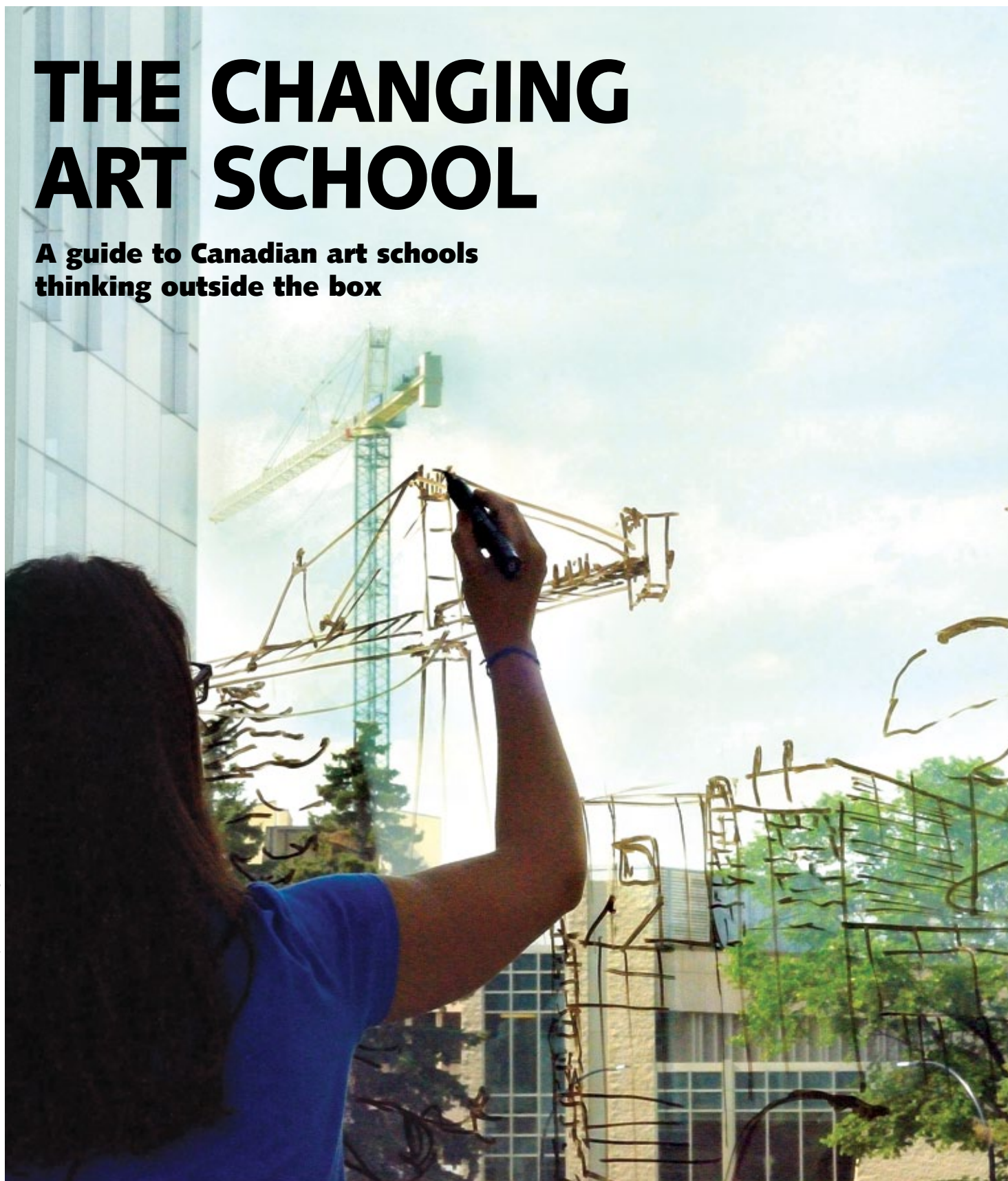


THE CHANGING ART SCHOOL

**A guide to Canadian art schools
thinking outside the box**

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY | Isabel Porto, *Perceptual Drawing* | PHOTO ANDERSON GARCIA





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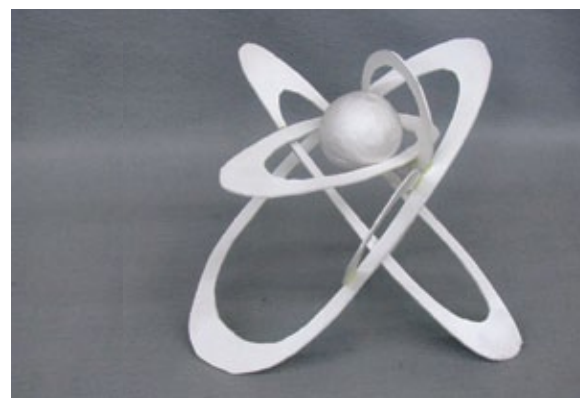
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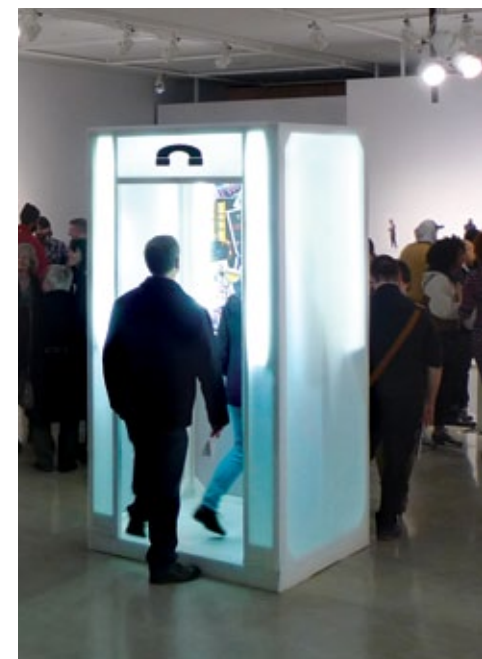
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5

THE CHANGING ART SCHOOL

**New materials, new technologies,
new pedagogies, new collaborators.**

Art schools are changing. It is both unavoidable and exciting. Since Canada's first art schools opened in the late 1800s, they have seen sweeping shifts—from traditional beaux-arts education to abstraction, and later to transitions in media, technology and doctrines of making.

