

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Site-specific work of art commissioned for Tufts' Collaborative Learning and Innovation Complex

Sophia Ainslie Named Inaugural Henricks Art Fund for Tufts Graduates' Recipient



Sophia Ainslie, *In Person—574-4*, 2014. Image courtesy of the artist.

Medford, MA – Boston-based painter and Tufts alum Sophia Ainslie (MFA 2001) has been commissioned to create a monumental mural for the Collaborative Learning and Innovation Complex (CLIC), a newly renovated academic building at 574 Boston Avenue on Tufts' Medford campus. Ainslie's seven-panel mural, titled *In Person—574*, is her largest work to date and her first to use digital printing methods. It spans over 6,000 square feet and four stories of the building's central stairwell. The renovated building, set to open officially in September 2015, is the new home for the departments of Occupational Therapy, Child Development, Community Health, Cognitive Science,

Physics and Astronomy, and Human-Centered Engineering (Mechanical, Electrical, Computer, Civil & Environmental). Selected by Director of Galleries and Collections Amy I. Schlegel, Ainslie's installation is made possible by an endowed fund to purchase art by Tufts graduates established by Dr. Joan M. Henricks, J69, and her husband Alan Henricks.

Ainslie's imagery is focused on the visual continuum between interior and exterior spaces. Her work forms a "collage-like space" reflecting the relationship between the body and landscape as parallel experiences. Her work combines X-rays, territorial mappings, and sketches of places she has experienced in her immediate environment. Drawing and painting on paper coexist, as she says, "in a relationship of connections and disconnections between inside and outside, mark-making against flat color, absence and presence."

An exhibition on view in the Aidekman Arts Center's Remis Sculpture Court from September 10 to December 6 explores the creation and installation of this site-specific artwork at 574 Boston Avenue. A public opening reception will be held at the Tufts University Art Gallery, Aidekman Arts Center, on September 17, 5 to 7:30 p.m.; Ainslie will be present.

Born in Johannesburg, South Africa, Ainslie teaches painting at Northeastern University in Boston. She received her MFA from Tufts and The School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, in 2001. After graduating, she received the Anne and Graham Gund award to attend the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in Maine. She is a recipient of the 2012 Massachusetts Cultural Council Fellowship for Painting and an Artist's Resource Trust Grant. Ainslie maintains a studio in Somerville and resides in Arlington, MA. She exhibits actively in the Boston metropolitan area and has participated in residencies in New York City, London, Botswana, and South Africa.