



John B. Aird Gallery
Juried/Curated by Gary Evans

ABSTRACTS 2023





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Credits:

Juror/Curator: Gary Evans

Design: Kate Parkinson

Cover art: Freddie Towe

FORWARD by Carla Garnet

Abstract thought is often understood as theoretical, conceptual, intellectual, ethical, or metaphysical. Whereas Abstract Art is generally understood as a type of visual expression that pushes past the boundaries of pictorial representation.

For the purposes of the Gallery's first online ABSTRACTS project, we loosely defined Abstract Art as an artistic practice that is as migratory as artists' ability to manifest simple or complex content within a fluid or non-representational field.

To make this happen, we welcomed the well-liked and respected artist and educator Gary Evans to explore the possibilities inherent in curating a dynamic group show, intending it to act as a contemporaneous survey of abstract art in 2023. Then we invited artists to submit artworks that derive from our moment in time using the tools of abstraction such as geometric patterns, organic and/or architectonic line, colour, texture, and forms, from which Evans could choose.

Ultimately Evans did not use historic categories for defining abstraction, like Cubism, Constructivism, Expressionism, Colour Field, Minimalism, OP ART, or neo-geo, which were applicable up until a point, but also a little dated when selecting work by 70 artists. Nor did he use these terms to order their pieces. So action, form, lyric, nature, pattern, psychedelic, and symbol were employed to create the sections as a way to parse the similarities and differences between works best while allowing for the slipperiness inherent in all of those terms to inform this year's ABSTRACTS project.

Happily apprised by Evan's deep experience making and teaching contemporary art, the Aird's ABSTRACTS 2023 project, performs candidly as a current compilation of nonrepresentational artwork featuring abstracts created by the artists shown in the following list.

Grazyna Adamska	Lori Fonger	Petca Ovidiu
Sandra Altwerger	Jo Forrest	Jangmee Park
Judy Blue Anderson	Kathy Granger Tucker	Paulette Melanson
Greg Angus	Arnie Guha	Emilia Perri
Daniel Anstett	Aishwarya Gupta	Deborah Pritchard
Holly Archer	Carolyn Hassard	Ester Pugliese
Tom Ashbourne	Lisa Herrera	Piera Pugliese
Helaine Becker	Cheryl-Ann Hills	Janet Read
Peggy Bell	Margriet Hogue	Dale M Reid
Shirra Benson	Iliyan Ivanov	Sabani Samy
Ioana Bertrand	Eugene Jankowski	Lee Schnaiberg
Snezhina Biserova	Karen Klee-Atlin	Lois Schklar
Maggie Broda	John Kokkinos	Alison Shields
Art Brown	Carolyn Laidley Arn	Doug Stratford
Joan Callister	Hyeran Lee	Heidi Taillefer
Ian Cross	Chia-Liang Lin	Dina Torrans
Tanya Cunningham	Ritchie Mash	Freddie Towe
Cherie Daly	Vicki McFarland	Victoria Alexander
Maureen Da Silva	Judith McKay	Victoria Wallace
Cheryl Davidson	Claudia McKnight	Danielle Vincent
Monica De Aguiar	Paulette Melanson	Cynthia Ward
Teri Donovan	Richard Mongiat	Ron Wild
Marina Doukas	Geoffrey Odgers	Yan Wei
April Dumbleton		

JUROR'S RESPONSE

Abstract often seems an unfortunate word. It does a good job of cordoning off an area of visual experience in which anything is permitted, but when applied to artistic practice, I can't help but feel it misses the point in some way. Of all the wonderful work in this exhibition, "Abstracts," I feel such strength, originality, and intense communication the term abstracts lack.

For artists, the process of realizing often deeply felt experience in the process of making an art object, the word abstract might do some disservice. To grasp and define the essence of the subject that an artist might be in the act of translating visually, abstract seems to point in the wrong direction. Are artists not clarifying, locating, or directing us in some way.

The clarity of visual communication is a complex efficiency in many ways, inherently paradoxical. As an equation, the variables which affect the viewers' reception are many, each step a specific moment and selection; scale, material essence, haptic manipulations of addition and removal, the critical review as an object gets closer to definitive expression, the completion and decision to stop and put forth, the mode or media the viewer receives it, their history and willingness to decipher and comprehend.

To stretch the analogy of equation further, each step could be connected through the multiplication sign, exploding the potential and possible variables in all directions infinitely. Yet, as a piece of art, they always

retain a singularity that becomes the vehicle, record, and location of this vast web of connections. Both a still location and transformative tool simultaneously.

The online exhibit's work allows us to look at the experiences which are always salient, perhaps even archetypal for people. If it is the artist's job to refresh the archetype, we see many models of experience here in the work.

