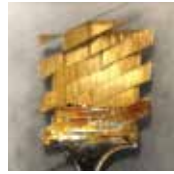




Tim Rechner



Tom Cummins



Beth Pederson



Craig Talbot



Kai Chan



miss hatt



Rafael Sottolichio




Chrissy Cheung

invisible

Galerie Cité, La Cité Francophone

 @galerieciteyeg

 www.lacitefranco.ca/galerie-cite

Galerie Cité is for the community, a program that lives in the public spaces of La Cité Francophone offering art exhibits, events and workshops for everyone. Kickstarted by the Edmonton Heritage Council's Living Local grant program, the Edmonton Arts Council, and the Federation of Community Leagues, we have transformed the public space of the French Cultural Centre. Galerie Cité provides unique opportunities for participants to explore the history of the area and have access to visual art and design education, regardless of background or ability.

We are thrilled to showcase PAINTER8 in this exciting exhibit, tackling sometimes difficult and uncomfortable conversations about mental health. We hope that this space and exhibit will foster continued, positive growth and provide a safe space for conversations to take place, all of which are vital for our communities to thrive in.

Galerie Cité is located on the traditional territories of Neyiyaw (Cree), Dene, Stoney-Nakota Sioux, Saulteaux, and Ojibwe, Metis Nation-Region 4, and all people who make their homes in Treaty 6 region of Central Alberta.

Dawn Saunders Dahl
Project Generator at Galerie Cité

GalerieCité



Message from His Worship Mayor Don Iveson



On behalf of City Council, welcome to Invisible by PAINTER8.

Painting is an immensely powerful medium for storytelling and developing empathy—and artistic interpretations of mental illness and stigma can foster important conversations around mental health. Artworks such as those displayed in this exhibit can help us talk to each other about our experiences and make something that is often “invisible” become more visible.

I thank the organizers, volunteers and sponsors of the Invisible exhibition. Your commitment to starting mental health conversations through artwork helps reduce the stigma surrounding mental health concerns by shining a light on issues that affect all of us. This exhibit, showcasing artists from throughout Canada, also enhances our thriving arts and cultural community.

Best wishes for a wonderful opening reception!



Don Iveson
Mayor



@thepainter8



www.painter8.ca

PAINTER8 began as a communication platform in 2013 for the artists involved in it to escape the isolation of their studios.

Originally, PAINTER8 provided an opportunity for each artist to share ideas, thoughts and musings about art forms such as music, visual arts, film or theatre. It has evolved into a highly motivating, project based springboard for it's members to directly challenge and problem solve specific concepts and ideas.

While some artists are highly prolific, others lean towards the theoretical. Whether abstract, figurative or conceptual, members of PAINTER8 aim to establish dialogue and challenge each other as artists both in theory and in form. Painter8 is a registered arts society.

PAINTER8 has a dynamic evolving platform of the original founding artists and guest artists across Canada. They have exhibited in Vancouver, Miami, and New York.



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invisible

PAINTER8's exhibition, INVISIBLE, seeks to provoke dialogue on the topic of mental illness and challenge the stigma surrounding it. Inspiration behind INVISIBLE stems from the artists' personal experiences, struggles and victories with mental illness. The artists have also engaged with their local community to collect their stories and spoken to mental health professionals to gain further insight on this subject.

Seven million Canadians live with mental illness at any given time. That's about one in every five people¹.

Although many people live with mental illness every day, traditionally it has been considered a taboo subject matter. Individuals living with mental health issues may often feel their situation is unacknowledged or ignored. As a result, they may not feel there is an opportunity to speak out and ashamed to get help. By increasing mental health awareness, stigma surrounding this issue can be slowly chipped away, and hopefully removed completely in the future.

In this exhibition, PAINTER8 presents a visual interpretation of various mental illnesses: including anxiety, depression, SAD (Seasonal Affective Disorder), bipolar disorder, mania, psychosis, and schizophrenia. By doing so, PAINTER8 uses art to bring visibility to this subject.


Mental illness is often INVISIBLE.

Curated by Contact C

¹CMHA. <https://cmha.ca/about-cmha.ca/about-cmha/fast-facts-about-mental-illness>

Chrissy Cheung

 @lindenevergone

 www.observeroftime.com

subject : Depression, Bipolar disorder

ARTIST STATEMENT

Chrissy Cheung's abstract paintings and drawings employ figurative material in complex and nuanced ways. Cheung's work evokes motion not only in the way it is made, but also in the way it is meant to be seen. Her work seeks to capture the essence of temporal forms of contemporary dance and music, both of which are significant sources of inspiration for Cheung.

