition presents a new body of work by the Toronto-based painter, based on the opening sequence of Jean-Luc Godard's 1960 film *À bout de souffle* (Breathless). The series focuses exclusively on the film's first four minutes, featuring more than sixty small-scale oil paintings, three large canvases, and a video work.

In "The First Four Minutes," Abrams fragments the iconic French film into an array of extracted images. The artist's painterly touch distills scenes charged with anticipation and narrative momentum into singular, elegant compositions, suspending fleeting moments between action and reaction. Each painting is a meditation on narrative, atmosphere, and gesture, exploring the latent tension contained within a single film still.

"I have been painting images inspired by cinema for about three decades, frequently returning to the works of Jean-Luc Godard, to the point where my practice could be considered obsessive.

My newest work explores the first four minutes of the 1960 film originally titled "*À bout de souffle*" (literally meaning 'without breath'), which introduces viewers to the hero/anti-hero Michel Poiccard, played by French actor Jean-Paul Belmondo.

The character, Poiccard, with the help of an unnamed female accomplice, steals a car from an unsuspecting couple, hot-wires it, and speeds away, only to be pursued by motorcycle cops along the road from Marseille to Paris. During his close encounter with law enforcement, Michel discovers a gun hidden in the glove compartment of the stolen vehicle. He uses this gun to shoot and kill one of the pursuing officers before narrowly escaping.

A significant part of the opening narrative centers on a modern young woman who scouts the car for Michel to steal. Though her appearance is brief, it drives the story's progression. Despite not receiving credit in the film, the unnamed actress delivers a captivating performance, as the film relies on her agency to propel the narrative forward.

I had meant to paint five or six small paintings ... I confess to having gotten carried away, as the project took on a life of its own."

— Excerpt from John Abrams's Artist Statement on "The First Four Minutes"

Join us on July 9th at 8pm for a screening of Jean-Luc Godard's "Breathless."

This exhibition will run from June 20, 2026 — July 18, 2026

CHRISTOPHER CUTTS GALLERY

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John Abrams "The First Four Minutes" / June 20, 2026—July 18, 2026
south gallery, north wall

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JOHN ABRAMS

Title Card

2026

oil on canvas

56 x 77 inches (142 x 195.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.1

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

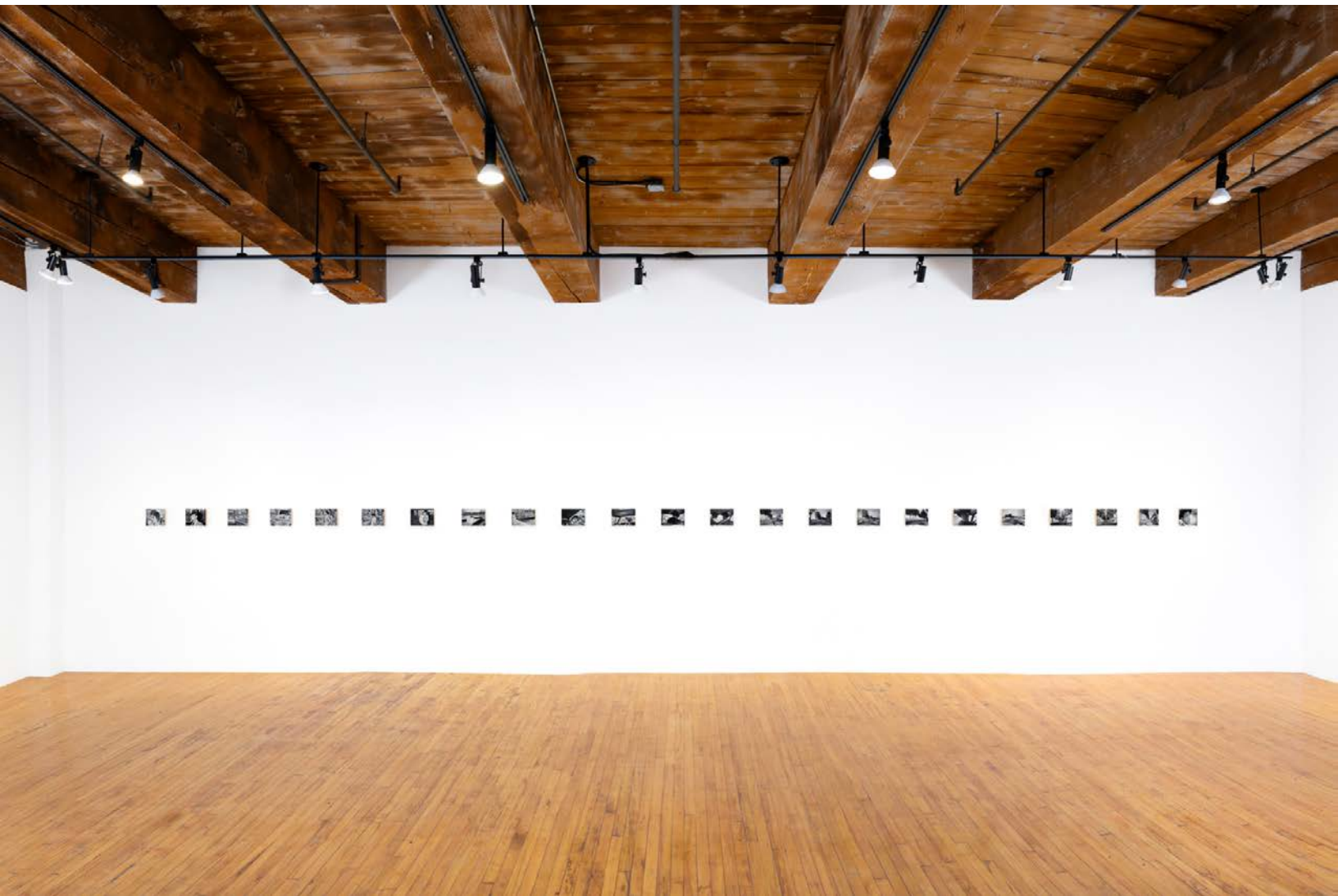
Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.2

