

Arts Council of Surrey presents

ARTS 2023

A JURIED EXHIBITION OF VISUAL ART

SURREY ART GALLERY

May 20–August 13



ARTS COUNCIL OF SURREY PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

The Arts Council of Surrey is very proud to present the *ARTS 2023* annual juried art competition. This is now our 39th year. We have received a large number of submissions from local artists and throughout the province. This exhibit showcases a wide diversity of art mediums and themes. It is a very important exhibition for young and emerging artists in all five different categories.

Art is a vital part of our day to day lives and brings us joy, making us think, feel and see the many different aspects of our world from different perspectives. It shows us as a community what art is now and what art will grow to be in the future. It gives us all a chance to connect, explore, examine and understand who we are and what moves us.

We would like to thank the Surrey Art Gallery for their continued support and collaboration on this amazing show. It is partnerships like this that make an exhibit so successful and inspiring. We would also like to thank our jurors Polly Gibbons, Avishka Lakwijaya and Paul Pahal for their time and expertise. Thanks also to our volunteers and staff for all their hard work and dedication in putting the exhibition together. Without this team of people *ARTS* would not come together. A very special thank you to all the artists for sharing their time, hard work and talents so we can see the world as they do—a true gift of labour and love.

Carol Girardi
President
Arts Council of Surrey

ARTS 2023 COMMITTEE

Rhys Edwards

Carol Girardi

Maxine Howchin

Alison Rajah

Jordan Strom

Cory Woodcock

ARTS COUNCIL OF SURREY REPRESENTATIVES

Carol Girardi, President

Maxine Howchin, Vice President

Cory Woodcock, ACS Curatorial Team

Aman Bakshi, ACS Curatorial Team

If you are interested in acquiring one of the works available for sale, please contact the Arts Council of Surrey at 604-594-2700.

The Arts Council of Surrey and the Surrey Art Gallery have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this catalogue. We cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions.

ARTS 2023

A JURIED EXHIBITION OF VISUAL ART

Category 1: Painting.....	6
Category 2: Drawing, Mixed Media, and Printmaking.....	10
Category 3: Sculpture and Fibre Arts	12
Category 4: Photography	14
Category 5: Digital, Performative, and New Media Art.....	16
Artists' Statements	18
Jurors' Statements	23
Jurors.....	24
Acknowledgments.....	25

CATEGORY 1: PAINTING

Artist	Title of Work	Medium	Price
Asma Burney	Pandemic Blues	Acrylic on birchboard	175
Candice Grant	Spring Memories	Acrylic on canvas	1650
Chenxi Zhan	yaNoki	Oil on linen	-
Christina Shearme	Hoyland Cew	Acrylic on canvas	245
Donna Schipfel	Look at Me	Acrylic ink and acrylic on canvas	1200
Fiona Chan	Autumn Reflection	Acrylic on canvas	880
Gary Wait	My Dogwood	Oil on canvas	650
Giulia Levrini	Togetherness	Ink on paper	-
Jenny Jia	Above and Under	Oil on canvas	2400
Linda Morris	Precious Pond	Oil on canvas	675
Lou James	Shadowed Spires	Acrylic on canvas	850
Marika Morissette	Misty Waters	Acrylic on canvas	350
Nancy Wright	Crossing Over	Acrylic on canvas	350
Preety Bhogal	Colourful City	Acrylic on paper	130
Ramona Ianchici	Day Setting on the Valley	Watercolour on paper	550
Ramona Ianchici	Serenity at Sea	Watercolour on paper	325
Silke Spodzieja	Beneath the Soul Connection	Acrylic on canvas	1200
Silke Spodzieja	Connected	Acrylic on canvas	1200
Susan Pellaers	Organic Snack	Acrylic on canvas	550
Yuri Grier	Layers of Clouds	Oil on canvas	660
Zarin Tazreen	Deep Cove Blues	Acrylic on linen	565
Zarin Tazreen	Summer's Garden	Acrylic on toned paper	670

PLACING ARTISTS CATEGORY 1

	Name	Title of Work
1st	Chenxi Zhan	yaNoki
Joint 2nd	Donna Schipfel Giulia Levrini	Look at Me Togetherness
Joint 3rd	Ramona Ianchici Susan Pellaers Zarin Tazreen	Serenity at Sea Organic Snack Deep Cove Blues
HM	Marika Morissette	Misty Waters