ARTIST BIO

Chrissy Cheung is an artist and curator based in Vancouver. She grew up in Toronto and became interested in art at age 7. She studied at Concordia University, Montréal, completing her Bachelor of Fine Arts in 2000. Her work has been reviewed in Akimbo and Now Magazine, and was featured on CityTV, Calgary. She contributed to the Salon des Arts at the 2008 Osheaga Festival. Her solo exhibitions include Structured Abstractions, at the 2 of 2 Gallery, Toronto and Dessins contemporains, at Maison de la Culture Plateau Mont-Royal, Montréal.

Cheung recently completed a mural in Vancouver's Chinatown and her large-scale paintings have been rented by Beverly Hills Productions, Los Angeles, for background art in the Fox television show, BH90210. More recent exhibitions include at the Market Art and Design Fair in Bridgehampton, New York, as well as in the Reveal Art Fair in Saratoga Springs, NY, through ModArt Gallery, Miami, in July 2019. Her work is part of the Ville de Montréal Collection, as well as private collections across Canada, the US, Denmark, and China. She curates the PAINTER8 Arts Society under the alias, Contact C.



Lurking



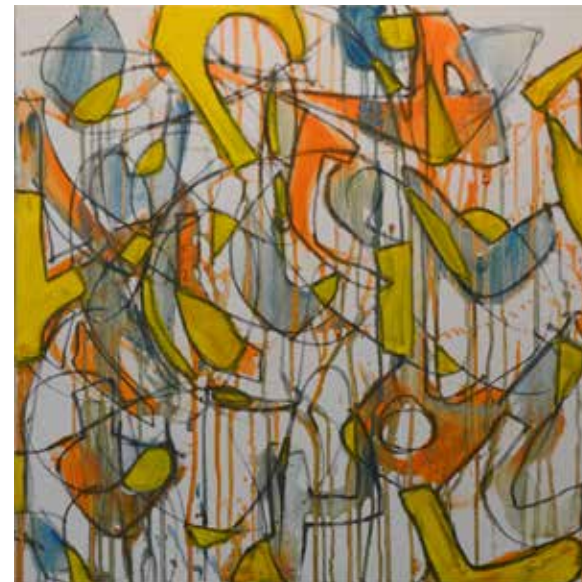
Low Tide

ARTIST STATEMENT

Tim Rechner's abstract art explores themes surrounding freedom, beauty, heartache, depression and optimism. This is reflected in his dynamic, vibrant and beautiful artwork. Rechner's process is intuitive and involves a lot of physical engagement - he attempts to emulate the raw spontaneity and enthusiasm of a child creating artwork by using automatic and blind drawing techniques. This way, he can tap into his subconscious and create rhythmic but controlled chaos. There is a strong emphasis on an all over compositional flow enforced by this skeletal framework of assertively drawn graphite lines. Emotive and bright colour combinations further intensify the surfaces of Rechner's work

ARTIST BIO

Tim Rechner grew up in Red Deer, Alberta and has lived in Vancouver, Halifax and Montreal. He has been living and creating artwork in Edmonton since 2001. Over the past 18 years he has established himself as a committed visual artist with heavy involvement in the Edmonton arts community. He has exhibited prolifically in Edmonton, including solo shows at The Works Festival, Art Gallery of St. Albert, The Front Gallery, Harcourt House, ARTERY and more. Rechner has also participated in multiple group exhibits, including The Art Gallery of Alberta and Latitude 53. Tim Rechner is currently represented by The Scott Gallery in Edmonton. Tim Rechner is also a musician (drummer) in 3 established Edmonton bands.





Heart Racing



I Think I'm Going To Die

Beth Pederson

 @cbethpedersonart

 www.bethpedersonart.com

subject : SAD - Seasonal Affective Disorder

ARTIST STATEMENT & BIO

Beth Pederson's work has always been situated in an interest of the built environment and everyday objects that surround us. She is drawn to commonplace objects and spaces because of their aesthetic qualities, such as their colour, shape, and texture. Pederson's work reflects her fascination with the way light casts onto objects, into spaces, and its has the ability to provide drama to an otherwise ordinary scene or mundane object.

Using photography to document objects and spaces, Pederson is able to digitally arrange and manipulate images to highlight aspects that she finds the most captivating. These images are used as the foundation of her collages, which she also uses as painting references. Pederson seeks to shift the viewer's perception of the everyday environment as 'mundane' into something of interest and contemplation.