The phenomena of human experience in the complex physical landscape: an unfolding perceptual journey through physical space. The possibility of making marks or gestures to define the space of the viewer against or within the natural world. The power and essential experience of colour, its remarkable ability to produce complex individual affect. The journey into invisible worlds, the scale of physical matter, the journey into memory. The collective visual history we inherit.

The tools of logic we have developed as communicators to measure and compare. The constant mapping of diverse inner landscapes in an attempt to present a complex or truthful whole. All these ideas and many more are contained within the selected works. The ability of art to say complex things without overly prescriptive or didactic methods is such a unique and democratizing experience. Looking through the selections and helping shape this exhibition has been a great pleasure.

JUROR/CURATOR BIO

Gary Evans was born in Weston Super Mare, England, and resides in Alliston, Ontario.

His painting challenges traditional notions of perception and experience of the Canadian landscape. Of his more than twenty solo exhibitions, highlights include a touring survey exhibition of his work, "Seeing Things: The Paintings of Gary Evans", curated by Stuart Reid, with a catalogue that toured Canada between 2000-2002, as well as a survey of paintings, titled, "Station", curated by James Patten at The Art Gallery Of Windsor in 2008 and a fifteen-year survey, titled "Farther Afield", curated by Renee van der Avoird at the MacLaren Art Centre, Barrie, ON, in 2016.

Evans is a graduate of the Ontario College of Art and Design.

Evans has exhibited at Paul Petro Contemporary Art, in Toronto, Ontario, since 1995. His work is also represented by Peter Robinson Gallery in Edmonton, Alberta.



ACTION



Ioana Bertrand

Instagram: [@ioana.bertrand.art](https://www.instagram.com/ioana.bertrand.art)

Fireworks

Acrylic on stretched canvas

36" x 30"

\$600

Victoria Alexander

www.victoriaalexander.ca

@victoriaalexander63

February-The Attack

Acrylic on canvas

36" x 30"

\$7500



Sandra Altwerger
www.sandraaltwerger.com

A Single Splash

Acrylic on Canvas
48" x 48"
\$4500





Joan Callister

www.joancallister.com
@callisterjoan

Dusk Floral 4030

Acrylic
40" x 30" x 1.5"
NFS

Cherie Daly

www.cheriedaly.com
@cheriedalyart

Linus

Mixed media on raw canvas
36" x 46"
\$1800



Richard Mongiat

www.richardmongiat.com

[@richardmongiat](https://www.instagram.com/richardmongiat)

Babel X

Oil on canvas

24" x 18"

\$1200



Jo Forrest

www.joforrestvisualpoetry.squarespace.com



Storm

Acrylic on canvas

20" x 16"

\$500

Ritchie Mash

@ritchie.mash

Untitled 001

Acrylic, charcoal and
oil stick on canvas
36" x 48"
NFS



Deborah Pritchard

@deborah-pritchard-

Organica9

Oil on canvas
34" x 34"
\$4500



Vicki McFarland

www.vickimcfarlandart.com
[@vickimcfarlandart](https://www.instagram.com/vickimcfarlandart)

Mellow Yellow

Acrylic on Canvas
66" x 44"
\$4650



FORM

Shirra Benson

www.NadurArtStudio.com

Ancient Aliens No.3

Oil
36" x 48"
\$1800



Ian Cross

Instagram: [@is_cross](https://www.instagram.com/is_cross)

Stories in Lower Case: Travel Notes

Collage 2023
14" x 11.5"
\$1775





Tom Ashbourne

www.tomashbourne.com

Ulrich

Raspberry wonder stone,
glass, and granite

15" x 11" x 7"

\$4700

Dale M Reid

www.dalemreidphotography.com

Samy Sabani

Oyster Mushroom 52

Silver gelatin print

16" x 16"

