

FIGHT OR FLIGHT

JUNE 9 - JULY 9, 2021



VIRTUAL 3D ART EXHIBITION

Curated by Chrissy Cheung

Aaron Sidorenko
(Calgary)

Beth Pederson
(Edmonton)

Adrian Williams
(Berlin)

Craig Talbot
(Cardston)

Tom Cummins
(Vancouver)

Rafael Sottolichio
(Montreal)

Tim Rechner
(Edmonton)

PAINTER ∞
ARTS SOCIETY



Fight or Flight is an art exhibition that speaks about the global times we are in. The struggle of the psychological as well as a biological instinct within one intermixed feeling. Each artist undertook the challenge of applying this theme within a curated format.

This collection presents an array of art perspectives: from the narratives seen in Adrian Williams and Beth Pederson's work, to the contextual work of Tom Cummins', to the abstract expressionism in Tim Rechner and Craig Talbot's art, to a comic reference in Rafael Sottolichio's work — to the realism executed by Aaron Sidorenko. The exhibition adds new depth and meaning to a survival instinct inherent in us all.

The artist's geographical location accentuates their unique perspective. I know this tension is derived from context: city, rural, Canadian. In this array, I envision an audience that will intermittently favour some works over others, just like the *Fight or Flight* instinct. By doing so, it creates the impetus for discussion around our survival instinct rooted deep within.

— Chrissy Cheung, Curator



sketch drawings by Chrissy Cheung

Chrissy Cheung

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 www.observeroftime.com

Chrissy Cheung has been the curator for the Painter8 Arts Society since its inception. In this work, she combines her knowledge as an artist who has shown in more than 50 exhibitions internationally with a vision for new contexts in which art can be effectively realized.

As a curator, she has been on hand to supervise and represent each Painter8 exhibition. She worked in collaboration with Galerie Cité, La Cité Francophone (Edmonton), and ModArt Gallery (Miami) to present artists in cities that are new to them. She has been interviewed on CFRO 100.5 FM local Vancouver radio, Creators Vancouver, and Stir Vancouver.

Cheung is also a Vancouver-based artist. Her abstract contemporary paintings and drawings have been exhibited at the Market Art and Design Fair in Bridgehampton, New York, and the Reveal Art Fair in Saratoga Springs, New York, through ModArt Gallery (2019). Her work is part of the Ville de Montréal Collection, as well as private collections in Canada, USA, Denmark, and China.

She grew up in Toronto and became interested in art at the age of seven. She studied art at Concordia University, Montreal, completing her Bachelor of Fine Arts in 2000. In 2005, she fulfilled an artist residency at the Banff Centre. Cheung completed the Freebird mural in Vancouver's Chinatown (2019, now defunct) and, more recently, her work is featured at the Signature Richmond BC Mazda dealership. These projects exemplify Chrissy's increased focus on finding public-art contexts for her work.

PAINTER8 began unofficially 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 its members to directly challenge and problem solve specific concepts and ideas.

In 2018, Painter8 Arts Society became a registered not-for-profit arts society.

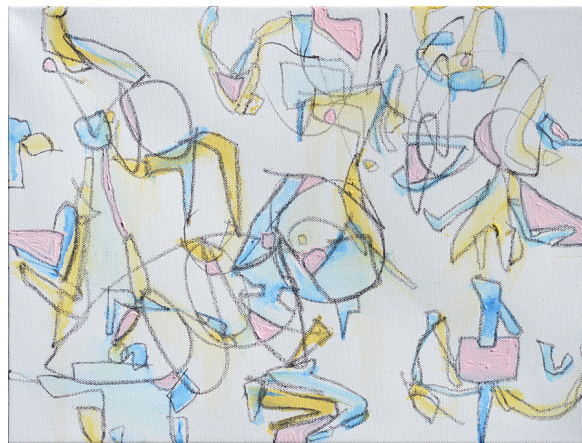
PAINTER8 has a dynamic evolving platform of the original founding artists and guest artists across Canada. They have exhibited in Vancouver, Miami, and New York.