The art school of the 21st century is now by necessity an interdisciplinary one. Considering students as collaborators in their own education is an emerging trend in programs ranging across the country, from Emily Carr University's Faculty of Culture and Community to the University of Windsor's Visual Arts and the Built Environment. Art schools in Canada are also honing their programs, with community partnerships at institutions such as the Yukon School of Visual Arts, new facilities at the likes of Mount Allison University and expanded notions of what art-history programs might offer in the form of curatorial and administrative streams nationwide. Students face vast options and emerging technologies, and increasingly have access to digital tinkering and research labs in environments like Concordia's Hexagram Centre or Ryerson's Maker Space. In this Smart Guide, we navigate the shifting territory of the new art-school experience.

THE WORKS FEATURED IN THIS GUIDE ARE THE RESULT OF ASSIGNMENTS COMPLETED BY CURRENT STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADUATES.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:

1. **UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA** Julia Anne Leach, *Untitled/Following The Path Of Reverie Into An Unreal World*
2. **RYERSON UNIVERSITY** Jeffrey Leung, *Symbiosis* (detail)
3. **UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA** Toni Hall, *[EMP]licit Rhythm*
4. **YUKON SCHOOL OF VISUAL ARTS** Rian Lougheed-Smith, *Untitled (Ice Drawing)*
5. **SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY** Installation view of "OTHER WORLDS: SFU Visual Arts' Collaborative Experiment," with work by Interstellar Communications Consortium
6. **OCAD UNIVERSITY** The Indigenous Visual Culture Program's annual public powwow
7. **UNIVERSITY OF WINDSOR** First-year boundary and space sculpture assignment
8. **MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY** Maria Mercer, *Found Typefaces of Chicago: Leech*

Instructors from coast to coast define their practices

Jackson 2Bears
UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA



"I try to break down the traditional relationship between instructor and student by approaching my courses as a creative studio environment, where we are learning together and each bringing in our own backgrounds. I encourage students to speak not only to tradition, but also to their experiences as contemporary individuals."

PHOTO CORY ARONEC

Dominique Rey
UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA



"Many of the studios I work with bridge the gap between photography and performance art, exploring the truth of photographic media and ideas of theatricality. Right off the top, students are being immersed in contemporary art and in Winnipeg's art community. They get the sense that there's something at stake in these classes and are willing to take risks."

Diane Borsato
UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH



"Undergraduate students often come to an art program familiar with traditional media like painting and drawing. An area like Extended Practices introduces them to ways of realizing their ideas in a wider range of media, using an expanded set of conceptual strategies and technical tools available to them."

Joanna Berzowska
CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY



"We're training artists and designers to work with the technological realities four or five years from now, when they graduate. We don't purely teach our students technology; we teach them they can take many different approaches to a design situation. We invite them to challenge the future of art and design, to think of technology as an integral part of that future."

PHOTO RONALD BOSHMAN

Alumni and Instructor at the New Brunswick College of Craft and Design, Melissa LeBlanc is a clay sculptor that lives and works in Fredericton, NB.

"I've always wanted to be an artist and my three years at NBCCD has given me the tools and the guidance to achieve that dream. Be it in the studio or in business."

Melissa's work can be found at the Jonathon Bancroft-Snell Gallery in London, Ontario and on her Facebook page: Melissa LeBlanc Pottery



The New Brunswick College of Craft and Design

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Recently designated a provincial centre of artistic and creative excellence, the New Brunswick College of Craft and Design (NBCCD) continues to build on a 75-year heritage in visual arts education.

Located in Fredericton, a Cultural Capital of Canada, NBCCD is distinguished by its sole focus on fine craft and design. NBCCD features a range of programs, which include Aboriginal Visual Arts, Ceramics, Digital Media, Fashion Design, Graphic Design, Jewellery/ Metal Arts, Photography, Textile Design and more.

The College also has an articulated Bachelor of Applied Arts degree offered by the University of New Brunswick. NBCCD offers a hands on approach in linking students with faculty mentors to foster advanced research and gain professional experience. Programs focus on entrepreneurial skill development and guides students in developing a professional body of work.

At NBCCD, Canadian and international students benefit from affordable tuition and living expenses, small class sizes, a campus library store, fully equipped craft studios and state-of-the-art computer labs. The College attracts world class faculty who are practicing professionals in their field. Students regularly win regional and national recognition as artists and designers. The faculty, diverse student body, and outstanding facilities make the College an inspiring and supportive learning environment.

The College's campus is located in the heart of downtown Fredericton on Queen Street, which was recently designated Canada's Best Street for its diversity. Queen Street is the centre of the historic and cultural downtown area. Nearby bookstores, boutiques, cafés, and art galleries create an eclectic environment rich in both character and history.

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Maryanne Casasanta (MFA 14), *Half the Day is Night*, 22"x16", Digital Print, 2013

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Marlon Griffith
Song of the Sun, 2013
(Nagoya, Japan)
Photo: Akiko Oto

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Peter von Tiesenhausen 2013
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James Carl 2006
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2012, oil on canvas, 60 by 72 inches (detail)

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Photographed on the occasion of *Pull*, a performance by Mary Mattingly commissioned by the Blackwood Gallery. Image courtesy of the Artist.

