

10th Annual

Global commffest

community film & arts festival



"bringing communities together"



Sept 23-30 2015



Messenjah

Juno winner reggae band reunites with Legendary Soul/R&B music iconoclasts

"Crack of Dawn"

also appearing

Burgeoning rap talents **2-Large** and **Adam "Jive" Daley**
special guest performance from South Africa

Sharon Katz & The Peace Train

COMMFFEST WORLD MUSIC

Sept 25th 7pm-10pm St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts
27 Front Street East Toronto, ON M5E 1B4 416 366 1656

tickets \$37.00 one night only!!!



20 great artists

80 great films

passionate debates

MADA awards ceremony

Rainbow Cinema
80 Front St. East



St. Lawrence Centre
for the Arts
Performing Arts Lodge

The Rotunda Art Gallery

Tickets: Info
www.commffest.com
Rainbow Cinema
416-214-7006
Commffest office
416-362-5570



COMMFEST Kicks Off Its 10 Year Anniversary with a Celebration of the Arts.

For the last decade, the COMMFEST global community film festival has been Toronto's go-to film fest for filmmakers, film enthusiasts and audiences who relish issues-oriented, multi genre cinema from around the world.

To commemorate its 10 year anniversary, COMMFEST ups the ante by screening over 80+ local, national and international films, and for the first time expanding into a full-on multi-disciplinary celebration of the arts.

"The worlds of visual art, music, dance or film are all inextricably linked," says festival founder and CEO Sandie de Freitas. "To set ourselves apart from other film festivals whose sole focus is film, we've made a committed effort to reflect this multi-disciplinary synergy not just by presenting other art forms but by reflecting various artistic disciplines in the films themselves."

The 10th Annual COMMFEST Global Community Film and Arts Festival kicks off with a World Music night (Sept. 25, St. Lawrence Centre for the

Arts) featuring Canada's most accomplished reggae band, multiple Juno Award-winning **Messenjah** debuting songs from their forthcoming new album *We've Had It*. Legendary Soul/R&B music iconoclasts **Crack of Dawn** – the first black music band ever to be signed to a major recording contract in Canada – also join the bill for this one night only affair. Burgeoning rap talents **2-Large and Adam "Jive" Daley** perform new music in support of these Canadian legends.

Also appearing on stage is filmmaker/musician **Sharon Katz & The Peace Train** whose film, *When Voices Meet; One divided Country, One Struggle* plays Saturday 5.45pm at the Rainbow cinema (tickets are \$37.00 for commfest world music)

COMMFEST's International Art Exhibit showcases the works of 20 international visual artists and launches alongside World Music Night inside the St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts, with select pieces of artwork from this exhibit being displayed in the Metro Hall rotunda (55 John Street) throughout the duration of the festival.

KEY PERSONNEL



Founder (CEO)
Sandie de Freitas



Director VP
Norman Hart



Art Director/ Curator,
Antoine Gaber,

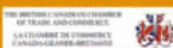


Angelina Herrera
International Cultural
Promoter and Consultant

Sponsors



Community partners





PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending the COMMFEST Global Community Film Festival.

This festival presents films from local, national and international artists that focus on important issues. COMMFEST also offers an international art exhibit and world music presentation, along with workshops and panel discussions to provide a deeper understanding of these creative endeavours. I am sure that viewers will be entertained and challenged by this year's slate of films.

I would like to commend the organizers for their efforts to raise awareness of breast cancer and sickle cell disease and to offer my congratulations on the occasion of the festival's tenth anniversary. You can take great satisfaction in a decade of success. I would also like to thank all the filmmakers and artists for sharing their passion for telling stories through film, art and music.

Please accept my best wishes for an enjoyable and productive festival.

The Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.

OTTAWA
2015





Premier of Ontario - Première ministre de l'Ontario

September 23 – 30, 2015

A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

On behalf of the Government of Ontario, I am pleased to welcome everyone to the 2015 COMMFEST Global Community Film and Arts Festival.

Thanks to a group of dedicated volunteers, COMMFEST has remained committed to its mission to raise the public's appreciation for the arts. For a decade, COMMFEST has indulged communities across Toronto with an array of tantalizing local, national and international works. This year, promises to be a true feast for the senses — as audiences are treated to a fine selection of film, music, art and theatre, forming a platform for cultural exchange and opening the dialogue on social issues.

I would like to give my sincere thanks to all those who have been instrumental in making this much-anticipated festival a reality. I applaud, in particular, the hard-working organizers and volunteers for their invaluable role in ensuring the ongoing success of this annual event.

Please accept my sincere best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable festival.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kathleen Wynne'.

Kathleen Wynne
Premier





Message from the Mayor

It gives me great pleasure to extend greetings and a warm welcome to everyone attending the 2015 COMMFEST Community Film Festival. I also wish to extend congratulations to COMMFEST on its 10th anniversary.

COMMFEST is a cultural showcase of issue-oriented cinema. It is dedicated to presenting a wide variety of local, national and international works that can transform and shape our views of the world. COMMFEST will also feature the COMMFEST World Music, showcasing diverse musical genres in juxtaposition with the film festival, and the COMMFEST International Art Exhibit.

The COMMFEST International Art Exhibit will collaborate with "Passion for Life" in support of the Breast Cancer Society of Canada. Proceeds raised from their silent auction will benefit the Breast Cancer Society of Canada. The music event is partnering with the Sickle Cell Awareness Group of Ontario to help bring awareness to sickle cell disease.