Painter8 has made public art exhibitions since 2017 at Red Gate Arts Society, Theatre Conspiracy in Vancouver (2018), Charles Clark Gallery in Vancouver (2018), ModArt Gallery in Miami (2018) and Galerie Cité, La Cité, Francophone in Edmonton (2019-20).

If you missed the pre-show article written in *Creators Vancouver* : “Fight or Flight”: <https://creatorsvancouver.com/fight-or-flight/>



Tim Rechner grew up in Red Deer, Alberta, Canada. He has been living and creating artwork in Edmonton since 2001 after living in Vancouver, Halifax and Montreal. Over the past 20 years he has established himself as a very committed Edmonton visual artist and has been very involved in the Edmonton arts community. He has exhibited prolifically in the Edmonton region including solo shows at The Works Festival, Art Gallery of St. Albert, The Front Gallery, Harcourt House, ARTERY and numerous other venues. He has participated in many group exhibits at a variety of venues including multiple exhibits at The Art Gallery of Alberta, Latitude 53 and many other galleries. Tim Rechner is currently represented by Scott Gallery in Edmonton.



The End of the World, oil and graphite on canvas, 12" x 16"



The Sky, oil and graphite on canvas, 30" x 40"



Intense Dream, oil and graphite on canvas, 24" x 24"

Beth Pederson

 @cbethpedersonart

 bethpedersonart.com

Donkeys fight while horses take flight.

“Donkeys are not flight animals like horses, so you cannot easily scare them into certain action or behavior. This is usually the reason that people believe that donkeys are stubborn...If a donkey is unsure of where they're being led, it will stop and consider the situation before proceeding.”

donkeysanctuary.ca

From an early age, Beth enjoyed painting, drawing and creating things with whatever she found around her. Later in high school, Beth became interested in studying Fine Art and began her studies at MacEwan University where she earned a Fine Arts Diploma. Beth was determined to continue her studies 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.

Since graduating from NSCAD, Beth has continued to work as a practicing artist and has exhibited predominantly in the Edmonton area. Beth has participated in a several group shows in Edmonton and St. Albert, at both commercial galleries and artist-run centres. Her work is in many private collections in Alberta and is also in the public collection of the Alberta Foundation for the Arts.



Freeze, oil on canvas, 12" x 18"



My Donkey won't Move, oil and oil stick on canvas, 24" x 24"



Running Scared, oil on canvas, 24" x 24"

Craig Talbot

 @desertsabbatical

 www.painter8.ca/craig

“A Sacred Promise” (flight)

Bad decisions in relationships and the consequences of these decisions evoke a sense of fear, depression and anxiety within in me. I carry the weight of the negative feelings that surface from these fears and it effects me very deeply. In order to escape these feelings I decided to try and just stay out of relationships all together so I choose to run from theses situations these days, in the spirit of self-preservation.



A Sacred Promise, oil on canvas, 24” x 24”

Colour is a vehicle for Craig to articulate his symbolic language and to express his ideas, thoughts and emotions. Through the medium of paint, Craig creates a personal iconography, represented most clearly by the text that is often present in his work. Anticipation, obsession, illness, tragedy, catharsis, humour, irony and pain are what motivate Talbot to create work that contains deep personal meaning

Talbot has lived in several cities across Canada and the US. One of the most important periods in Craig’s life was his time in Albuquerque, New Mexico 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. 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.



You Remember Your Birth When you Die, graphite, pencil crayon on paper, 12” x 16”



Fetal, oil on canvas, 24” x 24”

Aaron Sidorenko

 @aaronsidorenko

 aaronsidorenko.ca

I'm a nevernude. Not because I hate the sight of my naked body. I'm not sure why but I fear exhibited personal nudity. I was hoping to meditate on this whilst painting having to look at my photo reference of my self nude. I have no conclusions to my phobia and I am ok with that. We don't have to slay every dragon that's in our path. Simply go around. ...that and the Zorn palette, never before and never again!

