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 For Immediate Release:
 YEHOUDA CHAKI: *THE RIVER FLOWS*

Opening reception: Thursday, March 1, 5 – 8 p.m.
 Exhibition dates: March 1 – April 7, 2018

Gallery Jones is pleased to present *The River Flows*, a solo exhibition of recent work by the celebrated Canadian painter **Yehouda Chaki** in his 80th year. The sweeping landscapes of the exhibition reveal Chaki's masterful use of colour, and his ability to capture the natural world without quelling its potential.



Passages 1466, oil on canvas, 30 x 38 inches.

Yehouda Chaki was born in Athens, Greece in 1938 to a Jewish family and grew up in Israel. He trained in the European tradition of studio painting in Tel Aviv and then at the École des Beaux Arts in Paris. In 1963, Chaki immigrated to Montréal where he has lived and worked since. His critically-acclaimed aesthetic walks the line between realism and abstraction, exuding a vitality and passion that points back to the personality of the artist himself.

The River Flows presents curving and colourful landscapes of trees, hills, valleys, and water—harmonious as a whole yet wild in their detailing. A warm palette of oil paint outlines the contours of the earth, becoming playfully abstract at the painting's edges (as they would in the viewer's focus). The force and application of each brushstroke betrays emotion; in the same painting we detect calm dabs of colour and passionate sweeping gestures. Brightly embellished with sensory information, the works speak of a subjective experience of the natural world that connects to the deepest self.

By resisting visual definition, Chaki's works invite the viewer to imagine the scene without edges. But recently, paintings like *Don Quijote* (2017) and *Across the River* (2017) demonstrate a new freedom of expression in their use of geometric abstraction. This resurfacing motif hearkens back to Chaki's early career—particularly the "Construction" series of the early 1970's—connecting the artist's latest work to some of his earliest investigations into colour and shape.

Yehouda Chaki's work can be found in over fifty public collections and institutions internationally, including Canadian embassies and consulates, the Montréal Museum of Fine Arts, the Royal Bank of Canada Collection, Musée de Toulon, France, and Jerusalem City Hall, Israel, among others. Chaki was head of the Painting and Drawing programs at the Saidye Bronfman Centre from 1967–1989.