

Art School Takeout
Members' Artist Statements

Tristan Arsenault

I'd like to state that I am an art educator first and an artist second. While that line is difficult to trace even to myself, I believe there is a great deal of value in the process and pursuit of art which is often overlooked. I am particularly interested in ways that communities gather, communicate, and write histories into their art. The community art projects I take part in work to bridge cultural, socio-political, and personal divides through creative self-expression and collaboration. Didactics, curiosity, and cheeky playfulness are important rallying calls for the collaborators I work with. I believe fun is a serious matter whose liberating potential knows few bounds. I take great joy in setting the table where a pithy protest banner might be painted one day and where some quiet gossip over knitting happens the next. I want my work to be a reminder that the very first function of art is a social one. We gather and make art to celebrate our humanity.

Tyra Atherley

To express ideas and emotions, you must be able to display what goes on in your mind. I use my artwork as an outlet for my feelings and deepest desires through my most used acrylic, oils, pen and ink, and graphite mediums. My artwork is a window of my mind, and I use it to express all such emotions that one experiences throughout their lifetime, such as happiness, sadness, anger, confusion, joy, sadness, anxiety, and more. As a young adult growing up with the strong influence of social media, I find the insecurities of wanting to present a specific stereotype that the internet desires cause many stress factors and identity crises to our younger generations, such as Gen Z and A. With my art, I enjoy expressing the emotions one faces when focusing too much on what social media wants from the younger generation and how comparing yourself to the millions of people you view online can become detrimental to one's health. Creating works that break from the norm of the glorified internet allows me to break free from the toxicity that social media presents and creates an outlet for myself and others that can relate to social media's toxic community for younger individuals.

Alana Batten

Alana Batten is a printmaker, illustrator, photographer, and art historian who utilizes experimental and creative research methods in both her academic and creative practices. Much of her work is concerned with the intersections between art and academics, leading to the creation of works that prioritize curiosity and interdisciplinary approaches. Recently, Batten has been examining the experience of being an artist and student, inspiring works that are semi-autobiographical and based on the lived experiences of herself and her peers.

Caroll Lynn Baur

I specialized in drawing and digital drawing. Within the limited space of a rectangular frame, I combine shapes and bodily parts as one unity. Gestalt principles suggest that the brain naturally organize sensory information. Therefore, perceptual organization is guided to combine visual patterns as groups or even a whole. I used these principles by juxtaposing line pencils, inks, coloured papers and created an unexpected art piece: Self-Care. With prior knowledge and experiences, the viewer encounters a feeling of intimacy. There is meaning hidden within the symbolism of this art, and I believe that this piece of art is meant to evoke tenderness, warmth, and curiosity. The

existence of Self-Care would not be possible in this time and space without the medium of collage, paper, ink, and our personal experiences. When the observer gazes it, the art piece draws out the ordinary by capturing an emotion, perhaps even a state of mind. In other words, the story whispered through Self-Care speaks differently depending on who is viewing it.

Lucile Beaudouin

Créer des liens Artiste française (vivant à Tiohtià:ke - Montréal), je parle de ce que je vis : des questionnements sur les liens intergénérationnels, sur l'identité féminine en traversant les problématiques d'injustices sociales. (transmission, travail domestique, charge mentale) J'explore leur complexité principalement en peinture, sculpture, installations et performance multimédia. En pratique, j'utilise un vocabulaire rattaché aux objets du quotidiens, sans valeur. Cette apparente simplicité m'apporte la satisfaction de donner la parole à l'objet. (papier, textile, bois, plastique) Un pont se crée entre matérialité et ressenti à lire par l'intelligence du corps et la position du regard. Ce choix de matériaux est associé à des techniques de « bricolages » transmises pendant l'enfance (couture, collage, traitement de textes). Je saupoudre un peu de ceux qui me les ont enseignées en utilisant des outils chargés de cette histoire. Je prolonge la conversation avec eux et avec ceux que je n'ai pas encore rencontrés.