\$3400





JudyBlue Anderson

www.judyanderson.ca

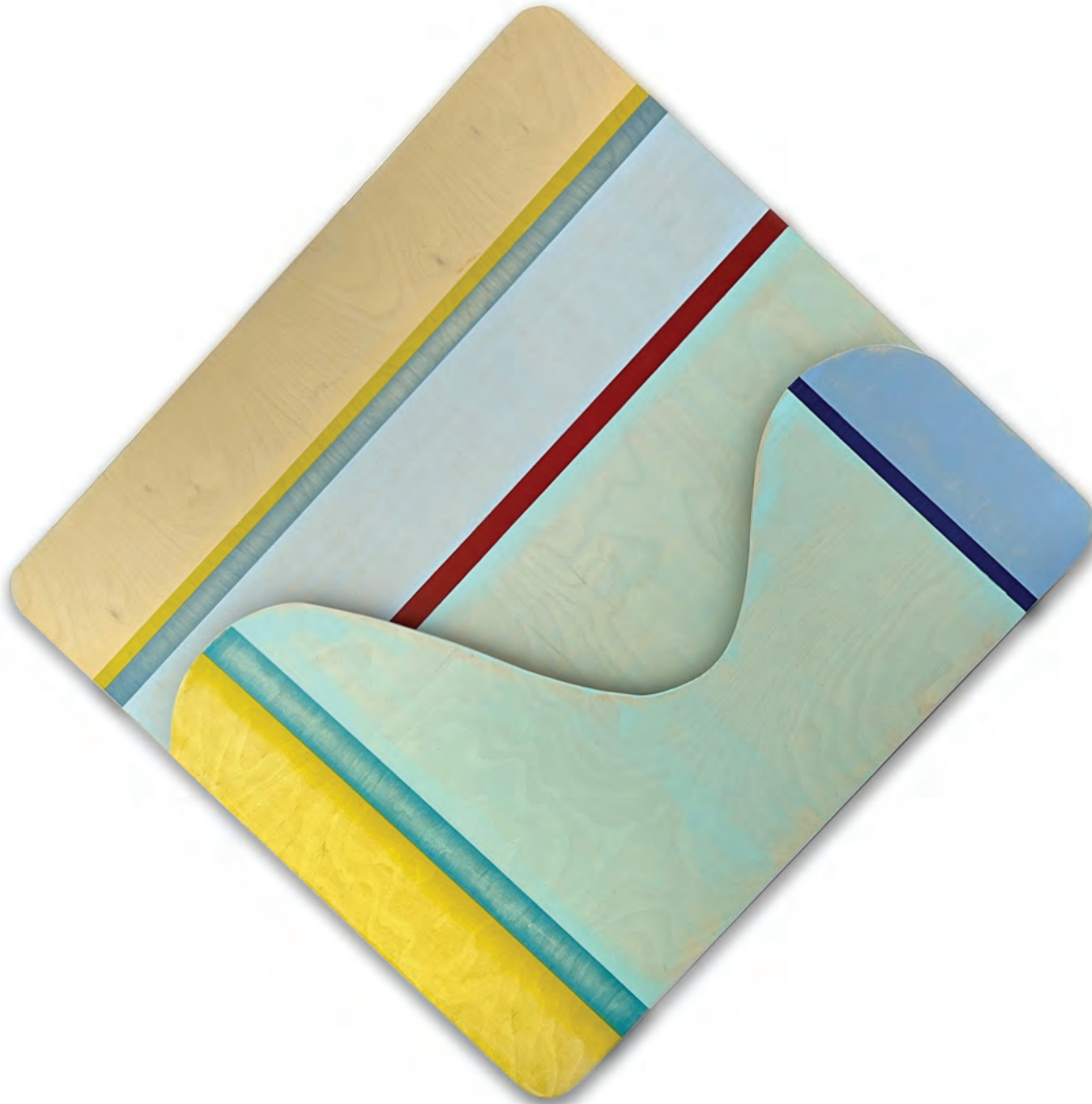
[@judyblueabstracts](https://www.instagram.com/judyblueabstracts)

Steady On

Acrylic on gallery canvas

24" x 24"