Truth can have beauty but doesn't have to be pretty.

Aaron chases the former with paint, his preferred medium. Dealing in figurative and portraiture as subject as sole interest, has recently been pursuing unseen attempts in narrative. A narrative that is more suggested than dictated to hopeful viewings/viewers. Personal growth in doing. Distraction is all we do in life and I thought I'd help.



Naughty Rainbow Study, Zorn palette on panel, 12" x 16"



Kananaskis flourish, acrylic on wood, 24"x" 24

On this piece is an attempt to take garish and or gimmicky colours and pigments and see if I can represent the harsh wild of the deep Rockies. In a push towards abstraction, a fertile ground that I find very hard to navigate in without the greatest of fights.



Jab Shot, oil/acrylic/pigment powder, 12" x 16"

Tom Cummins

 www.painter8.ca/tom

Much Like Your Own
Constructed Significance:

Triptych questioning the
temporal quality of the
fasteners used to underpin
our own existence, what
fight?



Much like your Own Constructed Significance, sculpture

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.



To Each Are Given, sculpture

To Each Are Given: or 'There is no Spoon' Juxtaposing artifacts of the human condition, deteriorated tools designed to hold together some construction of reality vs the drug-fueled escapism of that same reality, fight and flight.

Burnout: a method of protecting wood through burning or charring to increase its resilience. The giving up of oneself in order to protect oneself, fight through flight.



Burnout/ Self Preservation, sculpture

Adrian Williams

 williamsadrian.com

“Thematically this is obviously a rich and globally historic moment upon which to contemplate the instinctive fear responses: fight, flight or freeze. Introspection on the matter was helpful.

Formally speaking, I found myself particularly concerned with light and texture.”

Adrian Williams is a graduate of the University of Manitoba (Winnipeg, Canada). He was one of the original members of the Royal Art Lodge and have spent time producing work in Montreal, Toronto, Los Angeles and Berlin.

His work is generally drawing-based, often incorporating elements of collage, print, varnish and other miscellaneous material. On an extended return to Winnipeg Adrian was re-introduced to printmaking through Martha Street Studios. He tends toward narrative imagery and subject matter: the philosophical, the despondent the amusing... etc. Other creative forays include broken down homemade musical recordings.



Shreds, stamp ink, pen, collage on book paper, 9” x 16”



Windows, acrylic, ink, collage on paper, 68cm x 49cm



Curtains, acrylic, collage on paper, 24” x 24”

Rafael Sottolichio

 @rafaelsottolichio

 rafaelsottolichio.com

“Inspired by those famous Asterix fighting scenes, with stars, movement and dust, the Alarum series uses old war paintings as backgrounds for these post-modern war paintings.”

Rafael Sottolichio was born in Santiago, Chile, and arrived in Canada in Montreal in 1975. He participated in several exhibitions: at Galerie Lacerte Art Contemporain in Quebec and Montreal, at Galerie Orange and in the Maison de la culture Frontenac and Plateau-Mont-Royal in Montreal, at Eyelevel gallery in Halifax, in the Musée Regional de Rimouski, in the Centre Expression of Saint-Hyacinthe, as well as in the National Exhibition Center of Jonquière. His works are part of numerous public collections: Colart Collection, Burnet, Duckworth & Palmer, Interinvest, Art for Healing Foundation, TD collection, Collection Loto-Québec, SSQ Groupe Financier, Fédération des Caisses Desjardins, Progressive Art Collection, Ohio.

Painting in a realist style, his subject matter centers around the portrait genre, where he explores the relationship between the individual and his difficult connection to reality.

“The Empire project comes from a desire to address the issues of money and power in world culture as well as local culture and how it impacts the way artists work. It is an obvious fact for me that recent art history can be interpreted as the result of large empires justifying their importance through culture. I plan to explore the different elements that constitute painting history’s relation to money and power.”



Le guide spirituel, acrylic on board, 24” x 24”



Alarum no.2, watercolour and gouache on paper, 14” x 20”