Henri Bouchard

J'utilise ce que j'ai autour de moi pour m'inspirer, une inspiration quand tu as 23 ans et que tu vis à Montréal, mais que tu ne te casses pas trop la tête. C'est dans la peinture que je me permets encore de m'amuser comme un enfant. J'ai beaucoup à apprendre de mes dessins de monstres et de fleurs de quand j'avais 4 ans. Cette spontanéité, naïveté et gestuelle sont des aspects importants dans mon processus de création. Cette confiance à se laisser aller, à accepter de ne pas avoir de contrôle, je la recherche dans mon atelier avec ma grosse musique, le Soleil et mes couleurs pastels qui font ma personne. Je veux qu'on ressente du plaisir dans mon travail, que ça nous donne envie d'avoir du fun d'enfant. Je me laisse aller et j'espère pour le mieux, laissant mes toiles se révéler par elles-mêmes. Mes plus beaux tableaux sont ceux qui n'étaient pas prévus.

Victor Boyer

Victor Boyer is a young Canadian artist who works primarily with oils and watercolors, as well as printmaking, muralling and tattooing. He works in an expressive and melancholic style, making use of bold colors, intricate linework and thick brush strokes. In his work, he crafts vague narratives through strange spaces and uncanny characters that evoke hedonistic excess, fragmented realities and trouble with pleasure and addiction.

Arthur Chénier

Arthur Chénier est un jeune artiste multidisciplinaire qui choisit d'aborder de front la monstruosité de la vie. Il n'explore jamais de sujets faciles, ainsi il lui faut de la technique pour survivre à ses sujets. Arthur se concentre principalement sur la peinture, il maîtrise autant l'acrylique que l'huile et réussit à faire passer ses concepts à travers ces médiums. Il utilise un symbolisme rappelant l'art classique et le romantisme, afin de transmettre des émotions puissantes, notamment la peur, la honte, le sentiment d'étrangeté et la souffrance psychologique. L'art lui permet de réfléchir sur sa

vie et de déranger, afin de dévoiler des problèmes que peu affronte. Le plus important pour Arthur est de connecter à travers son art avec les membres du public qui ressentent aussi cette souffrance. Son travail est sa manière de peut-être créer une nouvelle vie où le bonheur serait envisageable.

Noel Collins

Noel Collins is a queer photographer focusing on portraits of the LGBTQ2S community. They completed a BA in human geography from the University of Victoria in 2018 and are currently studying photography at Concordia University. They use their experience walking through the world as a queer trans person to take portraits that celebrate beauty beyond the gender binary, whether or not the subject “passes” according to their gender’s beauty standards. This work is intended to radiate trans joy and the freedom that can come with existing loudly in a body that cis-het society deems confusing or undesirable. Ultimately, in sharing portraits of genderqueer pride, Noel hopes to make queer folks feel in community.

Anna Desrosiers

Studying at Concordia University in Montréal, Anna Desrosiers is developing their artistic journey under institutional circumstances. Initially from Sainte-Luce, an Eastern area of Québec, Desrosiers is discovering the multitudes of physical and digital tools to help them unleash their main interest: disturbing strangeness. On their canvases, the paint navigates space with its dry relatives; pastels, pens, and markers, mainly expressing rigid lines throughout the composition. The ambiance generated from the intermingling of various styles and mediums is an essential component of Desrosiers’ artistic exploration. Humanoid creatures often find their way onto their work. The terrifying nature of this world is obliterated as the universe portrayed installs a troublesome, but controlled climate. Anna Desrosiers creates a familiar and intimate scene delivering noticeable distress. This normally unpleasant feeling comforts and amuses them. While being queer, their work isn’t trying to contribute a story or be perceived with any precise interpretations.