\$850



Peggy Bell

www.peggybellartist.com

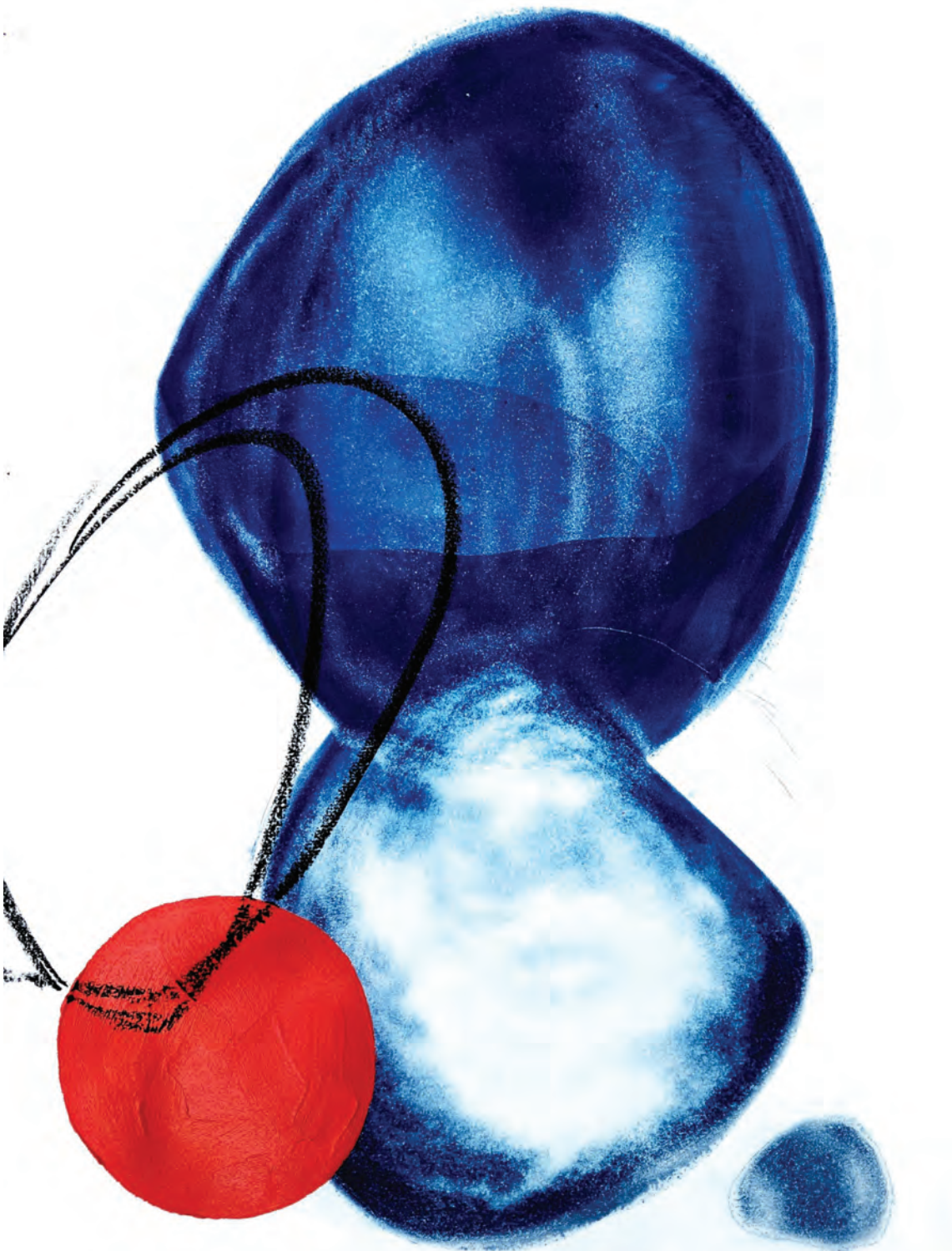
@peggybellartist

Calm Day On The Water

Acrylic on birch plywood

30" x 30"

\$2000



Holly Archer

@hollyarcherart

Of Water, Salt And Ash - 2

Cyanotype, acrylic, charcoal

21.5" x 29.5"

\$850

Maureen Da Silva

Instagram: @maureen_dasilva
www.maureendasilva.ca

Untitled

Mokulito print
26" x 21.5"
\$300



Cheryl Davidson

@cheryldavidsondesign

As Above, So Below

Matte resin mixed media
12" tondo
\$300



Dimitri Papatheodorou

Consolidated Form

Oil on Masonite

24" x 24"

\$2500



Lori Fonger

www.lorifongerart.com

Raspberry Sprinkles

Acrylic on canvas

30" x 30"

\$1100





LYRIC

Tanya Cunnington
www.tanyacunnington.com

North

Oil on canvas
48" x 48"
\$2400



Lisa Herrera

@tangerinedreamartstudiogallery

Spring Morn

Mixed media on canvas

24" x 36"

\$1800



Margriet Hogue

www.margriethogue.com

@margriethogue

Just Passing Through

Mixed media

20" x 20"

\$750



Carolyn Laidley Arn

www.carolynlaidleyarn.com

It's a Journey

Acrylic, spray paint, mixed media
30" x 30" x 2.38"
\$1225



Iliyan Ivanov

<http://rikka-art.com/>

Cherry Orchard

Acrylic on canvas paper
95" x 48"
\$6500

Paulette Melanson

www.paulettemelansonartist.com



Long Awaited Hugs

Acrylic on gallery canvas
36" x 48"
\$2500

Emilia Perri

www.emiliaperri.ca
[@emiliaperriartist](https://www.instagram.com/emiliaperriartist)

Lacrime D'amore (Love Tears)

Acrylic on canvas
48" x 72"
\$3500



Claudia McKnight

@claudiamandlermcknight

Giardini

Cold wax and oil on panel

30" x 40"

\$2400



Dina Torrans

www.dinatorrans.art

@dinatorrans

Legend

Mixed media

40" x 50" x 5"

\$2000



Marina Doukas

marinadoukas@outlook.com

www.marinadoukas.com

Instagram: @marinadoukas_art

The Setting Sun, coloured with dreams, 2018

Oil and Acrylic on Canvas

24x30

\$1500



The background is a dark, textured purple with a dense field of small, light-colored specks, resembling a starry night sky or a microscopic view. A large, irregular, light-colored splash or cloud of paint is centered on the page. Overlaid on this splash is a solid purple square containing the word "NATURE" in white, uppercase, sans-serif font.