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Honourable Mention

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CATEGORY 2: DRAWING, MIXED MEDIA, AND PRINTMAKING

Artist	Title of Work	Medium	Price
Asma Burney	Travelogue	Acrylic and collage on canvas	350
Elaine Krieger	Long Eared Owl – On Alert	Mixed media	250
Giulia Levrini	Dog Love	Watercolour, ink, wax crayon, and pencil on paper	-
Golriz Rezvani	Pulp	Mixed media on canvas	1500
Gyan Gawander	Dinosaur with Glasses	Pencil on paper	-
Heather Wooley	Shattered Sea	Lino print on paper	50
Jenny Jia	The Persistence	Pencil on paper	2022
Katina Giesbrecht	There is a Place I Have Dreamed Of 1	Acrylic monotype on paper	425
Kelli Thiessen	Rejuvenation	Pencil on board	150
Kelli Thiessen	Shelter	Pencil on paper	190
Li Li	Musing	Watercolour pencil	-
Roxsane Tiernan	Transitions	Mixed media	575
Wendy Mould	Rocky Shores of Hicks Lake	Ink drawing on panel	750

PLACING ARTISTS CATEGORY 2

	Name	Title of Work
1st	Elaine Krieger	Long Eared Owl – On Alert
2nd	Wendy Mould	Rocky Shores of Hicks Lake
3rd	Gyan Gawander	Dinosaur with Glasses
HM	Jenny Jia	The Persistence



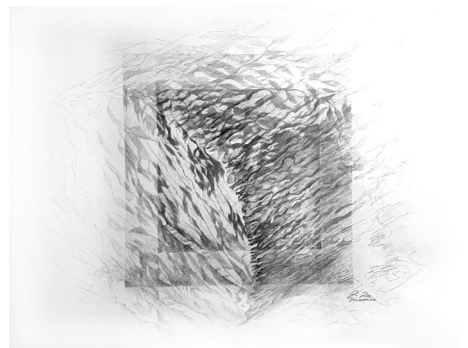
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Honourable Mention

CATEGORY 3: SCULPTURE AND FIBRE ARTS

Artist	Title of Work	Medium	Price
Emily Rektor	Creation	Wood and plaster cast	-
Ewa Brzezinski	Remnants (3)	Canvas prints sewn with plastic	-
Jennifer Russell	Red Robins	Wood-fired ceramics	-
Laur Lenaghan	/ηα·βορ/	Steel and rivets	1160
Vladimira Fillion-Wackenreuther	Silence	Hand-woven tapestry	250

PLACING ARTISTS CATEGORY 3

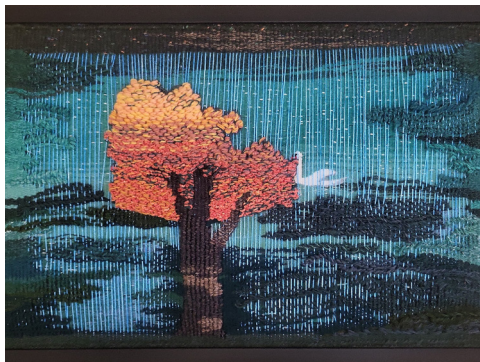
	Name	Title of Work
1st	Ewa Brzezinski	Remnants (3)
2nd	Vladimira Fillion-Wackenreuther	Silence
3rd	Emily Rektor	Creation
HM	Jennifer Russell	Red Robins



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Honourable Mention

CATEGORY 4: PHOTOGRAPHY

Artist	Title of Work	Medium	Price
Clare Palmer	Pesuta Shipwreck	Framed photo on bamboo paper	250
Ed Park	3 Faces of Nature	Aluminum print	2249
Fang Tong	Park	Inkjet print	700
Jonathan Lee	The Farm House	Giclee print	1200
Jonathan Lee	The Rickshaw	Giclee print	1200
Linda Bickerton-Ross	Small City Blues	Inkjet print	850
Linda Bickerton-Ross	Untitled – Skyscape Series	Inkjet print on UV-laminated Alupanel	1200

PLACING ARTISTS CATEGORY 4

	Name	Title of Work
1st	Linda Bickerton-Ross	Small City Blues
2nd	Fang Tong	Park
3rd	Clare Palmer	Pesuta Shipwreck
HM	Jonathan Lee	The Farm House



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Honourable Mention

CATEGORY 5: DIGITAL, PERFORMATIVE, AND NEW MEDIA ART

Artist	Title of Work	Medium	Price
Ed Park	Forget that other stuff 'cause this is the good stuff	Mixed media on canvas with electronic components	1999
Monica Cheema	Paldi, A Place Like This	Single-channel digital video (10 minutes 12 seconds)	-
Pari	passengers in east vancouver Komagata Maru series	Fine art print of artist-led AI generation, curated archival visuals	200

PLACING ARTISTS CATEGORY 5

	Name	Title of Work
1st	Pari	passengers in east vancouver Komagata Maru series
2nd	Monica Cheema	Paldi, A Place Like This
3rd	Ed Park	Forget that other stuff 'cause this is the good stuff



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ARTISTS' STATEMENTS

CATEGORY 1: PAINTING

Chenxi Zhan – *yaNoki*

The work “yaNoki” aims to express my curiosity and concern about the act of people collecting soft toys. By painting these toys, I try to incorporate the emotions of the interviewees into my creations to reflect the particularity of these objects.