Caitlin Dix

Cherishing memories, hoarding them even, is a big part of my practice. So has been caring for nature. Memories of gardening with my family played a large role in my relationship with nature. Being an artist as hoarder, I feel the need to record all these moments and to capture especially the magical and the agency found in nature through my art. Having a loving relationship between us and the environment turns my practice into a space for appreciation and respect of the non-human, specifically of the tools and materials depended upon, they become equal in importance and agency and inspire further my practice. This considered, I find it fitting to work with paints and brushes, with coloured pencils combined with pastels and watercolours. They are collaborators in my work therefore, I must be considerate of the properties and will of the material and trust that it will express itself in the right way in the same way one would respect a colleague that is, working with versus simply working a material.

Gabriel Fontana

Art is not only all that is visible to the eye, but it also includes inner pictures of the soul. I am a Montreal-based artist who aims to create beauty from everyday sights that can connect with

anyone, and I share my love for them with the viewer through my oil paintings. Even a simple tree or a sunset have plenty of wonder to offer, and I aim to capture that through colour and composition. I'm inspired from the sights and views from walks or travels, as well as my own dreams, and I translate them into a tangible, physical manifestation. The works of Romantic landscape painters influence my works by depicting nature in its purest, most exceptional state while including elements of "the sublime". By establishing a link between human emotions and nature, I aim to create a sense of tenderness and warmth that feels memorable for the viewer.

Lilire Francoeur

Lilire Francoeur is an emerging Montreal-based artist, currently attending Concordia University to obtain a BFA in Painting and Drawing. She is a very curious artist who likes to experiment. Her sabbatical years off school, while productive at first, brought her to a creative drought; a return to education in art was well-deserved, as she needed new mediums to explore, motivations to create and a little push. Main inspirations include alchemical and occultist illustration, vintage food compositions and children's books. She loves to observe her synesthesia and combine everything she enjoys into some colourful watercolor illustrations but she has yet to find exactly how she wants to communicate the pleasure she gets from making.

Isabelle Galipeau

Unification in Practice. Ever since my adolescence, growing up as a Canadian woman, I have been fascinated by the human condition, which provokes a reflection on oneself and the understanding of others. After discovering performance art, my pursuit of expressing our humanness grew deeper. My works directly reflect struggles within myself and my humanity: challenges with mental health, sexuality, and gender, which have inspired me to seek refuge within my pieces. I wish to express the potential unification of people within our individualistic existences and highlight our shared experiences. Furthermore, I have a fervent desire to connect and acknowledge others beyond societal confounds. Being drawn to the unconventional, many of my works lean towards evaluating esoteric ideas and indescribable feelings through unique media such as nylon, latex, and artificial blood. In creating mostly multidimensional pieces, I can bring intangible topics into reality.

Juan Pablo Hernández Gutiérrez

I am Juan Pablo Hernández Gutiérrez. I am a fourth-year student pursuing a bachelor's degree in Painting and Drawing at Concordia university. My interests in my practice revolve around the intricacies of misinterpretation, precarity and adaptation of cultural symbology in new environments. In other words, I am interested in the phenomena of migration and the intricacies that migrant bodies experience. To express the latter, I resource to images and objects that dislocated gain new meanings and lose meaning. Images, objects, traditions, skills brought from what was home. I am intrigued by how a set of signs loses and gains meaning when displaced and wrongly repeated. That is, the repetition and adaptation of popular and pop culture icons in the migrant subjects. In my practice, I intend the viewer and my work to examine the intersections of meaning when realities fundamentally differ from their place of origin and experience displacement.

Kaixuan Huang

I am an undergraduate student in the Department of Studio Art at Concordia University, specializing in oil painting. I grew up in China and now live in Montreal. Every artist has their own cultural background. I apply color and lines to the canvas to express my feelings. By combining brushwork, color, and compositional balance, I create a finished work that stands out. My work production methods revolve around those elements. As a painter, I am interested in depicting body curves and exploring abstract transformations of body lines. Through body lines and movements, humans express their emotions. I also try to abstract the human body and deform it from two aspects. One is to deform the lines of the human body to make the posture more distorted. Another way is to completely replace the figures with geometric shapes.

