

Wil Aballe

1375 RAILSPUR ALLEY
VANCOUVER, BC, CANADA
V6H 4G9
+ 1 (778) 229 3458
WWW.WILABALLE.COM

RHYS EDWARDS

Autophagia

Opening: Wed, July 29, 6-8PM

Exhibition: July 29 – Sept 5, 2026

Image:

Rhys Edwards

Decomposition with Budai, 2025

Oil on panel

24 x 20 in (61 x 50.8 cm)

All images courtesy of Michael Love



Wil Aballe

1375 RAILSPUR ALLEY
VANCOUVER, BC CANADA
V6H 4G9
+ 1 (778) 229 3458
WWW.WILABALLE.COM



Wil Aballe

1375 RAILSPUR ALLEY
VANCOUVER, BC CANADA
V6H 4G9
+ 1 (778) 229 3458
WWW.WILABALLE.COM

RHYS EDWARDS

Autophagia

Through the lens of Dutch Golden Age floral painting, Rhys Edwards examines the uneasy relationship between images and the realities they seem to depict. The 'naturalism' of Dutch flower painting was never simply a matter of faithful observation; it was shaped by evolving techniques of representation, from painting and printmaking to optical devices, and by the material conditions of colonial trade. Edwards brings this history into dialogue with the present, where contemporary images are likewise unstable—produced, circulated, and altered through machine learning, algorithmic systems, and digital noise.

Edwards takes up the concept of autophagy in artificial intelligence research, in which language models are trained on data they have themselves helped generate, forming a recursive loop that is prone to eventual collapse—creating an ouroboros of image generation. His oil paintings reflect this condition. While they maintain the surface of realism, they do not commit to a single register of the real. Instead, they draw together flowers and objects painted from life, found photographs, images from public museum collections, fragments of AI-generated paintings, and elements shaped by imagination.

What emerges is a body of work that dwells in the gaps between observation, mediation, and invention. These paintings do not resolve those tensions so much as make them visible. The result is a body of work that attempts to trace the slippage between different frames of reality, collapsing them into pictorial abyss.

Rhys Edwards is an artist, curator, and writer. He has previously curated multiple exhibitions with Surrey Art Gallery, most recently *Kinesthesia: Body as Form*. His writing has been published in *The Capilano Review*, *Border Crossings*, *C Magazine*, and *Canadian Art*. *Autophagia* is his first solo exhibition with Wil Aballe Art Projects.

Having lived and worked for several years on the unceded territories of the Musqueam, Tsleil-Waututh, Kwantlen, Katzie, and Semiahmoo Nations, he will begin his Master's in Painting and Drawing at Concordia University this fall.

Wil Aballe

1375 RAILSPUR ALLEY
VANCOUVER, BC CANADA
V6H 4G9
+ 1 (778) 229 3458
WWW.WILABALLE.COM

Rhys Edwards
Flower Study I, 2024
Oil on panel
20 x 16 in (50.8 x 40.6 cm)



Wil Aballe

1375 RAILSPUR ALLEY
VANCOUVER, BC CANADA
V6H 4G9
+ 1 (778) 229 3458
WWW.WILABALLE.COM

Rhys Edwards

Flower Study II, 2024

Oil on panel

20 x 16 in (50.8 x 40.6 cm)



Wil Aballe

1375 RAILSPUR ALLEY
VANCOUVER, BC CANADA
V6H 4G9
+ 1 (778) 229 3458
WWW.WILABALLE.COM

Rhys Edwards

Flower Study III, 2024

Oil on panel

20 x 16 in (50.8 x 40.6 cm)



Wil Aballe

1375 RAILSPUR ALLEY
VANCOUVER, BC CANADA
V6H 4G9
+ 1 (778) 229 3458
WWW.WILABALLE.COM

Rhys Edwards
Flower Study IV, 2025
Oil on panel
20 x 16 in (50.8 x 40.6 cm)