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.3

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.4

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.5

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.6

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.7

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.8

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.9

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.10

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.11

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.12

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.14

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.15

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.16

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.17

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.18

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.19

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.20

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.21

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.22

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.23

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.24

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.25

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.26

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.27

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.28

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.29

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.30

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Road to Paris

2026

oil on canvas

56 x 77 inches (142 x 195.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

In Doorway

2014

oil on panel

16 x 12 inches (40.5 x 30.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.31

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.32

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.33

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.34

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.35

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.36

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.37

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.38

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.39

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.40

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.41

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.42

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.43

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.44

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.45

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.46

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

In the Mirror

2014

oil on panel

16 x 12 inches (40.5 x 30.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.47

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.48

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.49

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.50

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.51

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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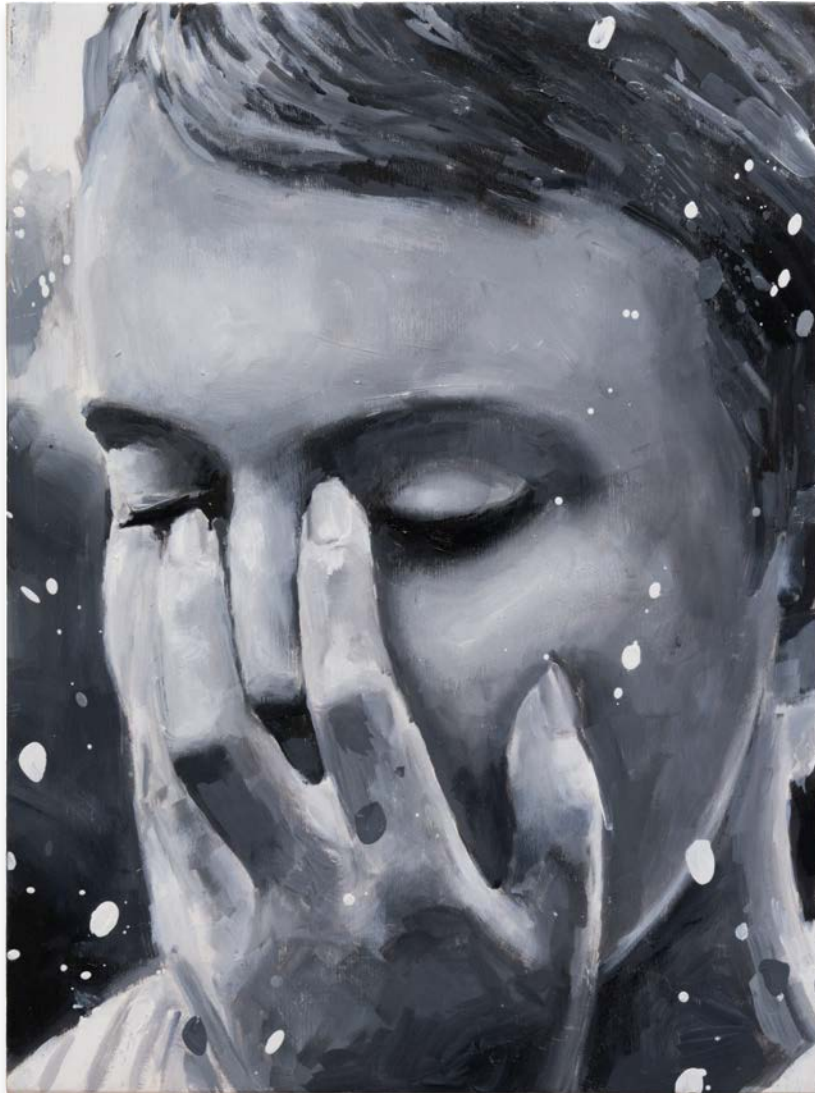
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JOHN ABRAMS
Head and Hand
2014
oil on panel
16 x 12 inches (40.5 x 30.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.52

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.53

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.54

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.55

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.56

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.57

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.58

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.59

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.60

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.61

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.62

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.63

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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21 Morrow Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M6R 2H9

www.cuttsgallery.com

info@cuttsgallery.com

1 (416) 532 5566

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.64

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.65

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.66

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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John Abrams "The First Four Minutes" / June 20, 2026 — July 18, 2026
north gallery, south wall

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JOHN ABRAMS

Excerpt from: "The First Four Minutes" No.13

2026

oil on panel

6 x 8 inches (15 x 20.5 cm)

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JOHN ABRAMS

Marseille

2026

oil on canvas

56 x 77 inches (142 x 195.5 cm)

CHRISTOPHER CUTTS GALLERY



John Abrams "The First Four Minutes" | June 20, 2026 — July 18, 2026
north gallery, north wall

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VIDEO INSTALLATION - The First Four Minutes

JOHN ABRAMS - Producer

CARLA GARNET - Editor

watch online: johnabramsart.com