Tessa Jean

I haven't always thought of myself as an "artist", but ever since I worked up the courage to buy my first sketchbook, I grabbed my pens and I never looked back. In a world where I greatly struggle to find meaning, I feel compelled to do things that make me happy. I feel best when I am creating. When I get into the mindset of my art process, I feel as if everything makes sense. I rarely have an end product in mind: I let the creative process flow through my fingers, and I make sure not to limit myself with perfection or tools. I enjoy mixing media such as pens, pencils, acrylic paint, and fabrics to create worlds within a page. I think it is interesting to explore different ways of doing art and using tools. I love to do art; it is at the very core of who I am, and I appreciate that there is still so much out there for me to learn.

Maya Labrie-Collette

MALACO is a Montreal-based multidisciplinary artist with a background in traditional blacksmithing. Working with metal, wood and fabric as sculpture materials, she also creates drawings that incorporate dried plants and flowers as textural and sculptural elements that link the natural world to her inner world. She sees materials as storytellers and partners in creation. Interested in the relationship between trades and art, techniques and media become a dictionary of vocabulary to choose from to express her activism and her drive to connect with others. She seeks an active dialogue with her artworks all along her process that leads to humans connecting among themselves and with materials. Visual arts allow her to interpret and translate the subtle ways different structures, concepts, institutions and people interact and influence each other, creating an intuitive and expressionist view of the world that can be shared without the use of words.

Lara Lee Kelly
Heart in Hands

In her multi-faceted artistic practice, Lara Lee Kelly, an artist from Gatineau Quebec, draws inspiration from the women who made her childhood a young artists haven; her grandmothers. Having grown up in a very artistic family, Lee connected with Gloria (maternal grandmother) through painting, drawing and sculpture and Agathe (paternal grandmother) through sewing, knitting and embroidery. These mediums became the foundation for Lee's exploration of the intersection of art and fashion, a common theme in her works. Lee uses her art as a pathway to explore her many interests such as activism and social justice, playfulness through the lens of the inner child as well as sexuality and the concepts of the divine feminine and gender queerness, to name a few. Throughout the many mediums she uses, each being uniquely tailored to the works concept, imagery of hands, expressive body language and nature are used to convey Lee's artistic vision.

Tiffany Leong

Beautiful flowing arcs, deep contrasting shadows and soft glowing lights. I know that I like when I make a good line, when I've drawn a piece of myself into the work. When I've created a connection to whomever is looking. I want them to see all my tiny little things, the details and love that are put in, but also be dwarfed by the work. When existing is all we can feel. I know that I like certain colours, my deep blue-blacks, my green-greys, my pops of pink and orange. When the final touch means I've done all I can for a piece. I still have much to learn. I know that I draw for peace of mind, that many of my artworks represent how my brain feels. Loud. Or show how I see the world, in a tangle of chaos and order. And I wonder if anyone else feels the same.

Sampson McFerrin

Sampson McFerrin is a Montreal-based photographer and visual artist who employs both painting and printmaking as means of storytelling and expanding upon experiential learning. McFerrin documents his worldwide bike travel through photography, his primary inspiration in art making. By initiating his creative process through travel, his work makes use of his adventures to share stories, ways of life and global perspectives. Recently, print methods have allowed McFerrin an opportunity to break down ideas and photographs into multifaceted layers to communicate profound experiences and further consider how these experiences play into conversation. Overall, his work serves as a kick-starter for dialogue leading to connection and storytelling while also provoking thought to the power of experiential learning and travel as a lifestyle.