NATURE

Wei Yan

www.yanwei.ca

Untitled #8

Oil and acrylic on canvas

36" x 48"

\$4850



Monica De Aguiar

@monicadiaz_art

Big Toucan

Acrylic on canvas

30" x 36"

\$1480



Grazyna Adamska

www.adamska.ca

Echoes of Growth 2022

acrylic on canvas

40" x 20"

\$1600



Judith McKay

www.judithmckayart.com

Esoterica

Acrylic on canvas
40" x 30"
\$2900



Existence

Acrylic on Canvas
40" x 30"
\$2900





Teri Donovan

Greenhouse Effect

Encaustic on wood panel

42" x 60"

\$4,000



Hyeran Lee

www.hyeran.ca

Coexistence 55

Acrylic on canvas

18" x 24" x 0.8"

\$2,500



Ester Pugliese

www.esterpugliese.com
@ester_pugliese

Overnight Temperatures Will Remain Above Freezing (Redbud)

Acrylic, soft pastel, wax pastel, carbon pencil on birch panel
20" x 20"
\$780



Victoria Wallace

www.victoriawallace.com

Journey

Acrylic, charcoal, and
graphite
30" x 40"
\$2800

Eugene Jankowski

www.pierresculptstone.com

Galaxy

Mixed technique on canvas

20" x 24"

\$875



Cheryl-Ann Hills

www.cherylhillsartist.com

@cherylhillsartist

Spring Traveller

Oil on canvas

24" x 24"

\$580





Kathy Granger Tucker

www.kathy41.simdif.com/

Mountains of Oceans

Photography dry mount
on Hahnemuhle rag

20" x 16"

\$400

PATTERN



Alison Shields

alisonshields.com

Emergence 1

Oil on Canvas
60" x 72"
\$6000

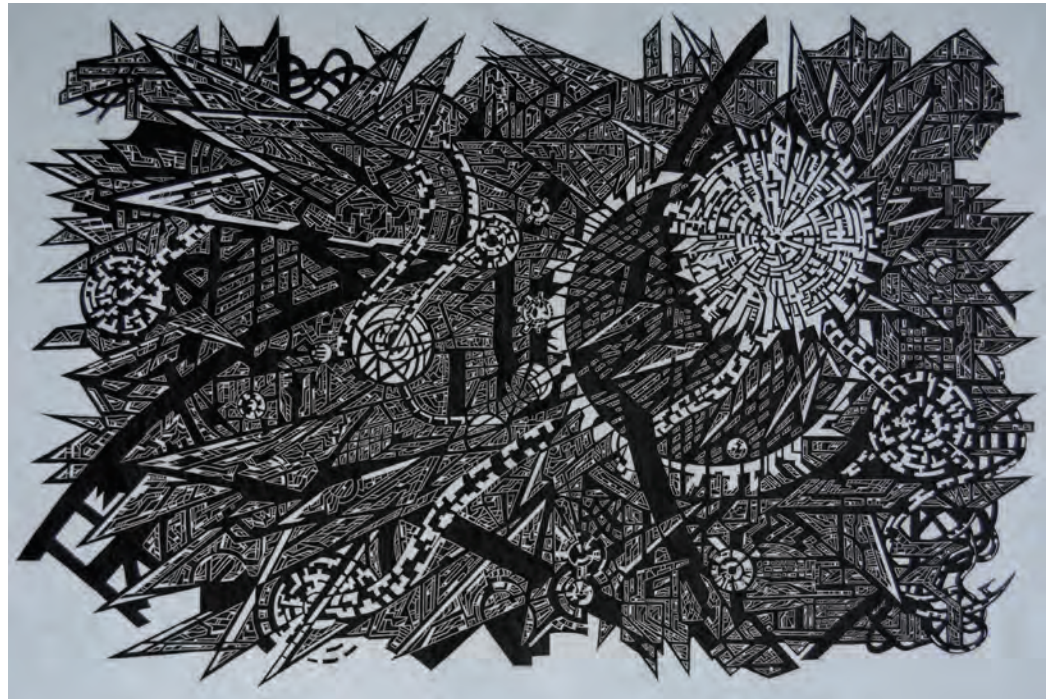


Art Brown

@artbrowndesign

Nocturne

Relief print from linocut on
Thai Unryu paper
37" x 25"



Freddie Towe

www.freddietowe.com

@freddietowe

It's a Jungle

Oil on canvas

36" x 48"

\$2500



Priceless

Oil on canvas

34" x 36"

\$2200



Carolyn Hassard

www.carolynhassardart.com

Assembly

Acrylic

20" x 16"

\$100



Ron Wild

<https://www.facebook.com/RawnWild>

Information Confusion

Digital print on paper

36" x 24"

\$5000



Lois Schklar

www.loisschklar.com

Overnight Temperatures Will Remain Above Freezing (Redbud)