This anniversary is a cause for celebration, and a time to reflect on COMMFEST's many accomplishments and an opportunity to look with hope to a future of new possibilities.

On behalf of Toronto City Council, I thank everyone for their hard work in organizing this event. Please accept my best wishes for a memorable festival and continued success.

Yours truly,

Mayor John Tory
City of Toronto



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
100 QUEEN STREET WEST, TORONTO, ONTARIO, M5H 2N2

THE
HOTHOUSE
RESTAURANT AND BAR
Est. 1994

35 Church Street, Toronto
416-366-7800
www.hothousecafe.com

Sept 23 -30

Pam McConnell



Deputy Mayor
Councillor, Ward 28
Toronto Centre-Rosedale
City of Toronto

City Hall, 2nd Floor
100 Queen St. West
Toronto, Ontario
M5H 2N2
www.pammccconnell.ca

Tel: 416 392-7916
Fax: 416 392-7296
TTY: 416 392-1239
councillor_mccconnell@toronto.ca
Twitter: @PamMcConnell28



Congratulations to Commfest on this 10th anniversary of a truly unique, exciting community film and arts festival! Commfest's programming reflects the diversity of our city, and the inclusion of music, visual art, and film brings together moving works of art from a variety of disciplines. With over 80 films from across Canada and around the world, we are so lucky to have Commfest here in our own backyard in Ward 28. Congratulations on 10 years of great programming!

Deputy Mayor Pam McConnell
Ward 28, Toronto Centre-Rosedale

COMMFFEST MALVERN 12.00PM-5.00PM Sept 19th 30 Sewells rd. Scarborough Malvern Public Library

Peace during war

Jennifer Machiorlatti USA 16m 12.30

Once on opposite sides of a street feud that resulted in a tragic shooting death, two former rivals are united in speaking out against gang life and the violence it brings to communities. This documentary short introduces Michael (Too Short) Wilder and Yafinceio (Big B) Harris, two former drug dealers and gang leaders now living in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

1.30 The Price of Reunion or Lessons in Happiness Natalia Gaisenok • 35 min 56 sec • Canada

The right to unite with parents has long been a cornerstone of Canada's immigration policy. The film examines the challenges and triumphs of senior immigrants who come through family reunification program.

Are the senior immigrants a burden on society, or do they have the potential to contribute to it? This question is explored through the stories of some remarkable senior immigrant women, experts'

opinions and street interviews.

2.45 Pankaja Brooke 45 UK you're the Enemy - Welcome Back!

This video tells the story of how some brave American veterans of the war in Vietnam have found resolution and healing by coming back to the place their country devastated, to help heal the legacy of the war.

The amazing forgiveness and optimism of the Vietnamese people as they welcome these former enemies with open arms is the most potent form of therapy for the Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome, and the guilt, which made the lives of many U.S. veterans so painful when they returned home.

This location is a free screening Sept 19th





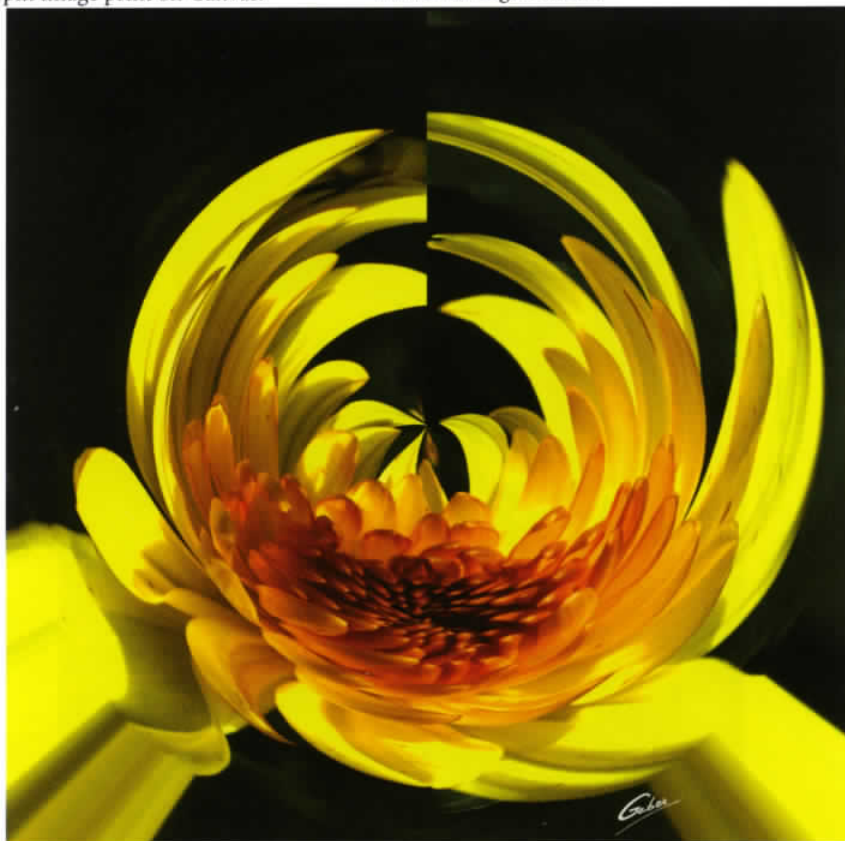
Antoine Gaber CANADA

Antoine Gaber, twice award winning film Producer/Director, also Contemporary Artist Photographer and Impressionist Painter, twice awarded by the President of the Biennale Internazionale dell'Arte Contemporanea, of Florence Italy, with the prestigious Prize of the "Lorenzo il Magnifico" for his artistic career, is the curator of this important event.