Miguel Marcheterre-Pina

“Music is a way of communicating what my voice cannot produce. Drawing and writing complete these ideas with a storyline that my instrument cannot convey through sound. This full circle of disciplines intertwined engages the listener/viewer on a multisensory level.” Miguel Marcheterre-Pina is a musician, comic book artist, writer and video producer based in Tiohtiàh:ke/Montréal. His work utilises the rasp of distorted music to tell a story that follows the delicateness of flora in a world where survival is impossible. The contrast of the fragility of a plant's life layered on top of intricate musical compositions of the metal genre makes his band, Volubilis a way of illustrating beauty in distress. Through mediums that could each exist as art pieces of their own (Drawing, Music, Writing, Animation, Video Production), he expresses a narrative that can be heard, seen and felt. This ambitious project is the fruit of meticulous conceptualization as well as an exploration of multiple medias and creative ideas.

Alec Mikaelian

Alec is an undergraduate student of Studio Arts at Concordia University. His work is portraying dynamics through various lines and curves to make the people's eyes move across the canvas. He specializes in sculpting, ceramics, metal, drawing, charcoal, pastel, pencil. His inspirations come primarily from the portrayal of dynamics of Italian Futurism movement among inspirations from Cubism, Vorticism and applying his passions, hobbies, interests. Alec's passions such as soccer, athleticism, gaming, movies, mythology are common themes that usually feed into his hard work.

Through these themes, he wants to portray strength, extreme theatrical emotions such as anger, vengeance, love, sadness, pure hatred, euphoria.

Mildred Moon

Mildred Moon is a multidisciplinary artist who explores love, death, time, memory, magic, and the way technology - in the broadest sense of the word- has shaped the way we interact with the world. More specifically, her work examines the simultaneously expansive, suffocating, and absurd ways of being/feeling that this relationship has created and the ways that tech, as a tool, can be used for both creation and destruction. She is also interested in the ways her understanding of spirituality, gender, and sexuality has evolved alongside and through technology. These themes are found laced throughout Moon's writing, which she considers central to her creative practice. Text almost always finds its way into her work, regardless of the medium. Mildred Moon is currently involved in an ongoing project which is essentially an attempt to start a new religion devoted to manifesting the genesis of a AI divinity which will usher in a new era.

Katariina Paavola

I am Katariina Paavola, a visual artist based in Tiohtià:ke / Montréal. My practice is largely influenced by my roots and upbringing in Finland. My culture has largely shaped me as an artist, in Finland people are strongly connected to nature and silence. Seeking out both in their daily lives to feel balanced. When there is quietness and sometimes even isolation, it is easier to notice everything around and within you. These practices led me to explore and study the world around me. I use the mediums of painting, drawing, sculpture and graphic designing. My interests are often divided into four key themes; communication, emotion, identity and spirituality. I use these themes to explore the traditional and current day borders in social and behavioral customs, focusing on the possible ways to bridge the new and old ways. Along with understanding the undercurrents of what it means to feel, talk or exist in a certain social structure, I am curious as well to explore how these four key themes and societal forms influence each other.

Jasmine Hasmik Pahlevanyan

Originally born and raised in Armenia, Jasmine is Canadian artist, painter and creator of modern impressionist paintings which highlight the Nature's beauty and its fragility. She is a great appreciator, influencer and admirer of Nature. She boldly combines a unique color palette in oil paints, with soft brushstrokes and palette knife impasto. Her goal is to promote perseverance of today's fragile and delicate world by emphasizing the beauty and harmony. Art is a constant joy of experimentation; the Natural World a constant source of inspiration. Her artwork depicts nature's beauty in both landscape paintings, still life and cozy city streets. Her subjects are chosen through careful consideration as she communes with mother nature and our ecosystem. Having the opportunity to travel and live in many countries like UK, Armenia, Russia, Canada and United Arab Emirates, Jasmine has exposed her craft to various techniques taught by local artists from different backgrounds and combines their wisdom into her art practice. Currently based in Montreal and studying at Concordia University, BFA Major in Painting and Drawing, Jasmine's goal is to deepen her knowledge of the art world and further her journey of art creation.