Visual Studies
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
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Dana Claxton, Assistant Professor, in her studio
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1

Atlantic

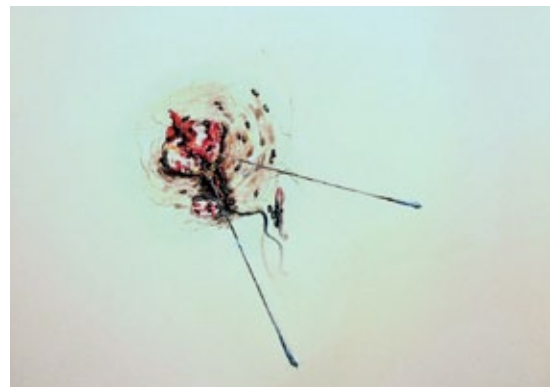
MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY

Memorial University of Newfoundland's Grenfell campus in Corner Brook boasts a small and rigorous program, anchored in tradition but with a focus on expanding student practices. "While we define our courses by traditional media," says professor Marlene MacCallum, "faculty really encourage bringing in additional media. In my print-making courses, I try to prompt students to look at contemporary print technologies and an expanded definition of print." Students entering their studies at Grenfell take three studio courses in their foundation year, including 3-D design, where they have the opportunity to investigate contemporary media such as performance and video. By third year, students are actively investigating expanded practices and developing broader independent bodies of work. Grenfell campus has a strong reputation for supporting students in its distance-education programs, including the yearly 12-week intensive trip to MUN's Harlow campus in the UK, which offers a hybrid approach to art-history and studio practice. The Memorial University Career Enhancement program also gives students opportunities to hone their research skills by assisting and collaborating with Grenfell faculty and practicing artists.



3

2



1. MUN student Maria Mercer processes a lithographic plate during a group research trip to the Centre for Book and Paper Arts at Columbia College in Chicago
2. Trish Hondzel, *Scope*
3. Lisa Theriault, installation view of *Manufactory*

▲ MOUNT ALLISON UNIVERSITY

Mount Allison University, in Sackville, New Brunswick, opened the doors to its new arts building, the Purdy Crawford Centre for the Arts, in October 2014. The new building means a productive overlap in physical and theoretical space between disciplines such as fine arts and drama. In the BFA program, Mount Allison students take a foundation year of introductory courses, followed by courses in a variety of media in later years. By fourth year, the program eschews media-specific courses and asks students to develop individual project-based courses in consultation with faculty members.

▲ NSCAD UNIVERSITY

True to its origins as a multimedia university with a strong focus on conceptual and craft practices, NSCAD offers programs in textiles, intermedia, jewellery, digital design, textiles and film. First-year students complete a foundation year that exposes them to various disciplines before they choose a specialization. However, the majority of NSCAD students graduate with an interdisciplinary BFA. Post-BFA, the school offers a selection of certificate programs, including education for teachers looking to strengthen their art skills, as well as master's programs in craft, design and fine and media arts.

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1

1. Concordia's Laptop Orchestra rehearses with the Concordia contemporary ensemble
2. UBishop's art students collaborating with engineering and technical-vocation students on the cauldron design for the 2013 Canada Games
3. Evelynne Roberge, *Cyborg*



2

Quebec

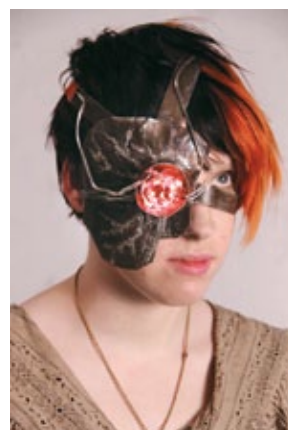
CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

▲ “What Concordia’s programs have in common,” says Design and Computation Arts professor Joanna Berzowska, “is a high-level conceptual approach.” Because Quebec students have had the chance to prepare for their art-school experience through CEGEP, Concordia does not require students to take foundation-year courses upon entry into its studio-arts program. In other streams, such as Computation Arts, students take a set of introductory theory and computer-programming courses, while in Design, first-year students become familiar with 2-D and 3-D design, including screen-based work. In upper years, students pursue more project-centred work. “We teach them to work both as individuals and in a very multidisciplinary way. We encourage this approach of developing large productions and working in teams,” explains Berzowska.

Concordia’s state-of-the-art facilities, including the Hexagram Centre for Research-Creation in Media Arts and Technologies, offer undergraduate students the opportunity to work with technology they would not otherwise have access to—including 3-D printing, rapid prototyping, laser cutters and computer-controlled looms. Art students also have the chance to collaborate with colleagues in engineering and computer science through the Technoculture, Art and Games research centre.

▲ BISHOP’S UNIVERSITY

Bishop’s University in Sherbrooke opts to provide its students with a functional and versatile BA rather than a strictly studio BFA, advocating that students find practical applications for their art skills after graduation. After taking a stable of entry-level courses, students have the opportunity to pursue more advanced courses in traditional or new media, with the encouragement to collaborate with each other and with peers in other disciplines. Within the division of the humanities, Bishop’s also offers courses and practicums in arts administration.



3

◀ DAWSON COLLEGE

Dawson College offers two pre-university programs through Quebec’s CEGEP system: a general studio-arts program and an intensive visual-arts program. Both programs have offered new-media courses for just over a decade, and prime their students to go on to university with a strong foundation in creative thinking and the technical aspects of art, design and digital media.

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1. Zaid Edghaim, *Here Here*
2. Digital-media student Lex Moakler helps to assemble *Quasar 2.0: Star Incubator*, an installation by York digital-media professor Mark-David Hosale in collaboration with Los Angeles architect and artist Jean Michel Crettaz
3. OCAD U Criticism and Curatorial Practice grad Tara Bursey installing her thesis show, *Father Knowledge, Mother Tongue*

1

2

RYERSON UNIVERSITY

▲ In Ryerson University's New Media program, students start with common courses in audio and video design and introductions to digital media and new-media history. "Rather than a standard foundation year," says Steve Daniels, director of Ryerson's New Media program, "we try to give students a first taste of programming computers and introduce them to audience as a participant in the work."

In second and third year, students pursue a more malleable art-making practice, exploring physical computing, game development and embodiment and performance. The thesis year culminates in a show of student works, which Daniels describes as "an opportunity to come back into a collaborative space." Collaboration runs deep in Ryerson's program, where students and faculty work side by side in core production facilities designed as a 24/7 maker space equipped with all the tools of the trade.



