A man with short dark hair and a beard, wearing a red t-shirt, is seated at a table. He is focused on a large piece of art he is creating on the table. The art appears to be a dense, intricate pattern of small, repeating elements. The background is slightly blurred, showing what might be a studio or workshop setting with some equipment. The entire image has a dark purple overlay.

aquil.ca

**THIS IS THE STORY OF GINNY AND
WHY SHE LOVES COLLABORATIVE ART-MAKING**

In this document: Read the story • How it works • Testimonials • Press • Bio • Rates

Visit aquil.ca
Phone 514.677.4137
Email aquilvirani@gmail.com



Met Ginny McAleese. She works at Paul Smith's College in upstate New York as the Director of the Academic Success Centre. She's an extremely warm and helpful soul; she's like the "campus mom" to both students and staff. She was looking for a way to spice up the college's Welcome Week. Ginny had a reasonable budget to entertain the students between the presentations about campus safety and academic honesty. She had found that some of the musicians and comedians were engaging, even inspiring, but after they spent an evening at Paul Smith's entertaining the students, they would be forgotten a few weeks later. She felt like many event organizers do. She felt like her event needed an extra jolt of excitement to be truly memorable and she was open to trying something new.

Ginny recieved a proposal from a visual artist based in Montreal named Aquil Virani. He had heard about the college's Welcome Week through a professor at Paul Smith's and decided to propose his collaborative art idea. He clearly explained the goals behind the project, how it would work and how much it would cost. Ginny was very excited about having 200+ students participate in this communal project by drawing a little picture that would be integrated into a live painting right on campus. It would be a wonderful addition to the week's activities and they would be left with a beautiful artwork that would be unveiled at the week's concluding ceremony. In the back of her mind, she was still a bit nervous as she had never worked with Aquil or done this kind of project before. After looking at more of the artists's work online and discussing the contents of Aquil's 20-minute presentation on creativity, Ginny decided to take the plunge.



Live artwork at a TEDx Conference in Montreal, Quebec, Canada



3 years have passed since then and Aquil has been invited back every year since. The tradition grows as the Canadian artist connects with year after year of freshmen students through his collaborative art. Aquil unveiled his 2015 artwork to a standing ovation with the Channel 3 News featuring the project on local television. Aquil was also interviewed on NPR (radio) and featured in the local daily newspaper. He shared a short video of his process along with footage of Welcome Week that was seen by thousands of people inside and outside of the college community. The finished artwork serves as a centre piece in the school's library where prospective students, parents, current students and visiting alumni can read about the process of revealing the artist in everyone.

[Watch the video at aquil.ca/psc.](http://aquil.ca/psc)

Posing with the 2015 peer leaders in front of the unveiled painting at Paul Smith's College



The unveiling actually brought tears to my eyes! What an amazing experience! I can't thank Aquil enough for the many ways his art has touched all of us! So beautiful. The collaborative nature of the We Are All Artists Project provided a perfect means for our new students to begin their journey at Paul Smith's College and to see themselves as valued members of our campus community. Aquil brought enthusiasm, energy, passion and a phenomenal work ethic! I can't wait for next year! The impact of this project on our campus will long be remembered!

Virginia (Ginny) McAleese
Director of Academic Success Centre at Paul Smith's College
Paul Smith's, New York, USA



A close-up of the 2013 artwork in Paul Smiths, New York, USA

WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU MEAN BY “COLLABORATIVE ART”?



[1] PARTICIPANTS DRAW!

Their prompt can be anything we decide.
“What will you remember from this event?”
“What makes you happy?”
“Draw anything!”



[2] I INTEGRATE THEM!

I re-draw their contributions over several hours or several days. I can do it discretely in the corner of a venue or I can be up on-stage.
The beauty is in the process.



[3] WE UNVEIL IT!

We often do this as the event comes to a close to give some closure to the art-making process. I say a few words, explain the idea, and voila!
You have a memorable artwork to enjoy!

700+ drawings in a collaborative artwork created at Southridge School in Surrey, British Columbia, Canada



Aquil Virani proposed and executed one of the most inclusive and community building art endeavours that Southridge School has shared to date. He created this painting in our school's entrance and as he did so, he was both welcoming and articulate. The anticipation built throughout the process. Students, faculty, staff and parents peppered him with questions, eagerly awaiting the realization of their own contribution into the greater whole of the image. The painting Aquil created is the artful embodiment of the powerful sentiment that "we are all one" - this metaphor continues to speak to all those who view it, year after year, in our main concourse.

Susy Baranszky-Job
Head of Fine Arts at Southridge School
Surrey, BC, Canada



Live painting at the CSFX16 conference hosted by the NBA All-Star Weekend



We invited Aquil to showcase his collaborative art during our Creativity Day at CSFX16, a leading marketing and sponsorship conference in Canada. He engaged with participants with ease and created a stunning artwork that we couldn't be more proud of! The project got people talking, it got the creativity flowing, and it set up one of our most successful events to date. We weren't sure exactly how things would turn out, but Aquil was extremely adaptable and made it happen, coming through with flying colours!