Gaber launched in 2004 his International Program "Passion for Life" (Latin America, Europe, Canada) for objective to increased cancer awareness and raised funds for research. Gaber brought art to life with "Passion for Life" and brought "Hope for life" to patients struggling with this disease.

CHRYSANTHEMUM IN
FULL BLOOM 03
91.4 x 91.4cm (36" x36")
Swirl Digital Photography /
Split image print on Canvas.

www.antoinegaber.com





Asiza
CANADA

Finding out at 35 that she had an identical twin sister half a world away was a pivotal moment in Asiza's life. Since the age of six, Asiza has been drawing the female figure but she never really understood why. Growing up as an only child, she had always longed for a sister and she now realizes that her drawings and paintings was a way of staying connected to her twin.

At the age of eleven, Asiza's family settled in Calgary after a dramatic defection from communist Romania. By 1986, Asiza had graduated from the Alberta College of Art with a degree in Visual Communication Design and immediately landed a job as an art director in Vancouver for Woodward's and later with ad agency Palmer Jarvis (now DDB).

It wasn't until 2012 that Asiza decided to start making paintings full time. She spends countless hours in her Vancouver studio creating her canvases, honing her skills and expressing an innate connection to her twin sister.

ENDEARMENT
76 x 101 cm (30" x 40")
Acrylic on canvas

www.asiza.ca





Bardia Khosravi

CANADA

Bardia Khosravi is a Generative Artist who creates his unique pieces by using algorithms, and generative software processes. Inspired by evolution in nature, Bardia employs evolutionary operations such as crossover and mutation to implement evolutionary design in his artwork.

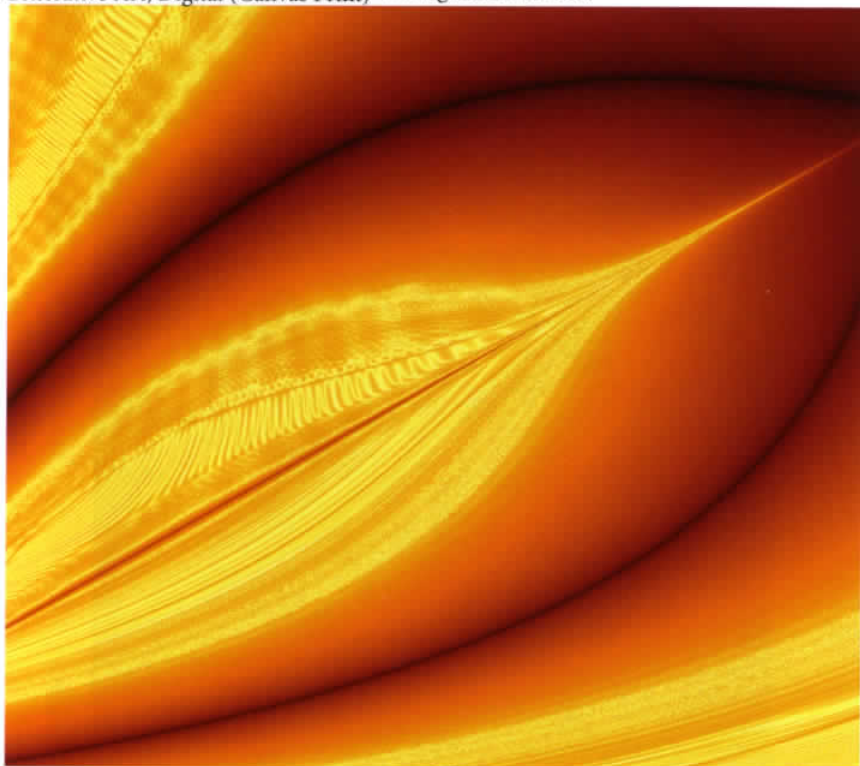
Bardia holds a bachelor's degree in Software Engineering from Budapest University of Technology and Economics and a Master's degree in Systems Design Engineering from University of Waterloo.

His passion for generative art started in the year 2008 when he was involved in a project that would aim to answer the question "if computers can make art", and since then he has devoted his efforts to develop a system that enables computers to create art using artificial intelligence principles.

LIGHT BEAMS

127 X 101cm (50"x 40")

Generative Art, Digital (Canvas Print) www.generativeart.ca





Darcie Hodge
CANADA

Darcie Hodge is a 30-year-old award-winning artist living in British Columbia, Canada with her husband and their two children.

Often painting using unconventional materials such as coffee and teas she paints unique pieces of art with products that are both fair trade and organic. She also enjoys working with watercolor, ink, acrylic, colored pencils and graphite.

PROTECTOR

54.6 X 67.3cm (21.5"x 26.5") Framed
Watercolor, tea and ink

www.darciehodge.com





Diana Calvillo MEXICO

Diana Calvillo distinguished artist for the quality and originality of her artwork that reflects the Mexican Contemporary culture. In her artworks Diana Calvillo fuses important elements of the mexican industry such as glass, aluminum and metals.