▲ YORK UNIVERSITY

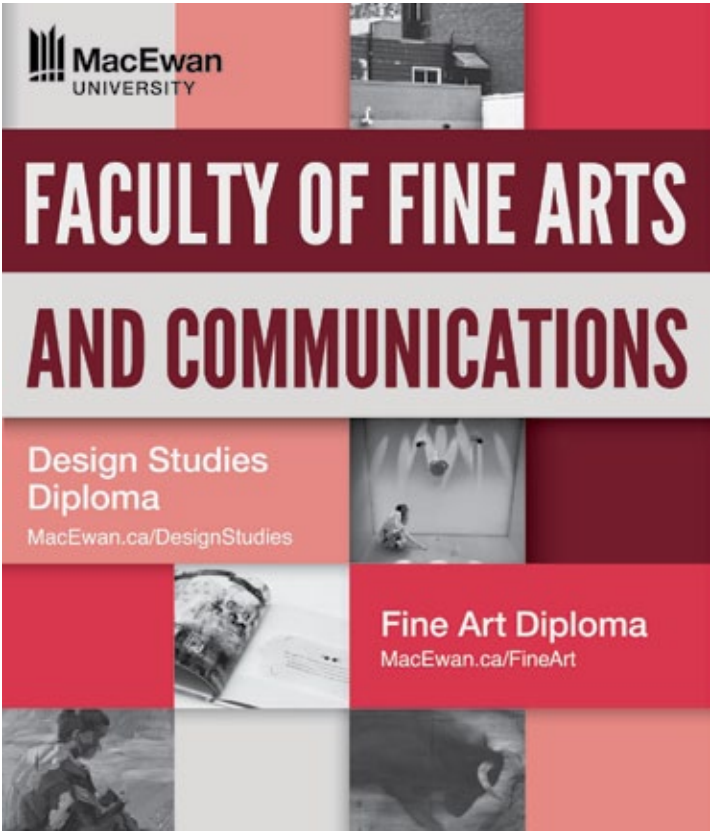
York has recently restructured its fine-arts program, renaming it the School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design. Along with the name change comes a renewed engagement with cross-disciplinary thinking, through programs like the joint digital-media bachelor's degree (offered since 2012 as a departmental collaboration between computer science, engineering and visual arts) and the joint MFA/MBA program at the graduate level.

◀ OCAD UNIVERSITY

Students at OCAD U have an enormous breadth of unique and tailored programs to choose from. The university offers programs in Digital Painting and Expanded Animation, Integrated Media and Digital Futures, equipped with facilities like the Social Body Lab, founded in 2010 to provide workspace for wearable tech. For interdisciplinary-minded students, OCAD U offers degrees in Indigenous Visual Culture, Criticism and Curatorial Practice, Environmental Design and a minor in Art and Social Change.

3

Toronto



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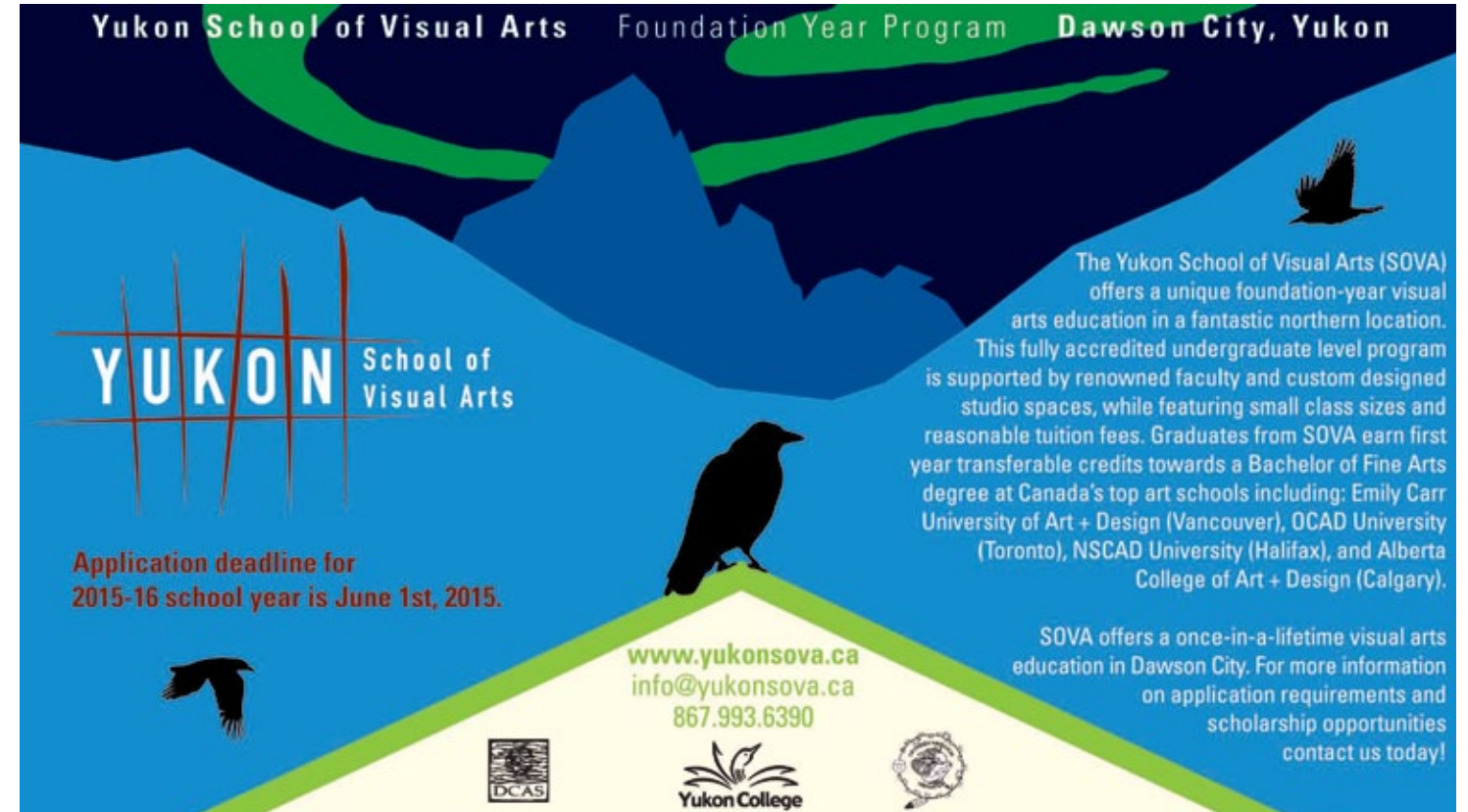
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IMAGE: DARK LIGHT BY PATRYK STASIECZEK, MAA 2014



