

## 2023 Art at the Place Artists

### Deydree Valdez



Originally from Mexico, Deydree moved to Edmonton, AB in 2009. She had never painted before but started exploring with acrylics and later with oils. Painting has been a therapy to cope with the cold long winters and lack of sun, so she always likes to paint with bright & happy colors.

She moved to Victoria last year, she loves the island, and that we are surrounded by nature and beautiful landscapes that inspire her to paint, here she doesn't need to escape winter but to enjoy the colors that exist throughout the year. Deydree loves painting flowers, landscapes & the sea. Expressing herself through my art soothes her soul and makes her happy.

### German McKenzie



German began his art career in the 80s' in his native Colombia. He received a degree in Graphic Design from the University of Bogota, "Jorge Tadeo Lozano". He later honed his talents through studies with Master of oil painting Zhu Wei Ming, in Beijing, China. German has lived in Canada since 1989.

Throughout his career, German's art has been feature at many collective and solo exhibitions in China, Hong kong, Colombia, Romania, United States, Germany and Canada.

Additionally several private collectors of Fine Art and Corporations around the world proudly display German's Art. He is also a muralist. German has been involved in numerous public art projects, in Regina at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum as well as Humboldt and Duck Lake; in the Province of Ontario at the newspaper building in Kenora and the Interpretative Center in Emu, and two murals in Alberta, at the Golf Course and the high school in Stony Plain. His latest work was a back drop for an exhibit at the Royal BC Museum.

### Anneli Davey



Anneli grew up under the vast blue Canadian prairie skies and golden wheat fields near the Manitoba/Saskatchewan border. She credits this early immersion on the land for her appreciation of nature and the nurturing effect it has in helping one slow down and to notice and savour the details and essence of life. She carries this contemplative lens into her art practice.

A desire to live near the ocean led Anneli from her Winnipeg home to the West Coast in 2008 via Haida Gwaii and the Comox Valley. She now happily calls Victoria home.

She has taken art classes at North Island College, Victoria Art College, and Vancouver Island School of Art, and has a particular interest in playful, abstract landscapes. Anneli currently paints out of XChanges studios and gallery artist co-operative.

Anneli works in acrylic and creates abstracts in bold, vibrant colours that invoke a sense of hope, wonder, and joy. This series is inspired by time spent in Beacon Hill Park with its many flowers and ponds and a visit to the National Grasslands Park in SW Saskatchewan.

### Moss Rock Art Collective



Moss Rock Art Collective is a small group of women creating art on Vancouver Island.

Kim Hardy, Madeline Ryan, and Victoria Mazza-Sinclair were friends who enjoyed doing art together casually over the years and formed the collective in 2023. It started as a social endeavour, turned into an almost therapeutic event, and soon the group was creating art almost daily.

The name affectionately came to be the Moss Rock Art Collective in jest thanks to the preschool their children all attended at the FGCA, because while kids were at school, they did art! Kim specializes in mixed media process art, while Maddie is passionate for playful mark-making and water colours, and Victoria prefers to relinquish control through fluid painting and inks. As a group their pieces are sure to surprise and delight! What went from a hobby soon turned into a passion for each woman, and they are grateful for the support of their husbands and seven wonderful kids. You will find their art is abstract, colourful, experimental, whimsical and generally uplifting. Their approach to art is not about producing art but about enjoying the process of creating it.

### **Carol Thibault: Whimsical Collage**



“My latest venture of collage is salvaging unwanted, damaged and unloved canvas prints and original artwork from thrift stores, flea markets, and garage sales and bring them back to life in a whimsical and uplifting way. I am absolutely inspired by nature’s bounty of birds, bees, butterflies, flowers and trees. All resources used in the collage come from recycled print materials (books, cards, calendars, & magazines), assorted costume jewelry and fabric ends. The process of collecting, sorting, cutting, selecting, and embellishing with appropriate items involves hours, days, or even weeks but when it comes together it is a magical experience. My hope is that these whimsical collages will make someone smile, inspire a conversation with a stranger, and ultimately live on and on in some other way and at some other time!”