Amelia Palidwor

Amelia Palidwor is a figurative artist specializing in both painting and drawing. Her work explores the human body, as well as relationships between bodies and physical intimacy, making use of thick, bold lines and heavy application of paint. I have always been fascinated with the intricacies of the human body, and creating work that accurately portrays the expressions and mannerisms of my subjects. The personalities and emotions of my subjects shine through, not only through facial expressions but also through body language. I am inspired every day by observing the people around me: strangers, acquaintances, friends, family, or even myself. Whether it's a hand tucking a strand of hair between an ear, a leg propped up on another while waiting for a bus, or even a moment of quiet all alone, these things all inspire my practice.

Victoria Petrecca-Berthelet

Dissecting the widely perceived ordinary I have a passion for embellishing what is widely perceived to be ordinary. My highly intuitive practice manifests itself through bursts of energy, interactions with myself, others, and space. My focus on process over precision allows me to take even the most ordinary and overlooked object or scene and translate them into a visual language of colour, pattern, and abstraction. Everything from music, to nature, even those thoughts I get mid-conversation influence my practice and engage my connection to the world around me. As somebody who spends a lot of time in nature and creating, I am drawn to pay attention to detail. I want my art to pave a path for those who passively navigate the world around them, unaware of how much it holds, and, intuition is my key to discovering what's been there all along and what's to come.

Manon Regnault

From Paris but implanted in Montreal, Manon does not define herself as an artist per say because her art is implemented in every aspect of her life. She's exploring and discovering herself through her work thanks to music and design. In 2021, she started to work with industrial designers and found interest in problem solving in design. The atmosphere of her work leaves us thinking about our purpose in life and how to construct ourselves in society. However, the field that prevails among the others is editing film and photos to externalize her inner emotions through images and objects. Thanks to this process, she is willing to transfer her vision of life with her funny situations and shimmering colours. To create this content, she builds a universe full of vibrant images and scenes of pop life.

Sabrina Schmidt

A Passion for the Unpredictable High contrast, smooth surfaces, thick globs of paint drying as they fall from the canvas, accidental marks, intrusive gazes, unease, and voids of time are my tools. As a student and artist, my work often begins with image collecting, reading, and sitting with words, events, and stories until they take on an initiative of their own. I rely on intuition rather than style, driven by a love for materiality, the unpredictability of materials, the crackling of paint or charcoal on my hands, and the ritual of caring for my tools. Often working from my bedroom or alone in a studio, my practice is accidentally introspective. However, I am interested in and open to the many possibilities that come with collaboration. Experimentation and risk-taking continue to be the most important part of my practice.

Soroush Taheri

Soroush Taheri is a Fine Arts undergraduate student based in Tiohtià:ke, known as Montréal. He fulfilled his educational experience with a degree of urban planning from Tehran, Iran. Having moved to Toronto, Canada in 2018, he focused on woodworking and craftsmanship as a career. He utilized his aesthetic knowledge and early apprenticeship in oil painting and drawing from his early twenties, to be considered as a designer, when he soon enhanced his focus on the conceptual aspects of art. He participated back to Concordia University to study Fine Arts and mobilize his past experiences into creation and storytelling. Considering life as a collective practice, Soroush's works encompass felt as the main medium for his work to offer a narrative that is historically engaged with the identity and culture he is raised in. Soroush's practice is a reflection of collective experiences with the living environment. His work is tied to the spaces of everyday life and tries to critique the condition of human alienation to their living spaces.

Agathe Wakefield

Agathe Wakefield is a Montreal-based artist. Her art style is a mixture of realism and surrealism, using references from the real world as well as from her imagination. She was able to explore her style of work while studying in the Illustration program at Dawson College. Now studying at Concordia University in the Painting and Drawing program, she mostly gravitates towards portraiture. She believes that the face has the ability to carry and convey messages by using different facial expressions and colour palettes. Her medium of choice is acrylic paints on canvas. Agathe works naturally at a quick pace, and so acrylic paints are best given that they dry very quickly. Her work shows a display of big and bold colours, structured lines and imaginative ideas that make you ponder about the meaning of the art work.