1

Toronto continued

SHERIDAN COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, MISSISSAUGA CAMPUS

◀ University of Toronto Mississauga and Oakville's Sheridan College offer two joint programs: Art and Art History, and Visual Culture and Communication. In these programs, students take advantage of the rigorous academic environment at UTM and the high-tech studio facilities at Sheridan, Canada's largest art school.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, ST. GEORGE CAMPUS

In the Visual Studies program, students benefit from the department's new home in the John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design. The Honours Bachelor of Arts provides instruction in studio practice combined with critical discourse involving all aspects of contemporary visual art. Also on offer is the elite 2-year Master of Visual Studies program.

1. Ali Jazayeri and Mason Waterworth participating in Sheridan's first joint hack-a-thon between the Game and Interaction Design programs

2. Gallery Practices students at the exhibition "Imagine: Sustainability, Community, Engagement"

3. Simon M. Benedict, *I Don't Understand Why This Hasn't Gone Viral Yet*



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Ontario

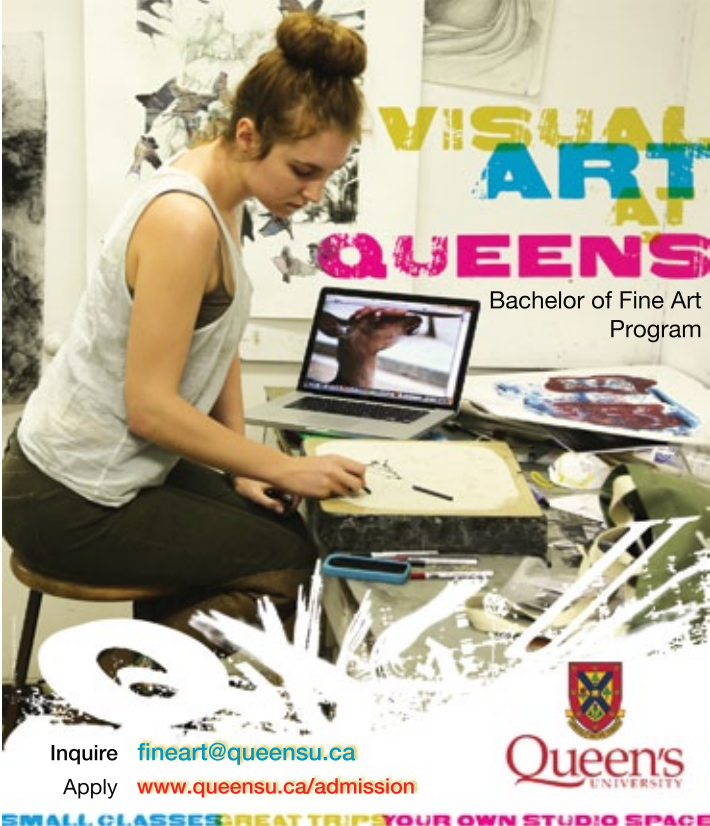
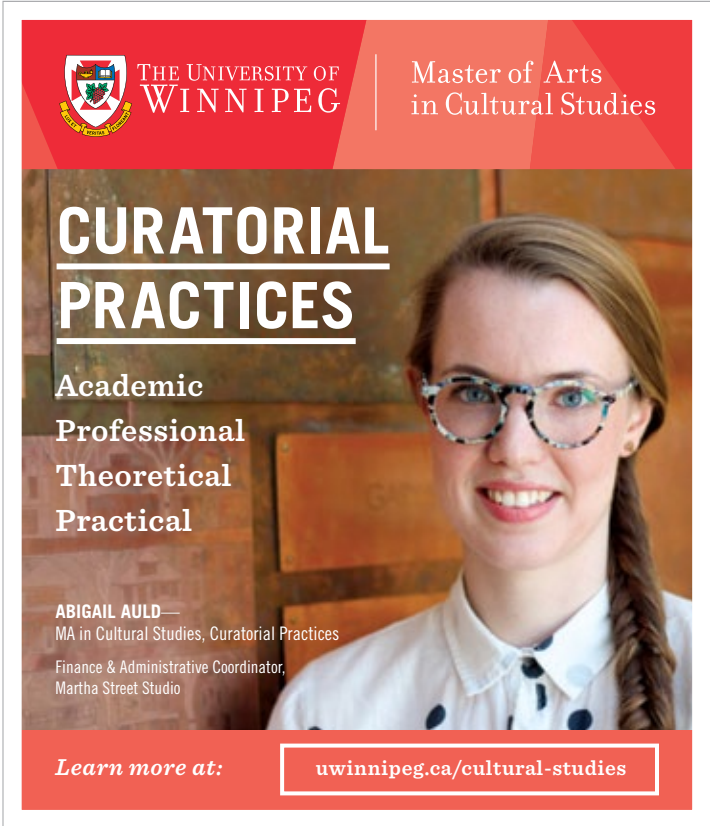
UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

▼ "Extended Practices is an area that acknowledges very social, site-responsive and multidisciplinary ways of working," explains professor Diane Borsato. Students can cultivate a strong foundation in video, performance, installation and site-specific practices in the Extended Practices stream in Guelph's studio-art program. Guelph students complete an Honours BA, rather than a BFA, so its program inherently encourages courses in multiple disciplines to supplement learning in studio courses. Alongside traditional media and Extended Practices, Guelph's offerings include courses in subjects such as interactive multimedia and computer graphics.

