



## about the artist

Born in South Africa, Suzanne Metz graduated with an Honours Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in 1980 from the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. She emigrated to Canada in 1986 and has been teaching art and painting professionally for over 20 years. A long-time resident of Vaughan, Suzanne is the recipient of numerous accolades and awards. Her work has been featured in solo and group art exhibitions including the Toronto Art Expo, the Artist Project and the New York Art Expo and is housed in private and corporate collections in Canada and internationally. Suzanne's work is represented by the Denison Gallery in Toronto.

IMAGES-Covers: My Vision (detail), Mixed media, 2017 | Inside Panels: Magnify-cent, Mixed media, 2017 | Don't Judge Me, Mixed media, 2015



# urban graffiti

paintings by **suzanne metz**



## Vaughan Metropolitan Centre

Vaughan, one of the fastest growing municipalities in Canada is creating a new downtown – the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre (VMC) which will become the new heart of the City. A modern commercial and residential urban centre supported by an integrated transit network that links Vaughan to the Greater Toronto Area is being developed to embrace all the amenities of innovative urban living from office towers, residences, open green space and urban squares, shopping and restaurants, arts and cultural facilities to pedestrian walkways and bicycle networks. Visit [MyVMC.ca](http://MyVMC.ca) to learn more about the progress of the largest and most ambitious project in the City's history.

Exhibition:

**September 7 - November 10, 2017**

Vaughan City Hall: **on the slate** Atrium Gallery  
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive

**Monday-Friday**

8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

For more information on this exhibition and other visual arts initiatives in the City of Vaughan, please contact:

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**"Graffiti"** (plural form of "graffito" in Italian) is one of the oldest and most controversial forms of art with origins dating back to ancient Egypt, Greece and the Roman Empire. As a visual form of public social expression, graffiti often juxtaposes a broad range of simple written words with elaborate painting to convey messages. It can be employed negatively as an act of vandalism or channeled positively as a modern urban form of expression to interpret the evolving history and public identity of a metropolis.

Adopting a constructive street art approach designed to energize and inspire viewers, Suzanne Metz's interpretation of the graffiti theme is in her words "raw, socially conscious and belongs to the public. Its message is meant to stir the emotions of those who walk past. It is visceral and edgy. It is modernist art in the centre of the city. It should elicit emotional connections and/or reactions to themes and feelings explicitly expressed through colour, image, script and detail."

Ambiguous symbols and text become cryptic messages in Suzanne's work – often delivered through an array of bold and subtle graphic lines, dematerializing contours and saturated colour blocking. Her abstract configurations have the power to suggest rather than illustrate; and in so doing, she shares her interpretation of Vaughan's transformational vision for its new downtown core - the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre - depicting what she perceives is "reflective of the modernity, vibrancy and contradictions of the open spaces, urban squares, businesses, buildings, walls and materials in the City."

Suzanne's powerful works harness positive self-expression and face street art with a high aesthetic. Her enigmatic messages (featuring subtle VMC references) help give tangible shape to Vaughan's evolving metropolis.

