

Emerging Artists Unleashed 2020

The Alberta Society of Artists



Objectives

The Alberta Society of Artists (ASA) is an association of professional artists whose objective is to foster and promote the development of the visual arts in the Province of Alberta. The Society sees implicit in its objectives an active involvement in governmental, social, economic and educational issues as they affect the arts in the Province.

Mission Statement

The Mission of the Alberta Society of Artists is to have an active membership of professional visual artists, which will strive for excellence, and shall through exhibition, education and communication, increase public awareness and appreciation of the visual arts.

What We Do

The Society is a Non-profit, Registered Charity that works with public venues to provide enhanced support for existing programs in education and exhibition. Members of the Society are juried in by their peers and provide professional recognition to the province's artist community. Alberta artists may apply for Juried Membership during our annual drive.

Educational Programming

Every year, the Society provides scholarships to post-secondary and graduate Visual Arts students who attend colleges or universities in Alberta. Our exhibitions and speaker and artist talk events reach the general public throughout Alberta in venues that are free to the public: The Art Gallery of Alberta Community Gallery and the Waltherdale Theatre in Edmonton, the Northern & Southern Jubilee Auditorium, the Calgary Public Libraries, Western GM Gallery in Drumheller, and Crowsnest Pass Art Gallery in Blairmore exhibit our juried group exhibitions annually. In addition, the ASA is responsible for the TREX program in South-western Alberta. Trex provides art exhibitions to communities, schools and libraries throughout its designated region.

A Brief History...

The ASA is a large part of Alberta's visual arts history, through its members, its exhibitions and other initiatives. The Alberta Society of Artists was founded in 1931, making it the oldest society of juried professional artists in the province. The organization has a colorful history, entwined with the history of visual arts in Alberta. The organization can count many important historical figures among its members, including A.C. Leighton and H. G. Glyde (ASA's first two presidents), Marion Nicoll, Maxwell Bates, Illingworth Kerr, Stan Perrott, and Janet Mitchell.

Get Involved

Sign up for our event listings. Apply for exhibitions, volunteer or join the Alberta Society of Artists.
www.albertasocietyofartists.com

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Introduction:

The Alberta Society of Artists is proud to present the exhibition *Emerging Artists Unleashed 2020*. Each year, the Society invites all emerging artists who are full-time undergraduate students at a post-secondary university in Alberta to submit artworks along with an Artist Statement to our Scholarship Award incentive. We also award one graduate scholarship of \$1,000.

The many submissions are juried by three professional artists, two of whom are Members of the Alberta Society of Artists. The two highest ranking undergraduate students receive a scholarship of \$1,000 each and the best of the other student submissions are awarded inclusion in the catalogue and invited to participate in two exhibitions. This year, the exhibitions are being held at The Extension Gallery run by the University of Alberta in Edmonton and The Little Gallery at the University of Calgary. The artists presented in this catalogue have produced a collection of innovative work that celebrates the discipline of painting, drawing, mixed media and etching.

By providing scholarships, a catalogue and exhibition opportunities, students are encouraged to continue their creative study. Our goal is to formally recognize their successes and ensure that emerging artists contribute to the shaping of Alberta's identity in a meaningful way.

Linda Craddock, MFA ASA
President of The Alberta Society of Artists

Jurors:

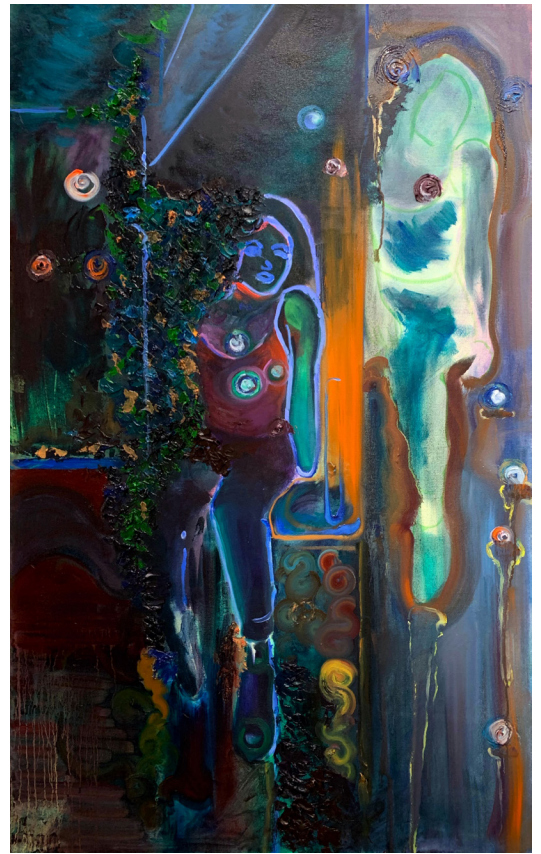
Greg Robb, MFA ASA
Mary Anne McTrowe, University of Lethbridge
Peter Deacon RCA, ASA Professor Emeritus University of Calgary

Cover Image: *Unsettling Disposition* 30" x 40", Oil and Acrylic on canvas, Audrey Gamponia 2019.
All photographs in this catalogue are courtesy of the artists.

Audrey Gamponia

2020 Undergraduate Scholarship Award Recipient
University of Alberta, Bachelor of Fine Arts (2022)

This body of work is my exploration of self-identity. Mental issues such as anxiety and depression are a big focus in my work as these are issues that I personally deal with on a daily basis. For this reason the majority of my works are self-portraits. Aside from *Shower Me in Pink*, I choose painting as my primary medium because of the freedom that it offers in terms of colour palette and the expressiveness of each brush stroke to tell a story.



Colourful Disdain 30" x 48"
Oil and Acrylic on canvas, 2019.



Binulan 26" x 42" Copper Etching
on Hahnemuhle paper, 2019.

Most of my works are derived from the expressive nature of the psyche, they are intuitive and self-reflective. This body of work is also highly influenced by the rise of mental health awareness in society; dealing with mental issues is not easy. Through my work I try to tackle my own anxieties and depression to overcome these issues and in some way help others who may also be going through the same struggles.

My paintings are bold and colourful and in some cases erratic to express a troubled psychological state and yet showcase myself as having a calm disposition. I look towards self-portraiture because it is in a way a self-discovery.

Jenna Hoffart

**2020 Undergraduate Scholarship Award Recipient
Medicine Hat College, Bachelor of Fine Arts Program,
University Studies. Cello Student Medicine Hat College
Conservatory (Ongoing).**



Self Portrait: The Starving Artist 30" x 45"
Pastel on paper, 2019.

An acrylic painting created for my current Painting I class, where the objective was to make an observed self-portrait. I chose to go with a surrealistic approach, depicting two sides of myself.

The figure in the hat is me when I am painting, with the wall of the painting room behind me. The upside-down figure is the version of myself that I present to others that I painted by looking in a mirror before flipping the canvas upside down. I built the canvas myself.

This chalk pastel drawing was created as an assignment for Drawing II in which we were to create a portrait of an art student. I chose to draw myself because I am an art student. The table and plate on top of it is purposefully skewed in perspective so that the strange objects can be visible to the viewer of the drawing.

The idea is that I am eating art supplies, a symbol for choosing to be an artist despite being unsure of my financial stability as one. The yellow square above me depicts the silhouette of a painting I made when I was much younger. I drew this by observing a photograph I took of myself.



Painting: Self Portrait 20" x 26" Acrylic on canvas, 2019.

Amelia Rodriguez

University of Calgary, Bachelor of Fine Arts
(2021)

The body of work submitted showcases the growth I have experienced with painting in the past 6 months. It is evident that throughout my learning I have gained many new techniques, such as pouring on to canvas and by leaving my paintings with more of an impressionist and impasto appearance. It also displays the conceptual ideas I like to present in my work. Lying somewhere between surrealist and impressionist, I enjoy creating a conversation between my paintings and the viewer.

