

Arts Council of Surrey presents

# ARTS 2024

A JURIED EXHIBITION OF VISUAL ART

SURREY ART GALLERY

May 4–July 14







## ARTS COUNCIL OF SURREY PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Happy Fortieth Anniversary!

Traditionally for a monumental fortieth year, it is celebrated with the gift of rubies—a gemstone with the colour of an artist's passion, and the energy of an ever-burning flame. For forty years now, we have continued to receive the gift of this passion and energy through the skill and craft of artists in the Lower Mainland. We are always blown away by the response to this competition, and *ARTS 2024* is no exception.

Art, across any category or medium, has the powerful ability to bring us together to learn from each other, to inspire one another, and to make us feel. In a community as richly diverse as ours, we are truly fortunate to be able to share in each other's cultures and histories, and look forward together to what our futures hold. We hope that visitors will open themselves up to what this exhibit has to offer.

As always, we thank the Surrey Art Gallery for their continued support and collaboration on this amazing exhibit. This collaborative effort is how this exhibition continues to succeed and inspire. We would also like to thank our jurors Sean Alward, Kiranjot Kaur, and Zoe Yang for their time and effort. Our immense appreciation—and bouquets of gladioli (the forty-year anniversary flower)—go to our volunteers and staff, without whom this exhibit would not come together. Finally, a very special thank you to all of the artists for sharing with us their time, hard work and talents. Surrey is honoured to be able to see the world through your unique creative lens.

Carol Girardi  
President  
Arts Council of Surrey

## ARTS 2024 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

Amanda Smith-Weston

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 2024

A JURIED EXHIBITION OF VISUAL ART

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## CATEGORY 1: PAINTING

<b>Artist</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Price</b>
Jeongmin Ahn	Trash No. 22 (Red, Red)	Oil on canvas, diptych	1300
Melissa H. Clark	Falling I	Acrylic on canvas	720
Eileen Fong	Rocky Cliff of Nairn Falls	Acrylic on canvas	500
Gyan Gawander	Lots of Frogs	Acrylic on canvas	-
Tom Godin	The Perennial Appeal of Youth, Age and Fleeting Beauty	Acrylic on canvas	1000
Yuri Grier	Light Breaking Through	Oil on canvas	330
Samantha Harrison	Pareidolia: Ring-Necked Pheasant	Oil on canvas	1080
Shannon Harvey	Pure Mother Bee	Oil on canvas	3000
Lincoln Howard	Modex 2	Acrylic on canvas	1200
Lou James	Saturated	Acrylic on panel	1800
Jenny Jia	Three Years Apart	Ink and watercolour on rice paper	400
Hyun Ju Jung	Heaven	Oil on canvas	1000
Meenal Kulkarni	Fairmont Le Château Frontenac	Acrylic on canvas	450
Chito Maravilla	The Youth Choir	Oil on canvas	2500
Millie Phelan McKinnon	Afternoon Paddle	Acrylic on canvas	800
Marika Morissette	Symphony of Colour	Acrylic on canvas	250
Jessie Na	Utopia Unveiled	Acrylic on canvas	1020
Andre Paulhus	Whimsical Village	Watercolour on paper	-
Melissa Peacock	The Empress	Watercolour on paper	250
Ramona Radu	Alone at Sea	Watercolour on paper	425
Wendy Schmidt	Feeding Time	Watercolour on paper	325
Robbin Sheriland	Picking Flowers in a Forest Clearing	Oil on canvas	300
Balwinder Singh Slatch	Timeless Reflection	Oil on canvas	3000
Mae Hee Song	The Way to the Light (24-1)	Acrylic on canvas	4800