Diana during her artistic career has been present in 62 solo exhibitions and 271 group exhibitions in Mexico, USA, France, Chech Republic, Germany, South America, Monte Carlo, Monaco, Italy and Canada.

EVA

76 X 36 X 20cm

(29.9" x 14.4"x 7.9")

Metal with glass fused in sand

www.dcalvi.com





Eppi Sukhu CANADA

Eppi Sukhu MHS., is a self-taught artist who paints for pleasure, as well as a developmental services advocate for a local non-profit organization, founder of BlissfulSelf.com, and director of Blissful Self Inc. Eppi uses acrylic paints, photography, mixed media, and digital tools to create artwork.

She endeavors to depict uncommon perspectives on personal growth, spirituality, and relationship in her art, especially via images of nature, people, and abstraction. Spirituality, meditation, emotion, and the observation of subtle relationships strongly inspire her work.

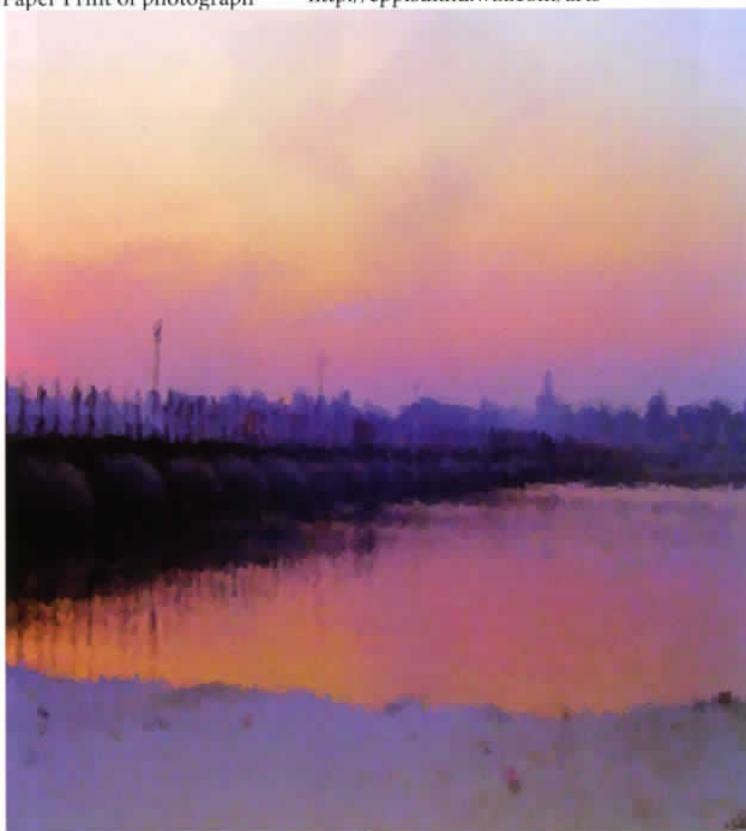
Eppi presently resides in Toronto, Canada, where she enjoys the company of loved ones, including her peppy turtle named Oregon.

BEAUTIFUL GANGA

59 X 44.4 cm (23.1/4" x 17 1/2")

Giclée Paper Print of photograph

<http://eppisukhu.wix.com/arts>





Eva Smeke

MEXICO

In Eva's Smeke work we can appreciate a different way to approach nature. Eva is always concerned about time, the bodies' and matter corruption, fragility of nature and the insensibility and our diminish of sense of wonder as well as our inability of observing provoked by the visual pollution that invades us now at days.

Eva Smeke uses several elements to compose her work: old car windows obtained from scratch, foam boards and cardboards found in waste deposits, these function as support. The main characters are dry, fallen tree leaves that are rescued in their death and putrefaction. Eva makes a portrait of these leaves to capture their perfection as they struggle against the changes caused by the passage of time, as she gives them another meaning. As she unites all these elements, she gets rid of their utility and gives them a new life, turning them into art.

SKIN 7

50.8 X 43.1cm (20"x 17")

Digital print with latex water based inks over vinyl and glass window from car.

www.evasmeke.com





Gabriele Craig CANADA

New creations are works produced on Mylar, incorporating mixed media. This transparent material allows for the manipulation of images on both sides. The result has been the Seascapes and Forest Series. Expressing myself and the world around me through drawing and painting has been a "Leitfaden" throughout my life. My background as a cartographer, interior designer and art therapist, all have influenced the style and images of my work. This found expression in the geometrically ordered, aesthetically pleasing, or ultimately organic images.

What has always captured my interest has been to express how and what we feel in an abstract manner. It is a representation of nature and the feeling our experience of nature evoke. The medium evolved from oils to watercolor to mixed media, encaustic and mylar.

TREE COLLAGE

45.7 X 45.7cm (18"x 18")

Watercolor and Mixed Media on Mylar

www.artandtherapygabrielecraig.net





Heidegrit Gröening GERMANY

Heidegrit Groening was born 1944 in Germany. After studying mathematics and music she lives as a freelance artist in Hamburg and St. Peter-Ording. Travelling and sailing all over the world and things of daily life gave the pulse for her artworks.