Donna Schipfel – *Look at Me*

This painting was created by letting my imagination flow with the ink, allowing me to see a garden of irises, bright and beautiful, saying “look at me.”

Giulia Levrini – *Togetherness*

A physical object, the same colour tuque, attracted my attention to the invisible connection between a mother and a daughter. A link that highlighted how similar they are in many ways while unique in many others. Letting the black ink freely flow and interact with water and paper, I wanted to bring attention more to the running connections rather than the original fluo pink of the hat.

Ramona Ianchici – *Serenity at Sea*

Inspired by one tone and only a couple of colours. This piece represents the tranquility and serenity when it was created. Peaceful sailing cradled by light winds.

Susan Pellaers – *Organic Snack*

Exploring human relationships, either with oneself; with other people/ animals; or with one's environment, is the cornerstone of my visual artistic expression. The juicy berry growing in the wild has an ancient pull on our modern-day psyche, causing the innate impulse rooted in our “hunter/ gatherer” past to resurface.

Zarin Tazreen – *Deep Cove Blues*

Deep Cove Blues was painted on location (en 'plein air') near the shores of Deep Cove, North Vancouver. As an artist, I am captivated by the magic of atmospheric perspective, a technique that captures the interplay of light and atmosphere to create depth and distance in my artworks.

Marika Morissette – *Misty Waters*

Delight in the misty ambiance as a large ship passes through the harbour at sunset. Don't stand too close or the fine spray hanging in the air might leave you drenched!

ARTISTS' STATEMENTS

CATEGORY 2: DRAWING, MIXED MEDIA, AND PRINTMAKING

Elaine Krieger – *Long Eared Owl – On Alert*

An elusive creature, which hides in bramble and branches, stretched out, on alert as a raptor passes by. Patina gold leaf on mixed media paper, use with acrylic paint shows this image with a glistening effect.

Wendy Mould – *Rocky Shores of Hicks Lake*

Rocks. I find I have a fascination with them. They represent strength, resilience and yes, a sense of beauty. I love the contrast of their sharp, hard, gray surface with the soft, fluttery, green leaves on the branches that grow amongst them. The pair seem to have a bond of friendship, sharing the space, and sharing the struggles of life together. The rocks and bushes are found on the shoreline of Hicks Lake. A favourite place for me to visit over the years with my family. Lots of memories buried in their crevices.

Gyan Gawander – *Dinosaur with Glasses*

This artwork showcases a dinosaur eating popcorn in the theatre.

Jenny Jia – *The Persistence*

By peeling back the layers of time and processes, we can see visually the effect that having extra time can make. Time, after all, is the singular most valuable thing in our lives.

ARTISTS' STATEMENTS

CATEGORY 3: SCULPTURE AND FIBRE ARTS

Ewa Brzezinski – *Remnants (3)*

This piece of art is the reflection of my life journey. As memories come to life, they are transformed through photographs into physical pieces. To show the journey of recollection to the creation of objects, I started from scratch and developed my own techniques.

Vladimira Fillion-Wackenreuther – *Silence*

Warp: cotton seine twine (12 ends per inch) and silk (6 ends per inch),
Weft: hand-dyed wool and silk, cotton.

Emily Rektor – *Creation*

Creation references Michelangelo's *Creation of Adam* in the composition of the two robot arms and the posture of the plaster hand. The juxtaposition between the organic quality of the lower arm and the unrefined finish on the upper arm is an inversion on the narrative in the original painting. Along with the robotic nature of the arms, this inversion is meant to cause the viewer to apply the conversation of creation to the modern world.

Jennifer Russell – *Red Robins*

These birds were made in memory of my father, Robin, who suddenly passed away last year. He enjoyed bringing me and my sisters to Red Robins and pretending it was his restaurant.

ARTISTS' STATEMENTS

CATEGORY 4: PHOTOGRAPHY

Linda Bickerton-Ross – *Small City Blues*

Slipped out of a gallery into drenching rain, dove into my car to peer through a ravaged windshield, illuminating an electric scene. Grabbed my phone to snap this small study in blue.