## CATEGORY 1: PAINTING

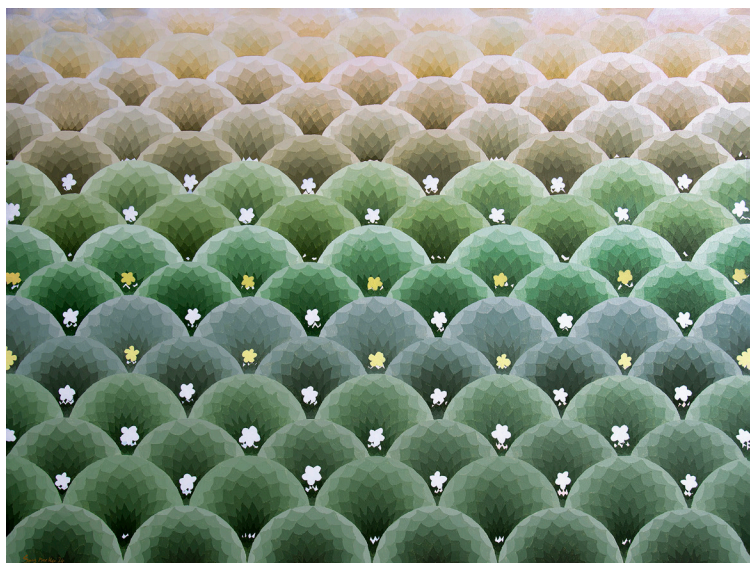
<b>Artist</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Price</b>
Silke Spodzieja	Eventually, The Mask Falls Off	Acrylic on canvas	1200
Raymund Valerio	View of Delft 2023	Acrylic and oil on canvas	-
Gary Wait	Belize Stroll	Oil on canvas	495
Mandeep Wirk	Blueberry Field, Autumn	Acrylic on canvas	-
Xixi Yang	No Name 6	Oil on canvas	1800

## PLACING ARTISTS CATEGORY 1

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>
1st	Samantha Harrison	Pareidolia: Ring-Necked Pheasant
2nd	Mae Hee Song	The Way to the Light (24-1)
3rd	Chito Maravilla	The Youth Choir
Honourable Mention	Jessie Na	Utopia Unveiled



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3



Honourable Mention

## CATEGORY 2: DRAWING, MIXED MEDIA, AND PRINTMAKING

<b>Artist</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Price</b>
Frank Bennett	Face	Ink on paper	400
Preety Bhogal	Dreams	Mixed media on canvas sheet	200
Joanne Dennis	The Sugar Shack	Acrylic, phototransfer, and mixed media on canvas	-
Yvette Gagnon	Glass Garden #3	Glass, acrylic, and glue on panel	900
Gyan Gawander	Musical Dog	Pencil and marker on paper	-
Min Lin	Love the Righteous	Acrylic on paper	-
Chito Maravilla	Moving Out	Acrylic and collage on canvas	900
Tania Serna	Disentangled	Acrylic on canvas and paper	-

## PLACING ARTISTS CATEGORY 2

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>
1st	Min Lin	Love the Righteous
2nd	Frank Bennett	Face
3rd	Gyan Gawander	Musical Dog
HM	Yvette Gagnon	Glass Garden #3



1



2



3



Honourable Mention



## CATEGORY 3: SCULPTURE AND FIBRE ARTS

<b>Artist</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Price</b>
Natasha Boskic	Bird's Song	Weaving with print on fabric	-
Ewa Brzezinski	Abyss of Fire	Sculpture, altered and transferred images, acrylic medium	-
Shirley Chen	Frame of Mind	Synthetic flowers on wooden frame, origami, ginkgo leaves, fishing wire	-
Joanne Dennis	Cranberry Fields Forever	Textiles	-
Richard Desteur	Swimming Side by Side	Painted wood carving	350
Lou James	Tidal Embrace	Marble, metal	-
Helga Parekh	My Dog Roxy	Terracotta clay	-

## PLACING ARTISTS CATEGORY 3

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>
1st	Natasha Boskic	Bird Song
2nd	Richard Desteur	Swimming Side by Side
3rd	Joanne Dennis	Cranberry Fields Forever
HM	Lou James	Tidal Embrace



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3



Honourable Mention

## CATEGORY 4: PHOTOGRAPHY

<b>Artist</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Price</b>
Aman Bakshi	Innocence	Photoprint on canvas	595
Melika Mousavi	Daily Nature Retreat	Pearl paper photo print	50
Lukas Smith-Weston	Sundance	Photo print	165
Carissa Medina Valerio	Morning Chil Abstraction	iPhone image on print on photo paper	-