Exhibitions in Germany, Italy, Spain
Intern. Biennalen: Hamburg 2012, Palermo 2015 /
EFFETTO ARTE, Barcelona 2015 /
Ea editore.

Art Fairs: art maritime / hanseboot Hamburg
2008 - 2015, Bremen 2011, Amsterdam 2015

Prizes and Awards 2015: International Rome Im-
periale Prize; Guglielmo II / Monreale; Genius of
Art / Palermo ; Critic's Award / Over Art; Marco
Polo / Venice.

SWINGING

100 X 100cm (39.4"x 39.4")

Acrylic on canvas

www.heidegritgroening.de





Irene Trigg Mottadelli CANADA

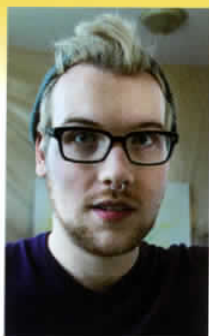
Irene Trigg Mottadelli is a resident to Toronto, Ontario, Canada. She has studied with a number of distinguished artists in the United States and Canada. In New York City she attend the Art Student's league where she is now a member.

Mottadelli has won prizes for painting in watercolour and oil, and has had work reproduced by Posters International, Toronto. Her watercolour, "Homage to Gauguin", was presented to Neyagawa, Japan by its sister-city, Oakville, Ontario. Mottadelli's paintings are included in private and corporate collections in Canada and internationally including the Gauguin Museum, Tahiti, the University of Ottawa, and the University of Winnipeg.

Also see Irene Mottadelli in The National Art Gallery Archives

NIAGARA BIRD KINGDOM
121.9 X 91.4cm (48"X36")
Oil on canvas





Jordan Clayton CANADA

Jordan Clayton is a young artist who specializes in painting and drawing. His most recent solo exhibition was *A Conversation with Taxonomy* held at Studio Sixty Six Gallery in Ottawa, ON. His most recent group show, *Portal of Enigma*, was held at Agora-Gallery in Chelsea, NY.

The current objective of his work is to monumentalize the microscopic by representing the processes and happenings of organisms whose existences are invisible to the naked eye.

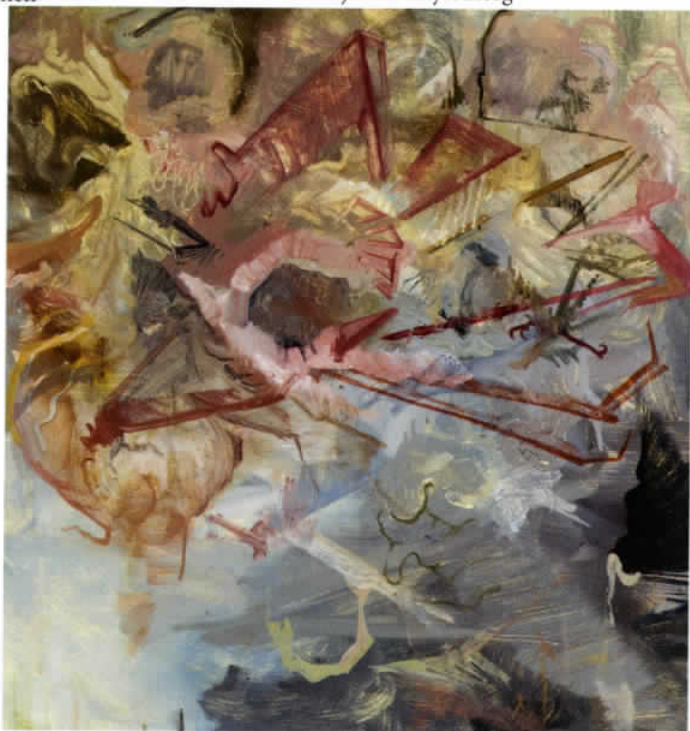
He (carefully) cultivates different single-celled organisms, samples and viruses in his studio for the purposes of studying. His pseudo-scientific observations are conceptualized and represented using visual art. He uses gesture, color, and form to create luscious paintings that evoke a reading of the ethereal.

LAKESHORE PETRICHOR

71.1 x 76.2cm (28" x 30")

Oil on linen

www.jordanclayton.org





John MacPherson
CANADA

John Macpherson was born in Toronto, Ontario where he still lives and works. He attended and received degrees from Western University and then also graduated from the Ontario College of Art & Design University for Graphic Design.

He was a money market trader and switched to pursue his true passion in Graphic Design as he founded his own company in 2000 and designed packaging for customers like Home Hardware, BMC Coaters, China Brush Corp. and Pintar Manufacturing Corp.