Acrylic, soft pastel, wax pastel and
carbon pencil on birch panel

20" x 20"

\$780



Doug Stratford

www.instagram.com/doug.stratford

Weaving Greens

Oil on canvas

24" x 24"

\$600

John Kokkinos

www.johnkokkinos.com

Amusement Park

Acrylic, ink and rice paper on
canvas

53" x 53"

\$7000





Maggie Broda

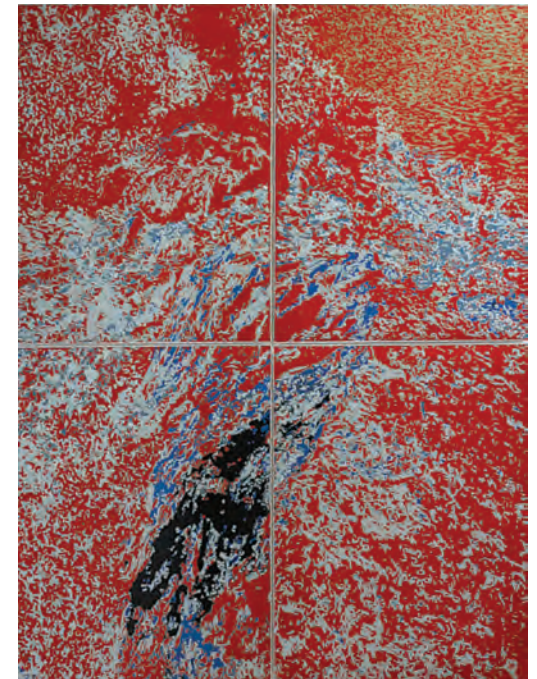
mbroda38@gmail.com

Pinkie Pie

Acrylic/Canvas

18X36

\$300



Karen Klee-Atlin

www.kleeatlin.com

@kleeatlin

Granite Spit - Red And Black

Reductive linocut

36" x 48"

\$3000

PSYCHEDELIC



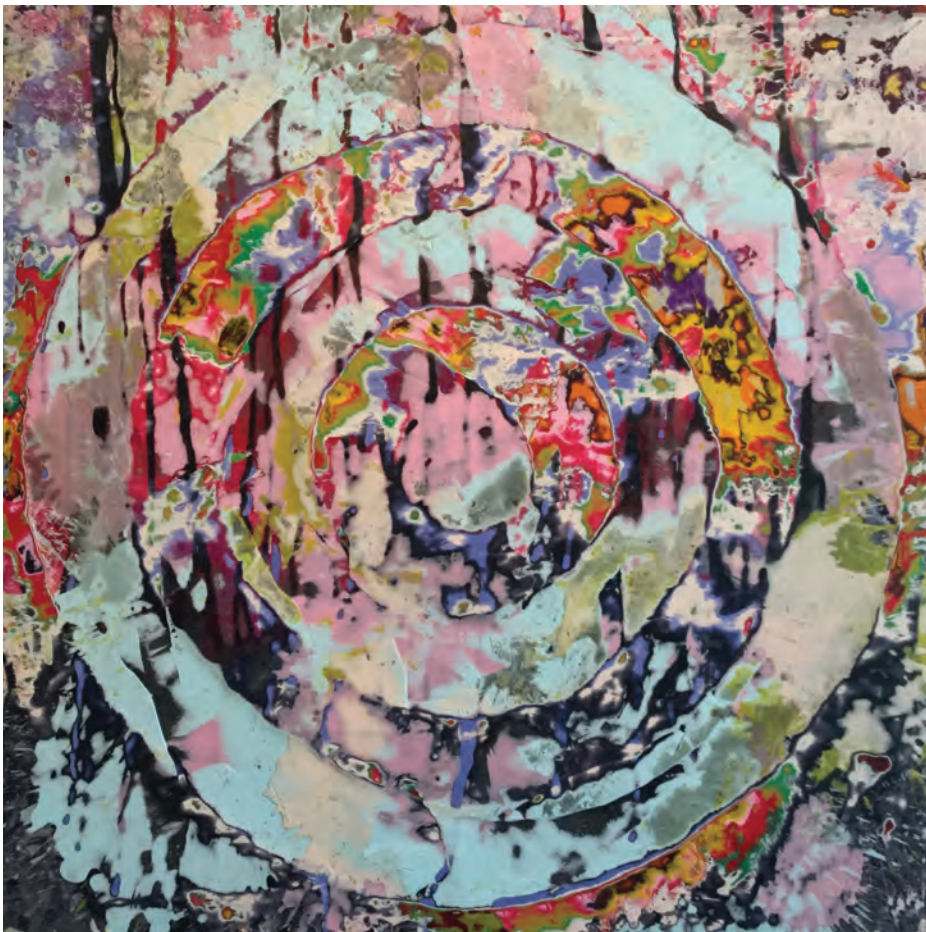
Greg Angus

Cosmic Tunnel

Encaustic on wood

36" x 36"