Guelph's program has grown by leaps and bounds. "Fifteen years ago," says Extended Practices coordinator and professor Laurel Woodcock, "the area had only a couple courses. Now it has four levels and a special-topics course once a year." Within that time, renovations to the historic Zavitz and Alexander Halls have also made Guelph home to top-notch studio and teaching facilities.



3





UNIVERSITY OF WINDSOR

▲ At the cross-border University of Windsor and University of Detroit Mercy Visual Arts and the Built Environment program, “we try to get students to think about space with an artistic point of view,” says program coordinator and professor Veronika Mogyorod. The joint program offers an art-intensive first year, with the majority of courses at University of Windsor. In second year, on top of courses split between Windsor and Detroit, students embark on architectural-research trips to cities including Philadelphia, Chicago and Boston. In third year, after assembling an architecture portfolio, students may choose to complete a BA or BFA at Windsor, or enter directly into Detroit’s BSc in architecture. “We think of art and architecture as sister arts,” explains Mogyorod. It shows: VABE is currently in the process of retrofitting a former armoury in downtown Detroit to serve as the program’s new home in 2016.

1. Students at University of Windsor’s VABE program collaborate on building a structure
2. Guillermo Trejo, *Monument one*
3. A Haliburton student at work in the glassblowing studio

Ontario



▲ UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA

Students pursuing a BFA at the University of Ottawa will want to take advantage of its diverse course offerings, including time-based art, museum studies, curating for contemporary art and arts administration. A fourth-year apprenticeship class also lets students hone their skills in the workforce as assistants to established arts professionals. For students with a computing background, Ottawa offers a diploma in Modelling and Animation for Computer Game Technology at the graduate level.

◀ HALIBURTON SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

At Haliburton School of the Arts, students can immerse themselves in specialized fields of artistic practice, from glassblowing to jewellery to digital-image design, all in fully equipped studios. In 2015, the school launches a four-month intensive course for recent graduates and professional artists. In the Museum Management and Curatorship post-grad program, students harness their skills in the hands-on environment of the Peterborough Museum and Archives.

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"Copa" (detail) photography by Ryan Dawson, BFA, 2014



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1

Manitoba

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

▲ Within the past four years, the entire undergraduate program in Studio Art at the University of Manitoba has been revamped, alongside the recently purpose-built ARTlab facility. “It’s shifted from a traditional model to an interdisciplinary one,” says professor Dominique Rey. “We’re constantly sharing with our students, exposing them to international art, writing practices, discourse and theory really early on.” At U of M, rather than taking foundation courses in specific media, students engage with many different media in their first year. “They gain the understanding of the fact that the contemporary model for art is an interdisciplinary one.” Students take an interdisciplinary critique course in their second year, and are continually being exposed to more. Across media, faculty are invited to submit proposals for new courses on an ongoing basis. “It’s really dynamic,” says Rey. “Students have a rich offering.”

► UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

Though the University of Winnipeg does not offer a studio-art program, their art-history program builds on a solid reputation for both community engagement and academic rigour. At the undergraduate level, the university offers a practicum-based art-history course in curating, and expands on this commitment at the graduate level with a Curatorial Practices MA in Cultural Studies. According to professor and co-coordinator Serena Keshavjee, “the Curatorial Practices program focuses on Winnipeg’s strength as a creative hub. We make use of the curatorial talent in the city.” Guest lectures by the likes of artist Rebecca Belmore and Winnipeg Art Gallery curator Stephen Borys support the school’s blend of practical and theoretical education.

3

Saskatchewan

▼ UNIVERSITY OF REGINA

At the University of Regina, students entering the art program have the option of pursuing a BFA in Art Studio or Creative Technologies. The Art Studio program offers courses ranging from intermedia to contemporary Indigenous art, while the Creative Technologies program caters to students eager to integrate design, computing, interactivity and media theory into a broad base of applications from music to art to theatre production. Both programs offer professional placement options for senior students.

2



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

“There’s a heightened interest in the digital at U of S,” says professor Susan Shantz. “Likely, it’s due to digital processes and how these connect to nontraditional studio practices.” Traditional media remains U of S’s strong suit, but two new interdisciplinary programs are giving students the chance to link art production to the broader campus. A joint BA/BSc in Integrated Systems Design offers students an opportunity to work at the intersection of computer science, art and psychology, while a minor in Digital Culture and New Media marries art, English and sociology.



1. Kristiane Church, *Julie*
2. Sylvia Ziemann, installation view of “Carnival at the end of the World”
3. Visiting artist Rebecca Belmore discussing her work for the Canadian Museum of Human Rights with art-history students at U of W
PHOTO KIM MOORE



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Top: Denis Gadbois, *Undergraduate Painting Studio*, panoramic photo, 2013.



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Kirby Tobin, BFA program

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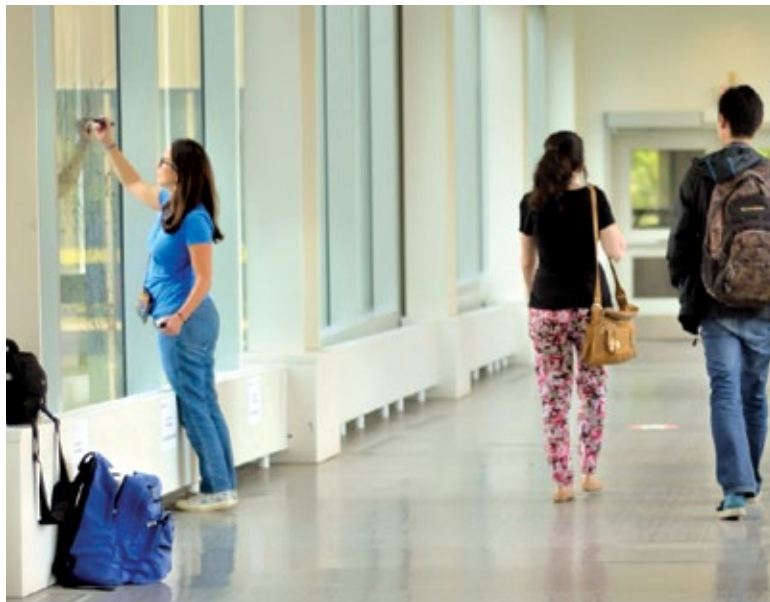
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▼ UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE

At Lethbridge, students are given ample opportunity to apply their art skills across platforms. In 2014, Lethbridge began offering a BFA in Native American Art, building on a strong relationship with the department of Native American Studies and Lethbridge's First Nations community. Students in that program can pursue a Museum Studies major, which is also available to all BFA students. The technology-oriented can take advantage of a combined bachelor's program in New Media and Management, with access to digital media and fabrication labs.