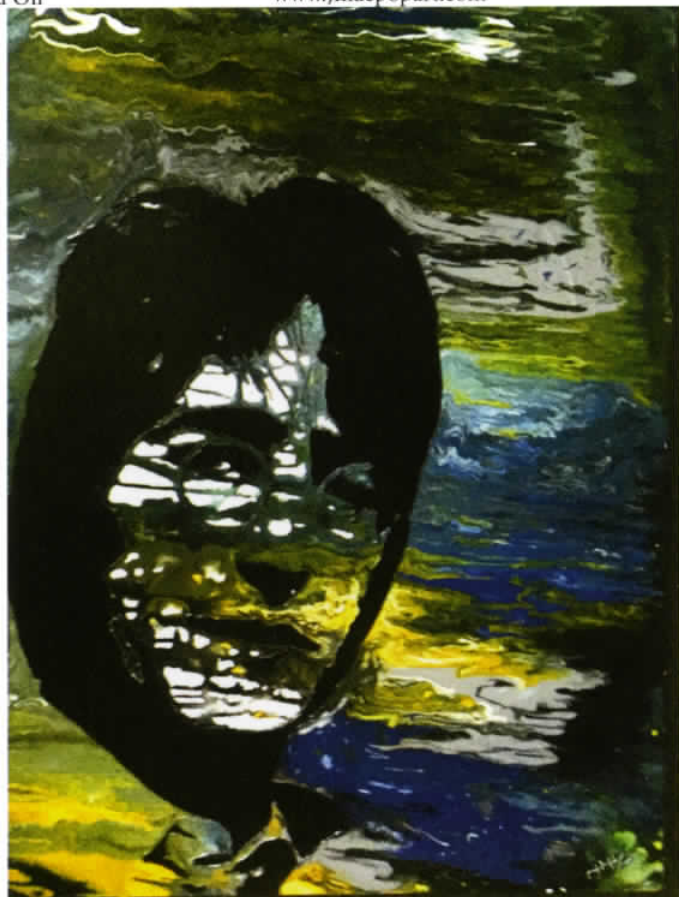
JOHN LENNON

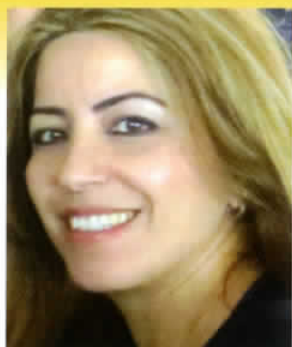
"You may say I am a dreamer"

91.4 X 121.9cm (36"x 48")

Mixed medium including
Latex and Oil

www.Jmacpopart.com





Lina Faroussi
SYRIA

My art explores a magic world in which figurative painting coexists with abstraction. Although my medium is Abstract Expressionism, you can always find human figures in my paintings. I have lived in many countries and explored different cultures and traditions, an experience I try to bring into my art. I mostly use acrylic and mixed media, Japanese paper, fabric, and photo transfer mixed with acrylic.

Each one of my paintings mirrors a different state of mind or an echo from the past representing my Middle Eastern background. It is emotional on many levels.

I paint to reflect our reality, hoping to give viewers a different story every time they look. I hope that people will comprehend my paintings in their own way and build an inner connection with them.

CLIMBING
121.9 X 121.9cm (48"x 48")

Acrylic, Sand and mixed media www.linaartgallery.com





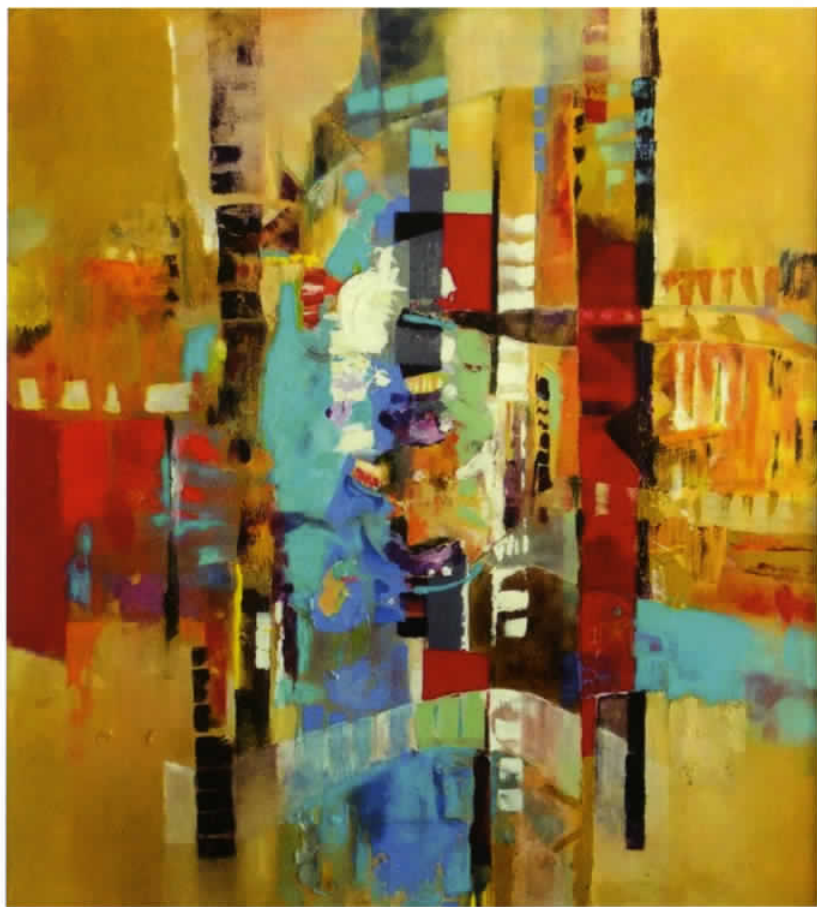
Lubna Mousa CANADA

Born and raised in Baghdad amidst sociopolitical instability, art has been my release for as long as I can remember. It has allowed me to vent out on the surrounding hardships, and gave me hope.

Moreover, my architectural background also serves as an artistic influence by further enriching my artworks' composition with grids and geometrical shapes.