Ishita Chadha
Accounts Executive - Special Events, T1 Agency
Toronto, ON, Canada



Live art at bilingual event TEDxHEC in Montreal, QC



had seen Aquil's videos before, but I did not expect him to be so involved in the event, so engaged with the public and so comfortable on stage. He really saved us at the end when we asked him to adjust his unveiling to take up more time. So entertaining. Numerous people asked me where I found him and mentioned how much of a highlight he was. I'll definitely be bringing him back for another event next year.

Helene Vallieres-Goulet

Executive Team
Montreal, QC, Canada



FAITS SENTIR CHEZ MOI /
CY ADMIRATION / UNITY / L'AMOUR
MILY IS / MA FAMILLE / CAT / KEY /
T JUDGMENT-FREE-ZONE / SOUL /
TAINS / BEING ACCEPTED FOR WHO I AM (LOVE) / WARMTH / SPORTS / HER / MY FRIENDS /
MBRE / MON CAFE DU MATIN! / SEX DROGUE ALCOOL / FAMILY / DANCING / BEACH & COCONUT TREES /
MILY / MY OWN OWN AND FAMILY / SECURITE, SAFETY / FAMILY / BE YOURSELF / FEELING SAFE / ...
T / A HUG / A FRIEND / FOOD / MUSIC PLANTS PILLOWS / INTIMITE / LE SILENCE / LA LUMIERE / ...
THERE A RIGHT ANSWER? / APPRECIATION / ACCEPTANCE / UN BAIN / A DEEP FEELING OF PEACE TAKING OVER /
E-WAIS / SMELL OF COOKIES / LA LIBERTÉ DE CHOIX / AVOIR LA CRISE DE PAIX! / JAZZ / HAVING A CUP OF