Alberta

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

“One of the areas where we've had the most growth in curriculum over the past four years has been in areas broadly related to digital and media art,” says professor Brian Rusted. “That covers everything from history of design or history of video games to programming and computer courses that deal with things like character development, net-based art and video art.” At the foundation level, University of Calgary includes two mandatory media-arts classes in the BFA program, with options to pursue directed studies in 3-D modelling and the intersection of art and computer science in upper years. U of C's art department also features a minor in Museum and Heritage Studies, which has been in operation since the mid-'90s. “Art-history and studio-art students have a long involvement,” Rusted explains. “We think it's invaluable for students to have a sense of the institutions that exhibit their work. As studio practitioners and emerging artists, it's important for them to engage with that. A student who does a BFA with a minor in Museum Studies has a broader set of options.”

Yukon

▼ YUKON SCHOOL OF VISUAL ART

At Yukon SOVA, students are quickly exposed to areas such as new media and performance through a 4-D class. After completing the one-year program, students leave equipped with all the requirements needed to transfer into the second year of a BFA at institutions across Canada. “In addition to encouraging conceptual work,” says program chair Curtis Collins, “we also make it connected to our place in the country.” Students get to experience Yukon's land and community, with partners like the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation and the Dawson City Arts Society.



3

1. Isabel Porto at work on *Perceptual Drawing*
PHOTO ANDERSON GARCIA
2. Andrée Bélanger,
What's Wrong?
3. Lethbridge student using
a computer and Wacom
tablet to complete
a digital artwork.



2

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Sandra Brownlee, BFA 1971

Winner 2014 Saidye Bronfman Award | Governor General's Awards in Visual and Media Arts, funded and administered by the Canada Council

British Columbia

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

University of Victoria is home to several cutting-edge programs and facilities, including the fully stocked Studios for Integrated Media (SIM). Students are invited to embrace collaborative programs such as the combined major in visual arts and computer science, and seek out relevant work experience in the Humanities, Fine Arts and Professional Writing co-op program.

Pedagogically, the school excels at pushing boundaries, with its outstanding visiting professorship program. The Audain Professorship in Contemporary Art Practice of the Pacific Northwest has hosted notable Indigenous artists as short-term faculty, including Rebecca Belmore, Nicolas Galanin and Michael Nicol Yahgulanaas. Jackson 2Bears, the first Audain Professor to be invited back for a second term, describes the experience of his seminars as one of “working alongside and close to students.” “What I bring to the class,” he says, “is my background in digital media and an Indigenous perspective. But I want to create a space where a student with a background in painting, or a student with a different cultural background, can engage with material from wherever they’re coming from. There’s a sense of community, and I want to make ties outside visual arts.”



1

1. Abigail Laycock, *Foldout*

2. Student using a Cintiq tablet in an animation studio at Emily Carr
3. First-year students participate in the “Campus Project” at SFU

2



3



▲ SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

In SFU's BFA program, areas such as sound and moving image are integrated as core courses, starting in first year. The program features a balance of theoretically based and production-driven courses, as well as open-concept studios for students to engage in artmaking alongside one another, regardless of specialization. SFU also boasts a Visual Culture and Performance Studies department, which combines theatre, performance art, dance and cinema. At the graduate level, students pursue an MFA in Interdisciplinary Studies with colleagues from other disciplines.

▲ EMILY CARR UNIVERSITY OF ART + DESIGN

The comprehensive art and design offerings at Emily Carr extend into multiple faculties, each with a particular specialization. In the faculty of Communication and Culture, students interested in relational and participatory approaches can pursue majors in Critical and Cultural Practices or Social Practice and Community Engagement. In the faculty of Design and Dynamic Media, a four-year Interactive and Social Media Arts program examines critical new-media practices. ISMA students explore social media and interactive technologies as agents of positive social change.

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Avery Nabata, Nathaniel Wong, 2014

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Hot Jobs

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1. Stephen McLeod



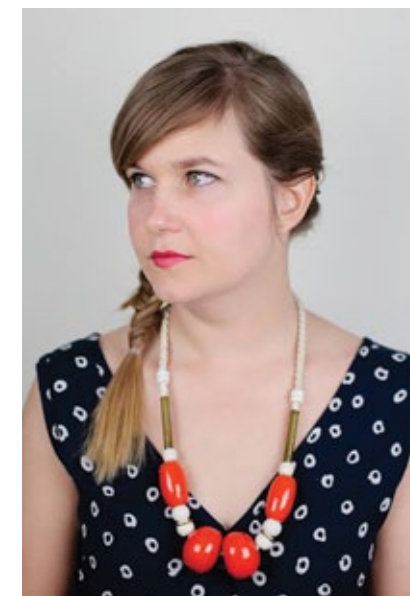
3. Layne Hinton



4. Jordan Bennett



5. Yi Xin Tong



6. Chelsea Boos



7. Michael Peterson

1. Stephen McLeod: Artist, web developer and part-time professor at Sheridan College

"I fell into art through modifying video games," says Stephen McLeod. "I never realized that being who I am now was even possible." Studying at Guelph, the self-described nerd took advantage of the art program's openness to pepper his studio education with courses in philosophy and computer science. On top of his own art practice and his collaborative work with Toronto's VSVS, McLeod now freelances as a web developer and teaches Interaction Design at Sheridan College. "It's all about how to use code creatively," McLeod explains. "I'm interested in thinking about the issues that technology brings up in my everyday life, and questions that I can pose to my students that are near to my heart."