Another influence stems out from the work I did with the United Nations and Non-governmental Organizations.

Acrylic on canvas 30x40 inches





Luliana Tirado Mayer MEXICO

Artist with more than 20 years of experience. During her artistic career Luliana had participated in several group and personal exhibitions in different cities around the country. Among them we can mention, the Sebastian Gallery Foundation and the Clock tower Gallery in Mexico.

One of her main goals as an artist has been the promotion of social awareness through art generating strategies linked to social and philanthropic organizations.

Luliana uses abstract expressionism and pop art as a platform to express herself in art, which leads us to delve into that inner world reflected in each one of her artworks.

BREAKING THE CITY
60 X 100cm (23.6" X 39.4")
Mixed Media

Facebook Luliana Tirado Mayer artista





Malinda Prud'homme CANADA

Malinda Prud'homme is a talented Mixed Media and Portrait Artist working from her cozy studio in Toronto's Art & Design District. Her passion is creating impressive work that expresses the message that ALL women; no matter their age, size, ethnicity, or personal style; are uniquely beautiful exactly as they are.

When she is not creating original art she loves to put her brushes to work on custom requests. There is nothing more fulfilling than creating a piece that will be cherished for generations to come.

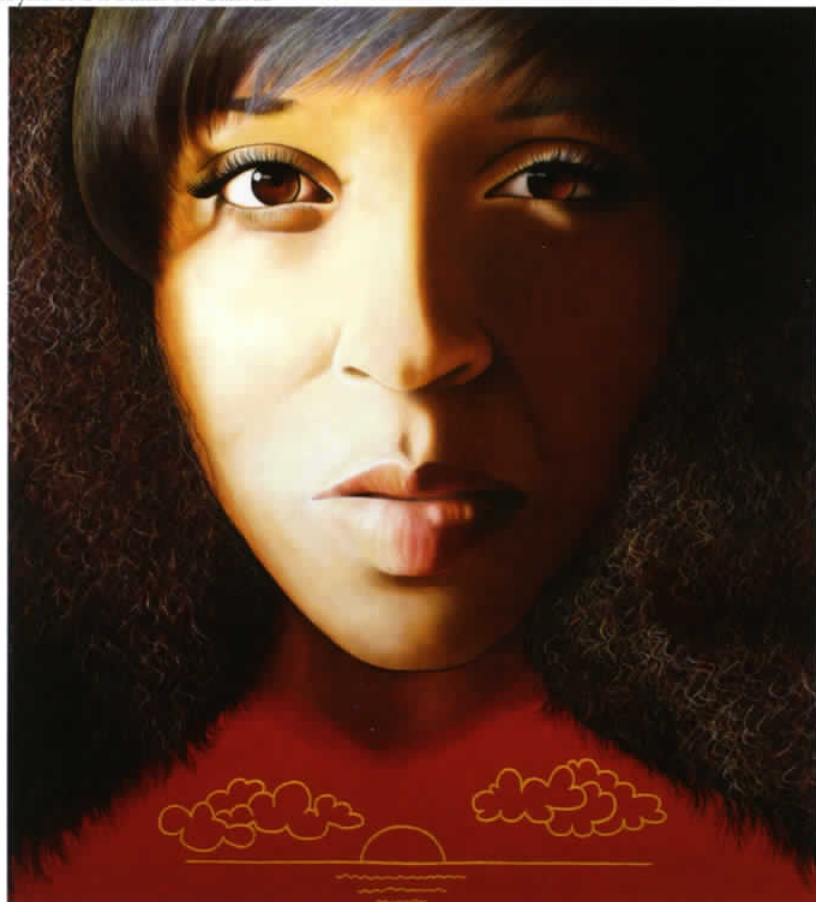
TRUE BEAUTY

'Delena Providence'

76.2 X 76.2cm (30"x 30")

Acrylic & Oil Paint on Canvas

www.MalindaPrudhomme.com





Michelle Dinelle
CANADA

I am a self-taught Abstract Artist based in Toronto currently working with acrylic paints on canvas.

My interest in art began at a young age. I was very fortunate to have parents and teachers that encouraged my creative curiosity to explore all things ART - sketching, painting, sculpture and photography.

I studied Graphic Art Design, though not pursued as a career, my need to be creative through art has continued and my commitment to my work as an artist an extremely important part of my life.

This is my passion - A journey I share with you!

Ruffled Feathers

76.2 x 101.6cm (30 x 40")

Acrylic on Canvas

www.michelledinelle.com





Natxo Zenborain

SPAIN

If artists always open up a certain aspect of their work, Natxo does the opposite by bringing to light a dazzling array of personal, surprising revelations. This compendium of voices seems to echo from the very same place and moment.

He once thought it was well worth crossing the psychedelic, colorful threshold from where he could discern a world packed with vertigoes, far away from the present society.