Fang Tong – *Park*

The photo looks at the human psychological tendency to follow or copy one another. It's very subtle and I think it's a fascinating thing to observe. Usually we think we're in control of our thoughts and behaviour but that isn't always the case.

Clare Palmer – *Pesuta Shipwreck*

This ship ran aground during a violent storm in Haida Gwaii in 1928. It was extraordinary to be able to hike out to the site on East Beach in Naikoon Provincial Park to experience it.

Jonathan Lee – *The Farm House*

My work is primarily about the intersection of memory and place. The locations of one's past are a trigger for nostalgia, and I seek to capture the kinds of objects and places that allow us experience memories in this highly subjective way.

ARTISTS' STATEMENTS

CATEGORY 5: DIGITAL, PERFORMATIVE, AND NEW MEDIA ART

Pari – *passengers in east vancouver* | *Komagata Maru series*

This work invites collective (re)memories of the Komagata Maru incident, by spawning visuals from AI language modeling apps. Through curated prompts, the artist contemplates questions like: How do we negotiate our identities in the face of being othered? How do 'others' navigate through spaces that aren't necessarily made with them in mind? How can they establish a path back to belonging in these spaces?

Monica Cheema – *Paldi, A Place Like This*

On the east coast of Vancouver Island sits a tiny town with an over-100 year history of intercultural labour work. The original landmarks of train tracks, bunker homes, and the mill for which the town was best known no longer exist, but one Gurdwara still stands. This Gurdwara is unique not only for the fact that it exists in a ghost town, but also because it functions as a community archive. This short film seeks to document the Paldi we see today, by remembering the Paldi that once was. A site of resilience, joy and new beginnings.

Ed Park – *Forget that other stuff, 'cause this is the good stuff*

Before people started turning to substances to get their high, the wonders of the natural world including the stars were the original way people got mind blown. It's time we get back to that.

JURORS' STATEMENT

It was with great pleasure, enthusiasm, and a privilege that the three of us were asked to judge this year's entries to the *ARTS 2023* show. The many pieces of work span a variety of style, themes, processes, and mediums. It is wonderful to see an abundance of talent. Our criteria for selection was simple: the works had to speak to us, the works had to convey a sense of purpose and the works had to show a level of maturity that deemed it place in the *ARTS 2023* show. As jurors, we had our work cut out for us, and the decision-making was tough. We decided, due to the quality of the works, it would be fairer for multiple pieces to receive a joint prize recognition in the painting category.

We hope the public will view this show with reverence and that they leave knowing the arts are alive and growing.

Avishka Lakwijaya
Paul Pahal
Polly Gibbons

JURORS

Avishka Lakwijaya

Avishka Lakwijaya (he/him) is a learning and access programmer currently living and working in the unceded territories of the Coast Salish peoples. He has also volunteered at Surrey Art Gallery as a Youth Docent, and as a Children's Art Programs Assistant from 2016-2018. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Victoria in 2021. He is passionate about making art institutions more accessible and inclusive to all.

Paul Pahal

Born in the UK, Paul has studied in Art since 1986. He holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts and a Bachelor's in Education degree from UBC. As an arts educator he hopes he inspires students to challenge themselves in producing works of substance and meaning. Paul's works have been shown in Vancouver, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and the UK. Previously Paul has programmed for the Asian Heritage festival in Vancouver and curated the second *To Visit the Tiger* south Asian arts exhibition.

Polly Gibbons

Polly Gibbons is an interdisciplinary artist interested in the points of convergence between the sciences and the arts. Her prior life in brain research informs her ongoing art research in neuroplasticity. She is dedicated to a lifelong practice in "making her own brain." She has undergraduate degrees in biopsychology and fine arts, and in 2016 she completed her MFA at the Emily Carr University of Art and Design. She is a member of AgentC Projects and the SOFIA/Collective. Born in Seattle, Washington, she has made her home in South Surrey since 2002. She has two children and two guinea pigs.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



13530 72nd Avenue
Surrey, BC
V3T 4X8
604.594.2700
info@artscouncilofsurrey.ca
artscouncilofsurrey.ca

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art gallery

engaging
contemporary art

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V3W 3L1
surrey.ca/artgallery

Surrey Art Gallery is situated on the ancestral, traditional, and unceded territories of the Salish Peoples, including the ḱíçəḱ (Katzie), ḱʷɑ:ḱʷəḱ (Kwantlen), and Semiahma (Semiahmoo) nations.



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