Wil Aballe

1375 RAILSPUR ALLEY
VANCOUVER, BC CANADA
V6H 4G9
+ 1 (778) 229 3458
WWW.WILABALLE.COM



Wil Aballe

1375 RAILSPUR ALLEY
VANCOUVER, BC CANADA
V6H 4G9
+ 1 (778) 229 3458
WWW.WILABALLE.COM

Rhys Edwards
Decomposition with Bird, 2023
Oil on panel
18 x 24 in (45.7 x 61 cm)



Wil Aballe

1375 RAILSPUR ALLEY
VANCOUVER, BC CANADA
V6H 4G9
+ 1 (778) 229 3458
WWW.WILABALLE.COM

Rhys Edwards

Decomposition with Budai, 2025

Oil on panel

24 x 20 in (61 x 50.8 cm)



Wil Aballe

1375 RAILSPUR ALLEY
VANCOUVER, BC CANADA
V6H 4G9
+ 1 (778) 229 3458
WWW.WILABALLE.COM

Rhys Edwards

Decomposition with Neighbour's Roses, Wax, Mignon's Grapes,
Digital Artifacts, 2024

Oil on panel

24 x 20 in (61 x 50.8 cm)



Wil Aballe

1375 RAILSPUR ALLEY
VANCOUVER, BC CANADA
V6H 4G9
+ 1 (778) 229 3458
WWW.WILABALLE.COM

Rhys Edwards

Composition with Aquilegia, 2024

Oil on panel

14 x 11 in (35.6 x 27.9 cm)



Wil Aballe

1375 RAILSPUR ALLEY
VANCOUVER, BC CANADA
V6H 4G9
+ 1 (778) 229 3458
WWW.WILABALLE.COM

Rhys Edwards

Decomposition with Dried Flower, Lam's Bowl, Hunter, 2026

Oil on panel

20 x 16 in (50.8 x 40.6 cm)



Wil Aballe

1375 RAILSPUR ALLEY
VANCOUVER, BC CANADA
V6H 4G9
+ 1 (778) 229 3458
WWW.WILABALLE.COM

Rhys Edwards

*Decomposition with Ceramic Flora, Plum Blossoms, Found
Figure, Lam's Incense, 2026*

Oil on panel

12 x 9 in (30.5 x 22.9 cm)



Wil Aballe

1375 RAILSPUR ALLEY
VANCOUVER, BC CANADA
V6H 4G9
+ 1 (778) 229 3458
WWW.WILABALLE.COM

Rhys Edwards

*Decomposition with Barber Rose, Calendula, Yuzu, Psychodigital
Refuse, 2026*

Oil on panel

12 x 9 in (30.5 x 22.9 cm)



Wil Aballe

1375 RAILSPUR ALLEY
VANCOUVER, BC CANADA
V6H 4G9
+ 1 (778) 229 3458
WWW.WILABALLE.COM

Rhys Edwards

Midden Prototype, 2023

Oil on canvas

20 x 20 in (50.8 x 50.8 cm)



Wil Aballe

1375 RAILSPUR ALLEY
VANCOUVER, BC CANADA
V6H 4G9
+ 1 (778) 229 3458
WWW.WILABALLE.COM

Rhys Edwards

Offering, 2021

Oil on panel

20 x 16 in (50.8 x 40.6 cm)