\$9000



Daniel Anstett

www.thedeasant.com

@thedeasant

Self

Paper and resin

24" x 24"

\$1200



Samy Sabani

direct.me/samysabani
@samysabani

Frequensea

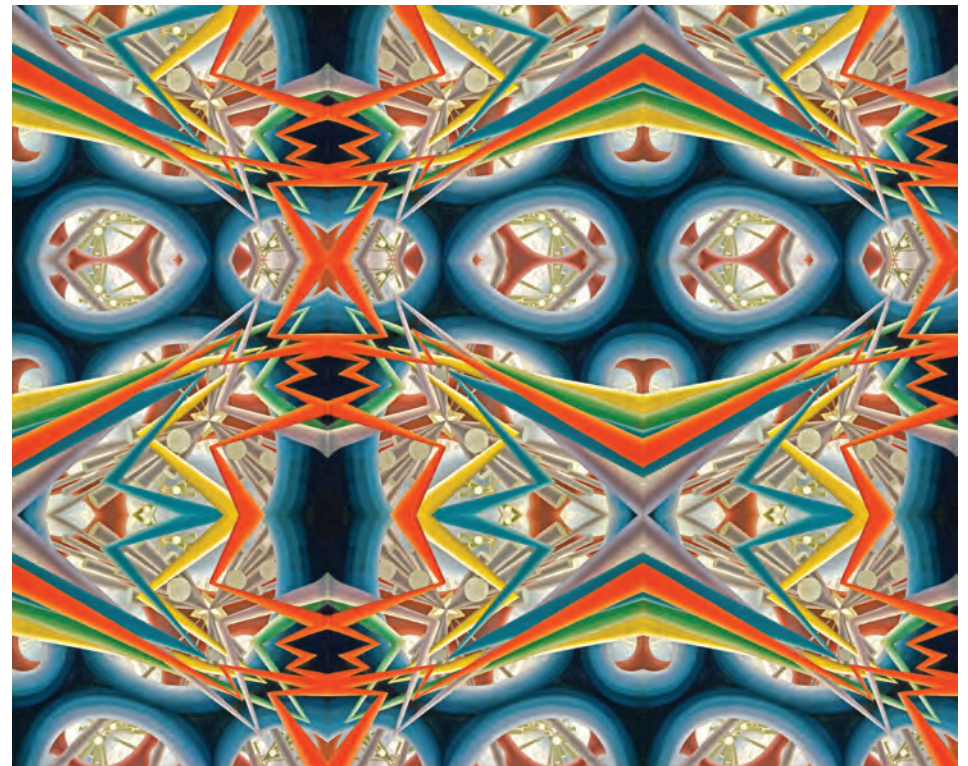
Oil on wooden panel
36" x 36"
\$1450



Lee Schnaiberg

Bertram Brooker's Ninth (From Canconnitychs)

Digital print on aluminum
44" x 35"
\$1250





Snezhina Biserova

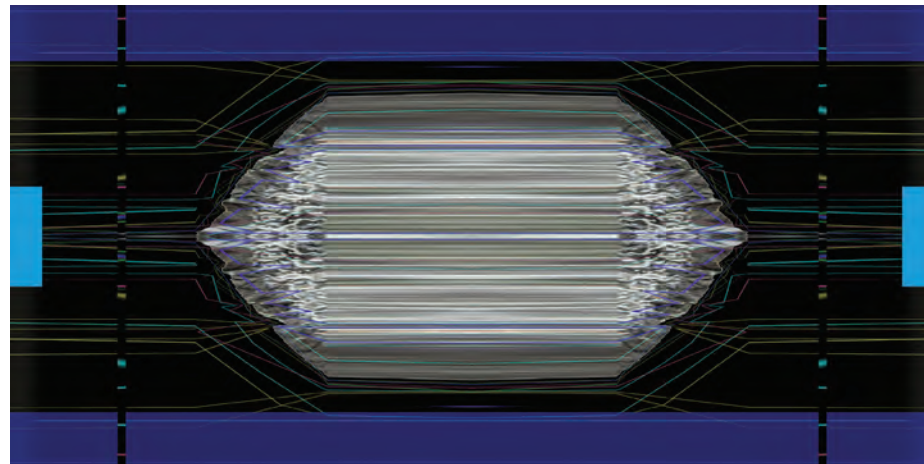
www.bisser.eu

Interventions

CGD, pigment print

50 x 50 cm

\$260



Ovidiu Petca

www.facebook.com/ovidiu.petca.1

Open Window XXI

Digital art

16,7" x 33,4"

