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Then and Now Artist Profiles

Emerging Artists

Brian Houtman

Brian Houtman is an emerging artist with a background in graphic design. He focuses on painting and drawing, while also exporting these and other media to digital formats to compose pieces that explore nature and the human body.

Sasha Hill

Sasha Hill is an Indigenous artist who refers to her paintings as her friends. Growing up as an outsider she found solace in creativity. She celebrates humanity and creates a space for connection through whimsy. She hopes her work can be a home for those who don't fit in. In her paintings, daydreaming is the norm, imagination runs free, and all are accepted as they are.

She loves to paint people and animals. Her works often start with an expression or emotion she can convey; creating moments within a larger story that takes place in her head while creating. She develops a strong connection to the characters as they take form and become real to the artist. She is inspired by the people she sees from a fleeting glance, to friends, family and dreams. In dreams, boundaries between what is real and what isn't are blurred, it is here the artist feels most comfortable.

As an emerging artist, Sasha's personal style and artistic voice is still being explored. She works primarily with oils, loving the richness the medium affords her.

Skot Caldwell

Skot Caldwell is an emerging artist who began his artistic journey in 2013, when he took an encaustic workshop with local artist Julie Davidson Smith. He had been itching to do encaustic for some years; he was sure it was the medium that would unlock his simmering artistic drive.

In the years that followed, he rented shared studio spaces and puttered away, exploring and learning. His work to date has focused on the physical representation of time through layered and scraped images, maps, text and colour. In June of 2016 he was one of two artists who opened the Elm Cafe in a fourthmonth show through the Skeleton Park Arts Festival.

Established Artists

Natalie Bohnen-Twiddy

Natalie Bohnen-Twiddy is a retired educator who lives in Kingston. She paints in her studio at the Tett Centre for Creativity and Learning. She experiments with paints from around the world.

Her paintings are colourful, dramatic and often large. Natalie comes from an artistic family. Her grandfather and sister are also accomplished artists. She not only paints but has been a keen collector of, and has great affection for, the impressionistic style. She has studied for decades with various artists including Lucy Manley and Joanne Purdy.

Bethany Garner

Bethany Garner was an instructor in the St. Lawrence College Textile and Arts Program for twenty-two years. She developed and presented the original program development plan and course outlines for the Fibre Arts, Textile Design Certificate Program at the Brockville and Kingston Campuses. She has over thirty years' experience as a Fibre Arts and Quilting Instructor, traveling widely across Canada, the US and the UK to deliver courses.

Bethany creates original artworks with mono print technique, dye painting and soy wax batik work which is complex and requires time, precise placement and dyes/inks that sing!

Pengyuan Wang

Pengyuan Wang is a Kingston-based free artist of painting, focusing on communication through painting and graphic arts. He enjoys his creative freedom, not limited by specific art mediums or a certain artistic style.

He was born and raised in China before emigrating to Canada. "Being able to experience different living conditions is a very important thing in life. Canada is vast and has magnificent natural scenery. I remember when I first came to Kingston, I fell in love with this city, which was my first choice to live." He has two professional art studios in the city – one in the west end and the other at the Tett Centre.