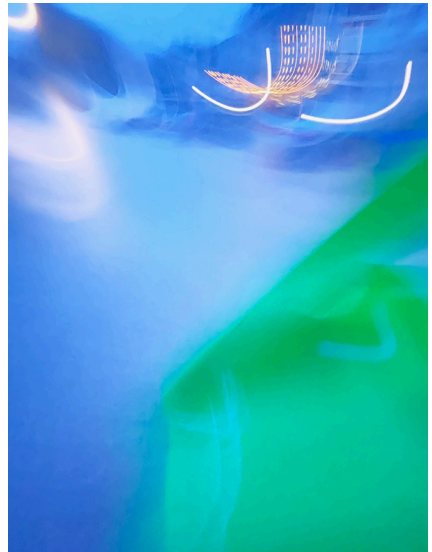
## PLACING ARTISTS CATEGORY 4

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>
1st	Melika Mousavi	Daily Nature Retreat
2nd	Carissa Medina Valerio	Morning Chill Abstraction





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## CATEGORY 5: DIGITAL, PERFORMATIVE, AND NEW MEDIA ART

<b>Artist</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Price</b>
Anushka Bhadra	Sheltered Hearts	Digital painting	50.25
Shirley Chen	Sale at the Fish Market	Digital print on poster paper	50
Mandeep Wirk	My Makeshift Artist Studio	Digital photographic print	-

### PLACING ARTISTS CATEGORY 5

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>
1st	Shirley Chen	Sale at the Fish Market
2nd	Mandeep Wirk	My Makeshift Artist Studio



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## ARTISTS' STATEMENTS

### CATEGORY 1: PAINTING

Samantha Harrison – *Pareidolia: Ring Necked Pheasant*

In this work, still life objects have been arranged to cast a haphazard shadow impression of a wild animal, the ring-necked pheasant, as an expression of the human disconnect from the natural world. This work is a tribute to the quiet sadness and stillness of man-made objects, and the human need to search and ascribe features reminiscent of nature and the animal world to these various objects.

Mae Hee Song – *The Way to the Light (24-1)*

I take inspiration from nature because there I see the source of life and get peace of mind. Repeated patterns and point-by-point brush strokes represent the process by which darkness accepts light, and in it, life blooms like a flower. Through this work that requires patience, I find the reason that I am the only one who can do this work.

Chito Maravilla – *The Youth Choir*

A vibrant ensemble of young voices, resonates with harmonious melodies, creating a jubilant atmosphere. Their spirited performance echoes through the air, transforming any day into a glorious celebration of musical talent. The sheer joy emanating from their voices is a testament to the beauty of youth and harmony.

Jessie Na – *Utopia Unveiled*

“Utopia Unveiled” explores the deep yearning for eternal joy and existence. My creative path unfolds through dreamlike compositions and surreal elements.

## ARTISTS' STATEMENTS

### CATEGORY 2: DRAWING, MIXED MEDIA, AND PRINTMAKING

Min Lin – *Love the Righteous*

Love what is Good and Right.

Frank Bennett – *Face*

-

Gyan Gawander – *Musical Dog*

This artwork showcases a dog holding up a boombox. I wanted to capture that unique vibe of the 80s through this surrealistic artwork.

Yvette Gagnon – *Glass Garden #3*

Walking through a friend's garden, I was struck by these enormous blooms and I wanted to isolate them in glass, pushing my creativity to conjure different images using mostly black, white and gold—colours not typically seen in nature. Of course, I love red and couldn't resist adding a burst of my own nature onto the canvas, but the effect is still an elegant yet simple garden of glass that mirrors the chaos of a field of wildflowers.

## ARTISTS' STATEMENTS

### CATEGORY 3: SCULPTURE AND FIBRE ARTS

Natasha Boskic – *Bird Song*

I am fascinated with the ways our virtual and physical worlds interact and I use different opportunities to combine analog and digital technologies to create art. I like bringing poetry into every day in fun and engaging way, so that we can enjoy the beauty of words even when doing the most ordinary tasks, like walking, eating, or relaxing.

Richard Desteur – *Swimming Side by Side*

-

Joanne Dennis – *Cranberry Fields Forever*

Cranberry Trail, along the Alouette River, is a great place to watch the cranberry harvest. The fields are flooded every fall and beaters are used to knock the berries off of their vines. Cranberries are native to BC and were used by First Nations as food, dye, and medicine.