Interactive art at the Toronto Symphony Orchestra's New Creations Festival

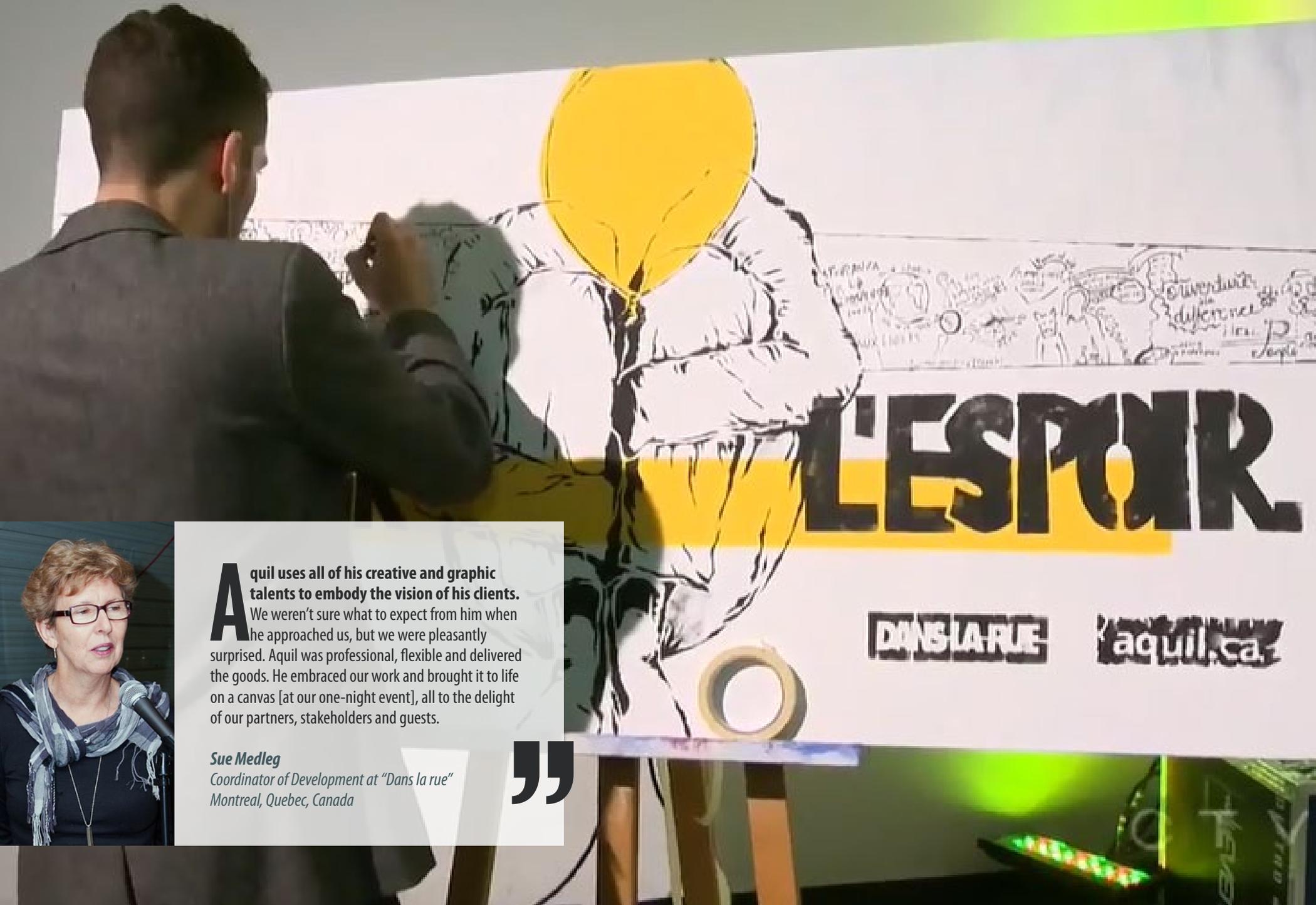


Aquil's artistic and professional presence at our New Creations Festival greatly elevated our patron experience. He pushed the boundary of the traditional art exhibition and encouraged patrons to participate and share his creative vision. I look forward to inviting Aquil to many more collaborations with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra in the near future.

Sam Jacobs
Manager, Corporate Sponsorships
Toronto, ON, Canada



“Dans la rue” (On the street) annual fundraiser event in Montreal, Quebec, Canada



Aquil uses all of his creative and graphic talents to embody the vision of his clients.

We weren't sure what to expect from him when he approached us, but we were pleasantly surprised. Aquil was professional, flexible and delivered the goods. He embraced our work and brought it to life on a canvas [at our one-night event], all to the delight of our partners, stakeholders and guests.

Sue Medleg

Coordinator of Development at “Dans la rue”
Montreal, Quebec, Canada

”



It's simply a pleasure to work with **Aquil**. He has elevated our efforts with his extremely creative mind, consistently producing exceptional work for us. You can always rely on him to deliver projects on-time and on-budget. In a word, he's impressive. Don't work with anyone else.

Adrienne Hiles
*Digital Communications at L'Oréal Canada
Montreal, Quebec, Canada*



Live artwork created as part of a hair colour product launch with L'Oréal Canada in Montreal, Quebec, Canada

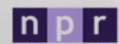


eTV
MORNING
LIVE

During 2015 alone, Aquil has been featured 15 times on television, radio, in print and online. He's been interviewed everywhere from Victoria, BC to Halifax, Nova Scotia.



The Gazette



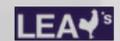
concordian



McGill DAILY



The Bull & Bear



TIMES COLONIST



VERMONT'S OWN
3NEWS

An interview with Kelly Linehan from CTV Winnipeg about a cross-Canada collaborative artwork



Aquil Virani (b. 1991, Vancouver, BC, Canada) is a freelance visual artist, graphic designer and speaker. While based in Montreal, his creative projects have taken him throughout the world, from Vancouver to Agua Prieta, from New York to Punta Cana. He has been called “the people’s artist” with his collaborative art projects being enjoyed by thousands of people on television, radio, print and online. Aquil recently completed a coast-to-coast Canada-wide art project that featured over 800 drawings about Canadian identity in a single artwork. It is scheduled to be exhibited at the *Canadian Museum of Immigration* in 2016. He believes that we are all artists at heart and that we can all experience the joy he feels when creating.

MAYBELLINE

TEDx

McGill

& AMPERSAND
CONFERENCE

BLUES
PUB

color
graphics



SOUTHRIDGE

DANS LA RUE



HALF-TRUTH

L'ORÉAL
PARIS

Paul Smith's
College

Concordia

MONTREAL
IMPROV

ARTPROV

HOW MUCH DOES THIS NORMALLY COST?

The goal here is to provide a general idea of my rates. These rates are for the *Artist Fee*; they are paid in addition to travel, accommodation, and supplies.

PREMIUM [\$1500+]

Collaborative art creation
3 - 5 days of event, 1 - 2 days of preparation
Final artwork to keep or give away
3-minute behind-the-scenes video
Official certificate of authenticity
Creation and dissemination of press release
Online content at aquil.ca/projectname

Thorough planning of composition
2 rounds of brainstorming imagery
Collaborative option (audience participation)
Artist talk or keynote: \$100 add-on (with visual aid)
Dramatic, unveiling ceremony

STANDARD [\$700+]

Collaborative art creation
2 - 3 days of event, 1 day of preparation
Final artwork to keep or give away
2-minute behind-the-scenes video
Official certificate of authenticity
Creation of art project press release

Basic planning of composition
Collaborative option (audience participation)
Artist talk or keynote: \$100 add-on (with visual aid)

BASIC [\$400+]

Live art creation
1 full-day event, 1 day of preparation
Final artwork to keep or give away

Basic planning of composition
Collaborative option (audience participation)
Artist talk or keynote: \$100 add-on (with visual aid)



CLICK TO
SEE SOME
COOL VIDEOS!





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Special thanks to AlexTranPhotography.com for many of the photos in this document.