

Theresa Wright



As a newcomer to Victoria, Theresa decided to explore and photograph her neighborhood. Neighborhood meant anything within walking distance: front yards, houses, sidewalks, fences, people, trees, rocks, and shadows. She began a series of acrylic paintings based on these photos. They range from the long shadows on a fall day to a wet December morning in Cook St Village. Shadows are a recurring feature in these paintings. Their shapes and patterns emphasize the abstract elements in the paintings.

Several years ago, after completing a course of study at the Haliburton School of Art & Design, Theresa developed a series of acrylic paintings which blended her strong interest in figurative work with local history. These paintings, based on old photos from the local museum, highlighted the people of the community as they went about their daily lives. They tended to be in warm neutrals and heavily textured to reflect the era.

Deanna Skinner



Deanna developed a passion for nature as a child in her home town of Powell River, B.C. She spent endless hours observing the beauty of her surroundings: the forests, nearby lakes, and her parent's flower gardens. She enjoyed learning from her parents about different flowers including lilies, roses, dahlias, daisies, and tulips. She started out drawing, in particular animals, especially wild cats, and flowers. After high school, she moved to Victoria B.C, where she trained at the Victoria College of Art.

During this time, she developed a love of surrealism and also expanded to painting in oils and acrylics. The dream-like images of surrealism influence her detailed style.

After art school, she spent many years away from painting and drawing. During this time, she travelled and became inspired by the artwork she saw in Europe, the Americas, and Japan. Later, she went back to school and now has a Bachelor of Arts in Child and Youth Care. She has taken every opportunity to incorporate creativity and art into her daily interactions with young people. Last year, a reignited desire to reconnect with her love of nature inspired her to pick up the paint brush again. Her paintings reflect her concern for the environment and she hopes to remind us of its importance, fragility, and beauty. Her current series features vibrant, macro images of flora and fauna mostly found here on the West Coast.

Sharon Lam



Sharon Lam began the “Our Favourite Places” project when her Mom was transitioned into hospice care. In the final months of her Mom’s life, Sharon scrambled to illustrate all of their favourite places they had shared throughout her life. She wanted to show her Mom how much she cherished the life she was given and also bring a little bit of home to the hospital. Sharon loves drawing every day ordinary spots like park benches, grocery stores and coffee shops because she believes that combined, these are the places we spend our lifetimes in. Since her Mom’s passing, Sharon has continued illustrating their favourite places.

David Rokeby-Thomas (Painted Poles of Victoria)



Dave is an accidental artist who once upon a time ended up with a camera in his hands. Some years and some cameras later, he now resides in Victoria taking photos of any and all things that catch his eye. This is an agreeable artistic pursuit for him, as the subjects already exist, and so thus simplifies the thinking and creative process greatly.

The Painted Poles of Victoria is a series of collages that have been created from pictures taken of all the painted utility poles found throughout the city. They've been arranged by the various neighbourhoods in which they've been found, and also into other fun thematic presentations.

[Heather MacNeil](#)



Originally from Montreal, Heather moved to the West Coast in 1994 feeling drawn to its natural beauty. She has explored working in oils, watercolours, mixed media and acrylics with her paintings ranging from representational to abstract. While currently focusing on abstract compositions, she incorporates vibrant colours, bold brush work, and gestural marks in her work expressing a sense of freedom and spontaneity. In addition to a background in science and psychology, Heather has always been drawn to the expressive and healing components of art and the creative process.

“Although my paintings are mostly abstract, I find inspiration in nature and the interplay of colours and shapes of objects in my environment. Through intention and spontaneity, my work expresses movement, and an energy of joy, harmony, and enthusiasm. The emphasis is on exploration and discovery as I tune in, and create a dialogue with the painting. In working through the layers, I engage with contrast, tension, ease and flow, letting go of old structures, shifting perceptions, and allowing new ideas and creative impulses to emerge.”