Lou James – *Tidal Embrace*

Crafted from white marble, the sculpture captures the fluidity and harmony of the natural world. Its mesmerizing curves reflect the eternal dance between land and sea, offering a tactile and contemplative experience.

## ARTISTS' STATEMENTS

### CATEGORY 4: PHOTOGRAPHY

Melika Mousavi – *Daily Nature Retreat*

In the heart of Green Timbers Urban Forest Park, my photo captures a bird standing serenely on the calm water, creating a perfect reflection. It's a gentle reminder of the timeless allure of nature, inviting everyone to admire its charm from any angle.

Carissa Valerio – *Morning Chill Abstraction*

This image reminds me of early morning strolls I used to take in the park by my house while the haze of sleep is still in my eyes. The street lights would still be on, there's dew on the grass and a chill mist in the air. Soon the sun would be coming up to kiss that clear blue sky. Now and then I'd stop and breathe in that promise of a brand new day. Sadly, I don't take walks like that these days any more.

## ARTISTS' STATEMENTS

### CATEGORY 5: DIGITAL, PERFORMATIVE, AND NEW MEDIA ART

Shirley Chen – *Sale at the Fish Market*

A surreal, somewhat uncanny, take on the marine food chain—specifically the literal fish-eat-fish world under the water. The marine food chain consists of what is considered in human society taboo: infanticide, cannibalism, matri-/patricide, etc. The question now is, what if we take these strictures and place them in something humanly mundane: a fish market.

Mandeep Wirk – *My Makeshift Artist Studio*

In this image I close the gap between art and my life by showing my makeshift art studio in our living room with some of my favourite things which are imbued with a lot of affection and meaning for me. I have set my easel on our beloved large coffee table made of an aromatic, tropical hardwood from the Muhuhu tree at our sawmill in Tanzania, which we brought with us to Canada as a keepsake. The yellow mustard flowers are from the garden and are iconic to my Punjabi cultural heritage in India; Bollywood movies depict actors singing and frolicking around in beautiful golden yellow fields of these much loved flowers back in the old country.



## JURORS' STATEMENT

We are grateful for the opportunity to have participated in the *ARTS 2024* jury and for having been able to spend a splendid day at the Surrey Arts Centre appreciating artworks from the community. The variety of works, the depth of knowledge in the techniques, and the skill in application of mediums were all equally impressive among the submissions which made our job rather challenging. We were inspired by the artwork themes, subject matter, and apparent artistic creativity throughout the submissions. Many of the works were ambitious in their scope while remaining masterful in their execution. Through the artists' motivation and desire to express themselves through art, culture is born and we look forward to the community engaging with this vibrant show.

Sean Alward  
Kiranjot Kaur  
Zoe Yang

## JURORS

### Sean Alward

Sean Alward is an artist based in Vancouver and faculty in the Fine Arts Department at Kwantlen Polytechnic University. His paintings explore the intersection of materials and historical consciousness. He received his MFA from the University of British Columbia and BFA from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design. He has exhibited across Canada and in the U.S and published writing in *Canadian Art*, *C Magazine*, and *Border Crossings*.

### Kiranjot Kaur

Kiranjot Kaur is a multi-disciplinary Surrey-based artist, author and engineer. She sees art as an opportunity to explore perspectives, informed by her artistic influences, that represent a composition of ideas in visual and poetic form. Her current work aims to celebrate her background in engineering, inspirations from Sikhi, her Panjabi and Canadian heritage, her lived experience growing up in a family fabric store, and her motherhood. Kiranjot's work has been featured in several local art shows, including as part of the recent group *un/tangling, un/covering, un/doing show* at the Surrey Art Gallery. Kiranjot's debut authored and illustrated children's picture book, *Sangeet and the Missing Beat*, is published by Rebel Mountain Press.

### Zoe Yang

Zoe Yang (she/her) is an arts administrator currently based in the unceded territories of the Coast Salish people also known as Vancouver. She is an immigrant and first-generation university graduate. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art History and Environmental Studies from Scripps College, California. She is dedicated to making art institutions a welcoming space for all. She is currently Curatorial Assistant at Surrey Art Gallery.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



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surrey  
art gallery

engaging  
contemporary art

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13750 88th Avenue  
Surrey, BC  
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surrey.ca/artgallery

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



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du Canada