Beth Pederson was born in Fort McMurray, AB and later moved to Leduc, AB in her early teens. From an early age, she knew that she wanted to be an artist. Beth studied at MacEwan University where she earned a Fine Arts Diploma. Beth was determined to continue studying and transferred to NSCAD University (Nova Scotia College of Art and Design) where she received both a Bachelor of Fine Arts and a Bachelor of Design.

Her work is in many private collections in Alberta and is also in the public collection of the Alberta Foundation for the Arts.



Wintersleep

ARTIST STATEMENT

Tom Cummins' work revolves around themes of juxtaposition, serendipity and constructed significance. His pieces are marked by the materiality of their invention, they are heavily influenced by the artists' interest in themes like deterioration and meaning-making. Cummins' work is pragmatic and situational, exploring the ways in which context contributes to meaning. Working with an artistic lens reminiscent of Arte Povera and Dadaism, Cummins seeks to elevate everyday objects into provocative statements, further exploring the intersection of materialism and semiotic interpretation.

ARTIST BIO

Cummins studied graphic design in Auckland University of Technology (AUT), where he was awarded the AUT Design Fellowship and later served as artist-in-residence from 1999-2000. After several years as a scenic artist and sculptor for film and stage sets, he shifted his practice into museum exhibition design. Today, Cummins lives and works in Vancouver, BC, where he develops exhibitions for leading cultural institutions in Canada and around the world.



CutBrush



RedBrush

ARTIST BIO & STATEMENT

This is the story of the X-ray Man. The X ray Man personifies many things. Mostly, he represents myself and my experiences with mania. The X ray Man is one of many beings living in the world of delusion.

There is a mental health crisis in our country, especially with the millennial generation. My objective as a painter is to try to reach the viewer emotionally and to communicate with them by telling the story of my personal experience. I hope that people will try to understand my illness, and maybe become less afraid of those who have a mental illness. I use bright colours to express the immense overpowering joy of a mania high. I use text when I want to be more direct and immediate with my expression of the themes of the painting.

Mental illness is a hard road. Living with a mental illness can be very painful and exhausting. But I found sanctuary in art. Painting has taught me how to stay positive even when I am in terrible emotional pain. It allows me a place to vent, and to release negative feelings and most importantly a place to heal.

Talbot attended the Art and Design Program at Red Deer College. His work is part of many private collections and has been exhibited in multiple galleries in Alberta, and at the True Patriot Love Fundraiser in Toronto. He was also the curator for the exhibition, “Mechanical vs. Organic” at Untitled Art Society in Calgary. Talbot is also one of the co-directors of the PAINTER8 Arts Society. Currently living in Cardston, AB, Talbot thrives in the peaceful quiet of southern Alberta.




Baloon Animals



The one so afflicted

Rafael Sottolichio

 @rafaelsottolichio

 www.rafaelsottolichio.com

subject : Psychosis

ARTIST BIO & STATEMENT

Born in Chile, Sottolichio has lived in Canada since 1975. He has been painting professionally since 1996.

Painting in a realist style, Sottolichio's subject matter centers around portraits. His work explores the relationship between the individual and their strained connection to reality. Outside of painting, Sottolichio's architectural constructions are strongly influenced by the cut-and-paste aesthetic of computer software. In his paintings, silhouettes and realistically painted characters offer a complex way of looking at public spaces. Inspired by philosophy, Sottolichio creates images in which characters seem to float in undescrpt or strange surroundings, expressing the strangeness that characterizes a person's relation to the world.

Sottolichio's last show was created as an interpretation of Shakespeare's play King Lear. In this play, he explores confrontation between the individual conscience of the characters and a more present, post-modern and cut-up vision of the individual and the self.



