



## **Tyger Tyger Gallery Announces Grand Opening** *New Gallery in Riverview Station in the RAD Set to Launch*

**ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA (August 19th, 2022)** – The newest addition to the burgeoning arts community in Asheville’s River Arts District (RAD) is set to open August 19th, with an inaugural reception from 5pm - 8pm. Tyger Tyger Gallery is located in a newly renovated, 5,000 square foot space in Riverview Station, 191 Lyman Street. Founding Director Mira Gerard, Associate Director Melissa Crouch, and Gallery Manager Nora Hartlaub are bringing their collective experience in the arts locally, regionally, and nationally to this endeavor.

The name *Tyger Tyger* comes from William Blake’s “The Tyger” from his “Songs of Innocence and Experience,” published in the late 18th century and one of the best-known poems of the romantic period. Imagery of fire, darkness, and ferocious beauty permeate the poem, which is posed as a series of questions that touch on Blake’s frustration with the oppressive morality and abuse of power of the Church of England. A societal outsider, staunch abolitionist, and champion of human expression, Blake was mostly maligned and dismissed during his life.

“Tyger Tyger Gallery seeks to be expansive in nature, featuring artists working in a range of media and points of view, with a recurring emphasis on those who have been historically marginalized and under-represented in the art world,” says Gerard. “We believe that what is put into the world can shape the world, therefore running an art gallery is a form of power that should be handled with great care and intention- a responsibility we take very seriously.”

The grand opening exhibition, *What Strange Water, What Strange Air*, features paintings and drawings by three queer artists. Story-like, dense landscapes that contrast atmospheric illusions of space with graphic areas of flatness fill **Christian Rieben’s** lush, vivid paintings, while **Caleb Yono’s** figurative pastels and mixed media drawings envision an imaginary world where high femme protagonists navigate and maintain a multidimensional universe. **Mira Gerard’s** luminous paintings, occasionally populated by figures and animals, embrace landscape as a location for shifting emotional states.

*What Strange Water, What Strange Air* runs through September 25th.

Tyger Tyger Gallery will be open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 am-6pm and Sundays from 11am-5pm. To learn more visit [www.tyger tyger gallery.com](http://www.tyger tyger gallery.com) and follow them on Facebook and Instagram @tyger tyger gallery.

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