As an artist, I find it very important to use colors, tones, shapes and objects that tend to peak a person's interest or heighten their emotions. In my painting *Let's Stay Close*, 2019, the window can represent a sense of longing. Or even a barrier between the viewer and what they want. All of these works submitted made me realize that acrylic paint is the medium that I am meant to be working in.

I find the freedom of acrylic paint limitless and the impermanence of it to be so alluring. Being young, I find painting to be an enriching part of my growth as a human and an artist.

Top: *Lets Stay Close* 48" X 60" Acrylic and lace on Masonite, 2019.

Bottom: *Dear Diary* 24" x 24" Acrylic on Masonite, 2020.



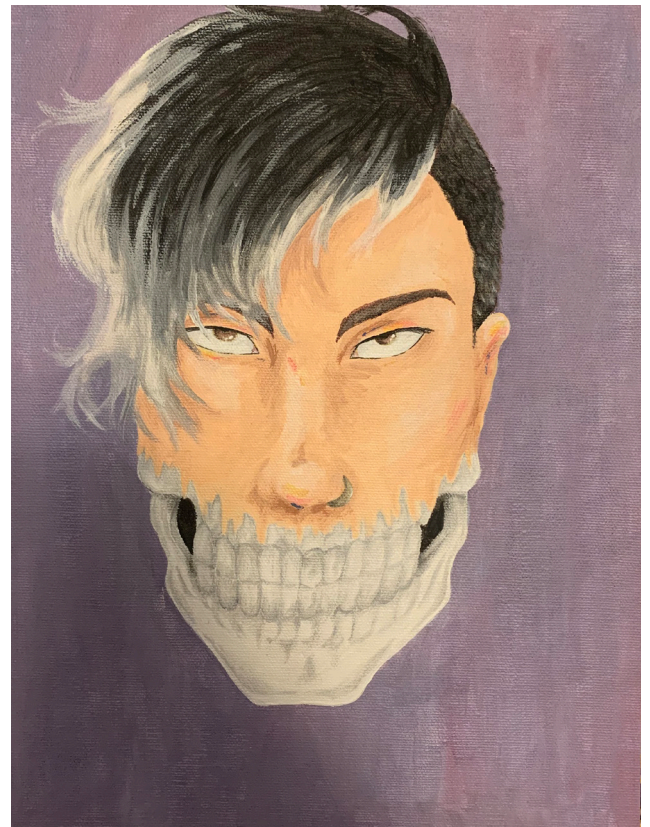
Gabriela Celis-Guevara

University of Calgary, Bachelor of Fine Arts (Ongoing)

When I was six years of age, my mother introduced me to a community art class where I was mesmerised by the use of a pencil and began drawing images that came from my imagination. It was a moment where it felt as if I was holding a wand and letting the magic do the work for the first time. By the time I was at Luther College High School from 2011 to 2015, I studied Advanced Mathematics and Art to challenge myself through painting, drawing, and craftsmanship. In my final year of High School, I became interested in pop culture and began experimenting with oil paint, pencil crayons, and digital design using programs like Photoshop. Most of my artworks are influenced by both western and eastern cinema and television. I am also influenced by the cultures of other countries such as Chile, Mexico, Germany, Italy, and Turkey. I began drawing images on papers and canvas, but then transferred designs on to unwanted objects such as shoes, empty bottles, recycling materials, and more. I explore my creativity and hone my skills by using/reusing items and experimenting with Pop Art.



Skull Girl VII 9" x 12" Acrylic on canvas, 2019.



Skull Girl I 9" x 12" Acrylic on canvas, 2019.

Emerging Artists Unleashed 2020

The Little Gallery, University of Calgary. March 16 - 20, 2020
The Extension Gallery, University of Alberta, Edmonton. April 12 - May 2, 2020

Alberta



Alberta
Foundation
for the **Arts**



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