Personæ No. 21



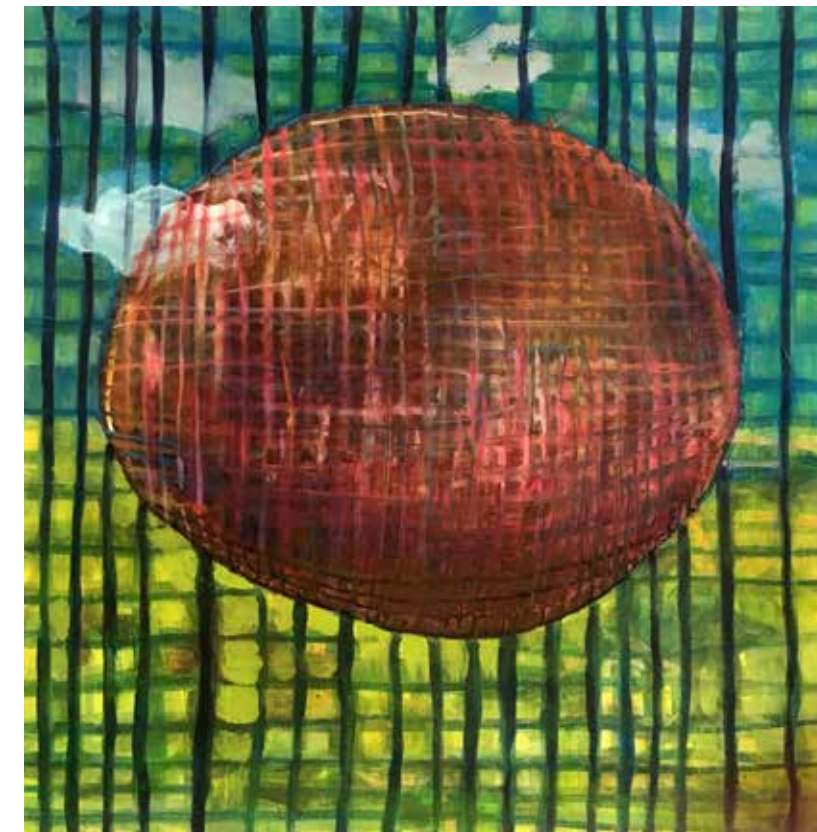
Personæ no. 18

ARTIST STATEMENT

Miss Hatt identified as a painter during her early twenties when she was studying art. Her upbringing has had a heavy influence in her work; elements of which are represented discreetly in her art. She was born in beautiful British Columbia, spent half of her childhood in Nova Scotia, and the other half in Ontario. She identifies as a pan-Canadian. Her experience with changing landscapes, social scenarios and feeling of belonging compels her to create links between her images - to allow for disparate notions to co-habit, to make a place and give expression to the contradictions that she sees, feels and lives. Whatever form her paintings become, they are as beautiful and varied as the places she grew up in.

ARTIST BIO

Miss Hatt has exhibited in Korea, Italy, New York, San Francisco, Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa, and in Canada. She graduated with honours from OCAD, and was awarded placement with the Sir Edmund Walker foundation and the Friends of OCAD scholarship. She was also granted awards from the Zonta Club in Ottawa for promising young female artists. Her first show, sponsored by the Canadian Consulate in New York, was held at Tribes Gallery in Manhattan. She then went on to curate a multi-media 'squat' installation in a vacant Soho gallery. Miss Hatt finished a BFA from Concordia University in Montreal which has been her home base for the past 20 years.



It is as it is

ARTIST BIO & STATEMENT

My work is more often inspired by the everyday things that surround me: the air, the feel and smells of the materials I have in the kitchen, the plants in the backyard, the birds, and the squirrels as well as each of the mundane objects I may see and encounter during the day. My home is my studio and this domestic base provides the springboard for the rich and variable sources that continue to influence and inspire my work. By exploring these everyday materials through a variety of channels I am able to materially experience the passage of time – to explore its hidden sensibility – as it reveals the complexity of life and how we experience this through the minutia of everyday things. Above all, I learn to appreciate life as I am living it. The mystery of being is the most powerful and seductive element that propels my creativity.

Kai Chan graduated from Interior Design in Ontario College of Art in Toronto, 1970. Since 1972 he has had many solo and group exhibitions in Canada, United States, Europe, Japan and Australia. His solo exhibition, “Rainbow Lake”, organized by the Art Gallery of Mississauga, ON, in 2001, toured to seven cities in Canada. “Kai Chan, A Spider’s Logic - A 35 Year Retrospective Exhibition”, originated jointly by Varley Art Gallery of Markham and the Textile Museum of Canada in 2010. His work is in the collections of Museum of History, Gatineau, Qc; Museum London, ON; the Art Gallery of Sudbury; the Mendel Art Gallery, Saskatoon; the Canada Council Art Bank; Musee d’art de Baie Saint-Paul, Québec; Musée des Arts Decoratifs de Montréal; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston and Nordenfjeldske Kunstindustrimusem, Norway.



Star Rain



Black Rain