2. Amélie Proulx: Ceramic artist and educator

In 2013, Amélie Proulx found a share of the limelight as the winner of the RBC Emerging Artist People's Choice Award. While pursuing her BFA at Concordia, Proulx became interested in the acoustic and kinetic properties of ceramics, prompting her to devour courses in micro-controller programming and mechanics as she began an MFA at NSCAD in 2008. Now, as an instructor who has taught at Concordia and CEGEPs in Quebec City, Proulx says, "My experience as a student taught me the language of different materials. My goal is always to facilitate my students' learning experience by encouraging them to develop a rigorous studio practice based on strong technical skills."

3. Layne Hinton: Artist and co-curator, Art Spin

Upon graduation from OCAD U in 2013, Layne Hinton was on to great things. She received the InterAccess Media Arts Award, which granted her access to workshops, gear, curatorial mentorship and space for her to hone her studio practice. But by that point, she'd also established herself as an ambitious curator. "My background as an artist influences Art Spin," says Hinton, who co-organizes the wildly successful cross-Toronto bicycle art tour. "It gives me and my co-curator, Rui Pimenta, a chance to create opportunities for other artists that we would want for ourselves: to create things like large and site-specific artworks in unconventional spaces."

4. Jordan Bennett: Artist and filmmaker

"Studying at Grenfell, we had a lot of great Indigenous artists come through who really showed how I could create work to help share my knowledge," says Jordan Bennett,

one of Newfoundland's representatives for the 2015 Venice Biennale. He completed his BFA at MUN's Grenfell campus in 2008, and soon got the chance to pay it forward, showing across Canada and serving as the first Indigenous artist-in-residence at U of A in 2012. He describes his newest film installation, a collaboration with imagineNATIVE and the NFB, as "rooted in my own experience of ice fishing." For the Venice-bound work, Bennett sought out local artists and family to collaborate with: "It's an immersive experience and a way to showcase the talent that comes out of Newfoundland."

5. Yi Xin Tong: Artist and sound performer

After two years of studying geology in Beijing, Yi Xin Tong realized that art, more than science, was what he wanted to devote his time to. He dropped out and began a BFA at SFU. Perhaps paradoxically, upon graduation, his geology-influenced work earned him the BMO 1st! Art prize for British Columbia in 2012. He has since completed his MFA at NYU, currently performs with the music project Siwen Saodi and creates large site-specific installations. "I travel to unfamiliar places without bringing any material," says Tong. "This lets me create work I can never foreknow."

6. Chelsea Boos: Artist and co-founder, the Drawing Room

While studying at the University of Alberta, Chelsea Boos craved interdisciplinarity. "I was doing a Bachelor of Design, but I took a healthy dose of art classes, too—that was the beginning of things for me," she recalls. After graduating, she launched her design practice, Foolscape Studio, and began building urban interventions. In 2013, she co-founded the Drawing Room, a co-working space and alternative salon gallery spurred on by "Edmonton's punk, DIY, ask-for-forgiveness-later aesthetic. I want to give artists and cultural producers space to experiment and explore dissenting ideas."

7. Michael Peterson: Gallerist and entrepreneur

"Oddly enough, studying math made it possible for me to keep working in the arts," says Michael Peterson, co-owner of Void, a commercial gallery space for emerging artists in Saskatoon. After completing a BFA in 2009, he returned to U of S to finish a BSc. Eventually, he began designing websites for galleries and organizing exhibitions in storefront spaces. By 2012, he and two business partners had opened Void. "We want to create an opportunity for emerging artists to get a sales history, but we also want to get young people collecting," he explains. "We don't show work we couldn't buy." ■

"I started paying attention to these sounds—often only known by ceramicists—then I recorded and amplified them to integrate in sculptures."

— Amélie Proulx




2. Amélie Proulx

PHOTO ETIENNE DIONNE

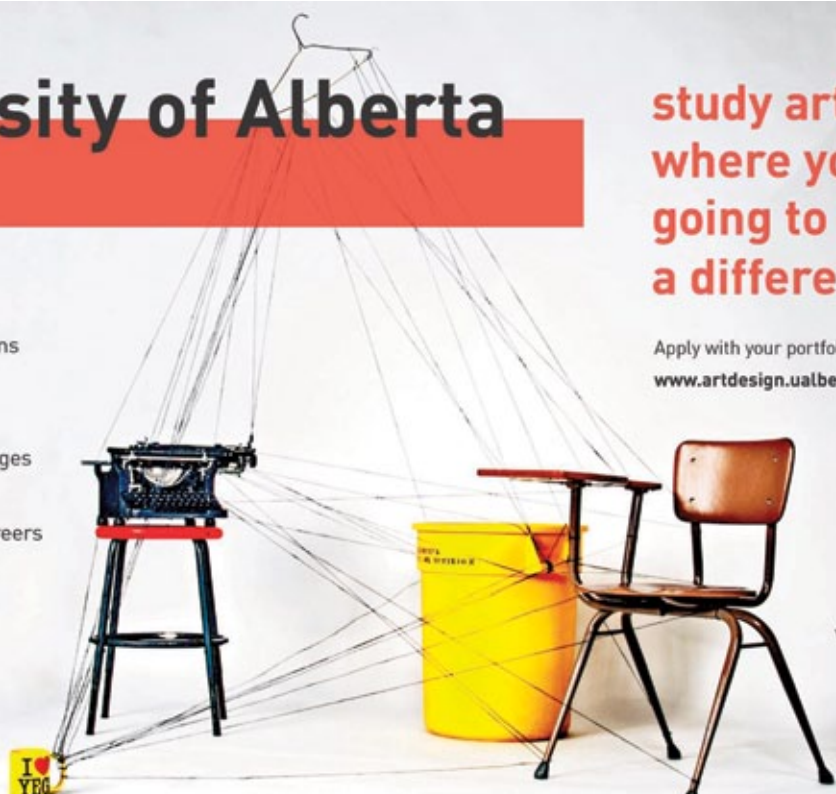
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