\$800

Heidi Taillefer

www.heiditaillefer.com

*Butterfly and
the Cicada*

Oil on canvas
18" x 24"
\$6500



Arnie Guha

@arnie_guha

Octopus' Garden

24" X 24"
\$300



Shakti

24" X 24"
\$300



Piera Pugliese

www.pierapugliese.com

@pieras_art

Private Garden

Oil on canvas

16"x20"

\$600

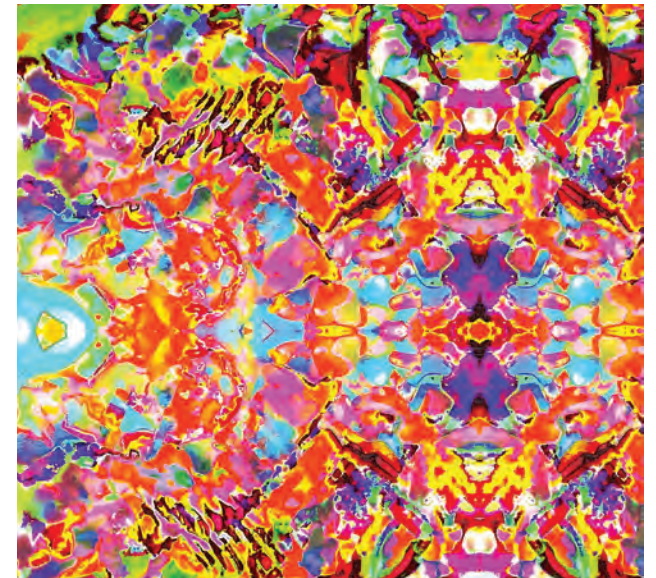


April Dumbleton

Optical Pollution

Digital painting

3684 x 3469p





SYMBOL



Danielle Vincent

daniellevincent.format.com

Oceanic Feeling

Oil on canvas

25" x 35"

\$800

Janet Read

www.janet-read.com

[@janetreadvisualartist](https://www.instagram.com/janetreadvisualartist)

***Pale Island,
Smoldering Horizon***

Oil on birch panel

18" x 18"

\$800



Chris Wenger

www.naturallinesphotography.ca
[@naturallinesphotos](https://www.instagram.com/naturallinesphotos)

Chaotic Bliss

Photograph on acrylic
20" x 30"
\$700



Jangmee Park

[@jamiepark_21](https://www.instagram.com/jamiepark_21)

The Meeting Day

Mixed Media on wood
12" x 18"
\$1300



Aishwarya Gupta

www.aishtudio.com
@aishtudio

Feminity

Acrylics, upstretched
canvas
18" x 24"
\$1500

Geoffrey Odgers

@odgersgeoffrey

Rocks One Tree Beach Grey

Oils on canvas
30" x 40"
\$2000



Helaine Becker

www.HelaineBeckerArt.com
HelaineBeckerArt

Flow I

Original digital painting, limited
edition on archival paper
13" x 19"
\$300



Chia-Liang Lin

www.olivecreate.com

Untitled

China, 2022

120 x 40cm

\$3000



Cynthia Ward

@stuff_i_like_gallery

Birth of Sol

Acrylic on Duralar

39" (round)

\$2000



ABOUT THE AIRD

The logo for John B. Aird Gallery is contained within a thin, gold-colored square border. It consists of two lines of text: "John B. Aird Gallery" on the top line and "Galerie John B. Aird" on the bottom line, both in a dark, sans-serif font.

John B. Aird Gallery
Galerie John B. Aird

The John B. Aird Gallery (1985-present) is a self-funded, non-profit public art gallery. The Gallery hosts up to nine exhibits per year, many accompanied by online publications <https://airdgallery.org/publications>, plus our annual Mistletoe Magic fundraiser. These exhibits provide participation opportunities for up to four hundred artists year after year.

The Aird prides itself on being inclusive, hosting several large-group shows (online or in-situ) and two or three annual Arts Council and/or Scotiabank CONTACT Festival of Photography-funded exhibits that pay CARFAC fees.

The Gallery's mission is to provide a generous, safe contemporary art exhibition space where visual culture can be shared and explored by an audience as diverse as its makers. We believe visual culture inspires, engages, and amplifies Toronto's communities.

In September 2019, the Aird Gallery moved from the provincial government buildings at Bay and Wellesley to its current temporary location in the City's oldest ARTSCAPE building on West-Queen-West. We foresee returning to our new 3,500-square-foot space on the second floor in the Macdonald Block sometime mid-decade.



John B. Aird Gallery
Galerie John B. Aird

John B. Aird Gallery | Galerie John B. Aird

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airdgallery.org/ www.facebook.com/john.airdgallery [instagram.com/airdgallery](https://www.instagram.com/airdgallery)

Artwork: Carolyn Hassard