Wil Aballe

1375 RAILSPUR ALLEY
VANCOUVER, BC CANADA
V6H 4G9
+ 1 (778) 229 3458
WWW.WILABALLE.COM



Wil Aballe

1375 RAILSPUR ALLEY
VANCOUVER, BC CANADA
V6H 4G9
+ 1 (778) 229 3458
WWW.WILABALLE.COM



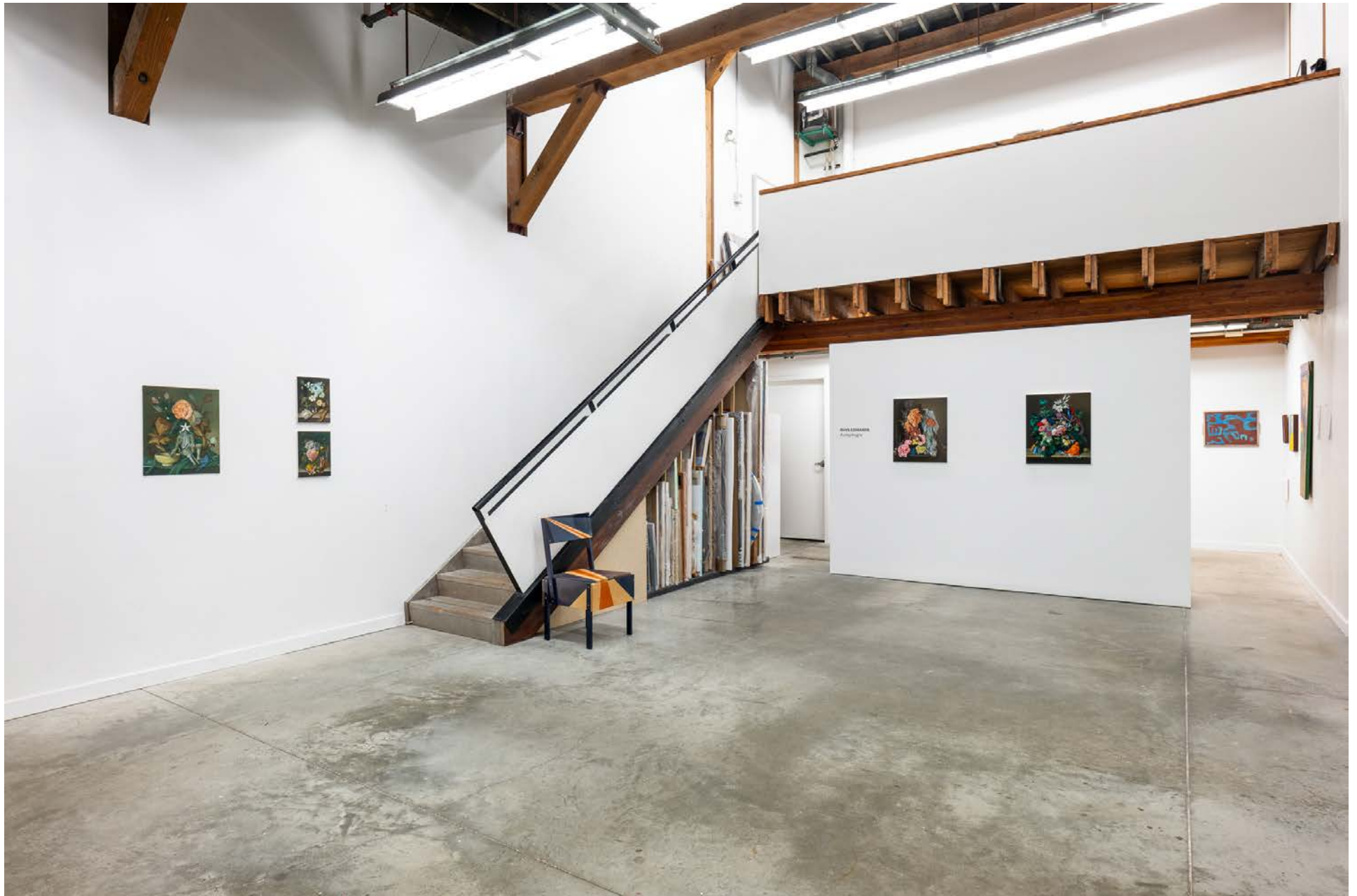
Wil Aballe

1375 RAILSPUR ALLEY
VANCOUVER, BC CANADA
V6H 4G9
+ 1 (778) 229 3458
WWW.WILABALLE.COM



Wil Aballe

1375 RAILSPUR ALLEY
VANCOUVER, BC CANADA
V6H 4G9
+ 1 (778) 229 3458
WWW.WILABALLE.COM



Wil Aballe

1375 RAILSPUR ALLEY
VANCOUVER, BC CANADA
V6H 4G9
+ 1 (778) 229 3458
WWW.WILABALLE.COM