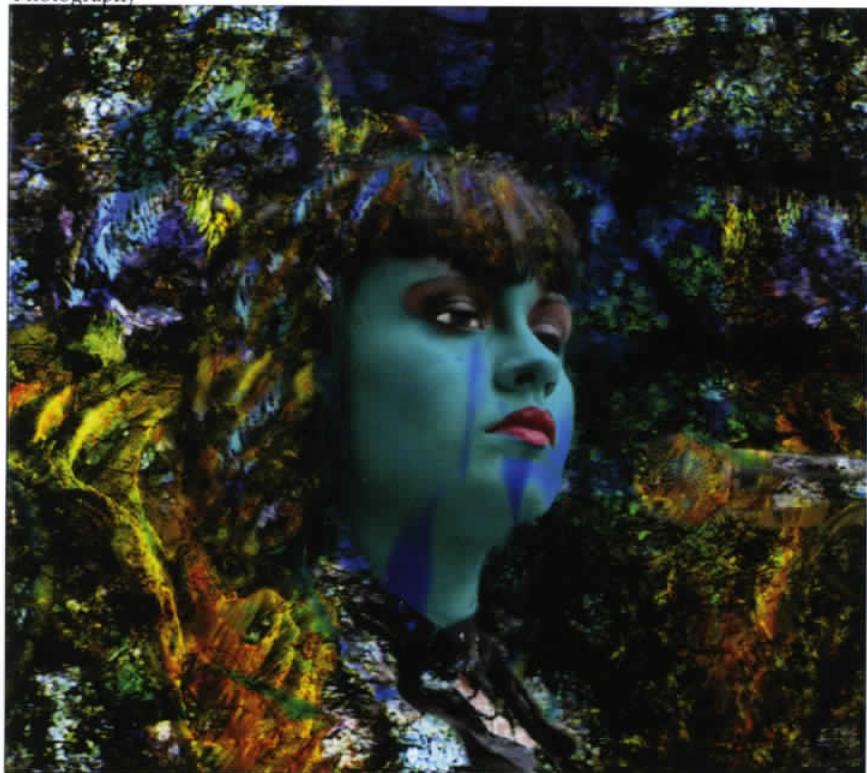
That is the common theme in Natxo's original artwork: Movement, weightlessness, blurred limits, and a maze of appearances, which end up in pure fun. His attitude is not constrained by '-isms' whatsoever; it finds reflection in his maverick self.

WOMAN BLUE

50 X 60cm (19.7"x 23.6")

Photography

www.zenborain.com





Roberta Grewcock CANADA

Roberta lives & works in Kelowna, B.C, Canada as a professional artist. She has had 21 group exhibitions & 17 Solo exhibitions globally. She was given the Nelson Mandela Human Rights award, praised for her personal theory as applied to Contemporary art.

She was made a Master of Contemporary art and has been given numerous awards for her stylistic value and artistic merit. On September 25th She will receive the Marco Polo Art Ambassador International Prize in Venice, Italy. Her paintings were selected this year for the book "THE BEST Modern and Contemporary ARTISTS 2015 by Salvatore & Francesco Russo. Roberta's work will also be in "WE CONTEMPORARY" Volume 1-presented in Milan, Kiev, & Paris.

In a critical review by Dr. Salvatore Russo: "Grewcock's works are hurricanes that scream the truth, marking the foundation of an informal painting of the highest level. Fascinating works, destined to remain in the memory for many years.

DREAM IT 2 (Hope)
76 X 60cm (30"x 23.6")
Acrylic on canvas

<http://www.robtagrewcock.com>





Tashi Khan
UK

Tashi was born into a family where art and culture were important and had been important for generations. Tashi imbued an early appreciation of the arts from her immediate environment from as far back as she can remember. Poets and artists came and stayed for long periods doing family portraits and art. She remembers watching spellbound as they worked with brushes, knives and pallets. Her parents recognized her interest and inclination and encouraged her to paint. She has not looked back.

Her work is a dialogue in contemporary times, a narrative that resonates a sense of precariousness that has come to signify our times. If anything, it challenges the sense of the immovable, the permanent. It embraces vulnerability & fragility. The focus shifts from the changes that are observable & felt to those that are often unacknowledged & immutable, a sense that the beliefs & certainties that defined our world have changed irrevocably.

CAT'S CRADLE

55 X 79cm (21.7"x 31.1")

Abstract/ cubist, acrylic on Canvas www.tashikhan.co.uk





Torin Craig
CANADA

Torin Craig is an emerging young artist and musician from Toronto. Teaching himself to draw at a young age, he then pursued private training in acrylic painting techniques and later took classes in oil paint at the Toronto School of Art.

He works to combine these various mediums and styles in his creations and the use of texture and collage often is featured in many works.

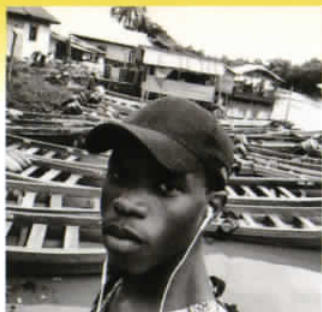
NIRVANA

106.7 X 81.3cm (42"x 32")

Mixed Media, Acrylic on Canvas

www.torincraig.com





William Eke-Spiff
CANADA

I am a self taught graphic artist, photographer and animator. I shoot photographs in Black and White, Chrome and colour. I shoot photographs to tell the hidden or untold story.

I create images and motion images, with the aim of revealing the truth in the moment. I am a Nigerian Citizen, currently residing in Canada and pursuing a career in Branding and Design. I aim at creating from an unorthodox perspective.

THE HANDS THAT LIGHT THE SPARK

61 X 111.8cm (24"x 44")

Digital image shot in Chrome

<http://spiffart.com>

