

YOUNG BELFAST ARTISTS (YBA)

Bitter Sweet, Acrylic and Oil Pastels on Canvas, 86 X 90cms



GROUP SHOW

ARTISANN GALLERY

7TH JUNE – 1ST JULY 2023

FOREWORD

The ArtisAnn Gallery is delighted to welcome back to the gallery a selection of artists who made their professional debut as one of our Emerging Artists.

For seven years now, our gallery has carefully selected what we consider the most talented artists from each year's graduation. While some of these artists have since chosen a different career path, a few, such as the ones presented here, have grown to become accomplished artists that have carved out a niche for themselves in a highly competitive field.

We have followed their careers with an almost paternalistic eye, and we rejoice in their many achievements, whether it's winning a prestigious prize, appearing in one of the influential galleries, or being added to an international collection.

We hope that this collection of rich and varied work will provide our visitors with something to admire, appreciate, and hopefully, acquire.

Each artwork sold helps our artists a little further along the pathway to an illustrious career.

Ann & Ken
ArtisAnn

LEAH DAVIS

Leah is a Belfast born and based artist, who graduated from Ulster University 2021, Belfast with a BA Honours in Fine Art. From extremely large scale to small scale, Leah responds to her environment. The people and objects that surround her create an intimacy, with each final piece a response to that existing space in that moment.



Working in oils as the primary medium, Leah explores the relationship between the figure/subject and the external space. She believes there is no limit to how we manifest our being in time in space. In her works, the relationship between the negative space and subject is apparent, as the subject at times becomes engulfed in the surrounding.

In the same year that Leah graduated, her work was chosen for exhibition in the Ulster Museum for the RUA's 140th annual show. Her large scale painting sold on the opening night and remains in the Art Council of Northern Ireland's collection. Leah has recently completed and unveiled the official Mayoral Portrait for the Lord Mayor of Belfast, being the youngest Artist to have been awarded this commission. Shortly after this unveiling Leah was ACNI Artist of the month March 2023.

Leah is currently based in her studio as the Artist in Residence in The Duncairn Centre for Culture and Arts in Belfast, where she can be found working on pieces for upcoming exhibitions.



Still Life, Oil on Canvas, 100 X 75 cms

TRINA HOBSON

Following her graduation in 2016, Trina received the Royal Ulster Academy Award for Outstanding Student and The John and Rachel Turner Bursary for Outstanding Student, as well as being the first artist selected for the inaugural Emerging Artists exhibition at the ArtisAnn Galley.



Her work juxtaposes feelings of abandonment, reflectiveness, disjointedness and fragmentation – the brokenness and vulnerability we as humans are all capable of feeling, especially when alone. This painting signifies a coming of age or time of transition. It represents inner wisdom and alignment.

The paintings are not about reproducing or documenting. They are about representation... and the very act of painting itself. The drips and brushstrokes all serve as a reminder that this is a painting. The process of deconstructing and flattening the images moves them towards the abstracted and ambiguous, forcing the viewer to fill in the spaces with something personal to the presented or given story.

Trina has exhibited in the Royal Ulster Academy, the Boyle Arts Festival the RHA in Dublin and the Irish Arts Centre in New York. She has received several significant commissions including a commission for the Philosophy by Postcard celebration of the centenary of Iris Murdoch's birth.



Shift, Oil on Canvas, 45 X 35 cms

SANTA LEIMANE

Santa graduated in Fine Art from the Ulster University in Belfast in 2019. A successful degree show led to her being chosen for the Cool Banana Art Award, as well as being Longlisted for RDS Visual Art Award. She was also one of the nominees for the 2019 Young Artist of the Year Award for Northern Ireland.



Within her practice she develops mixed media work and introduces collages into the preparation of new paintings. Santa uses images of her native surroundings that have a significant personal meaning to her, bringing with them a sense of nostalgia and intimacy. Her subjects have surreal surroundings and unnatural angles that awaken metaphysical ideas of passing time and memory and represent her dissociation by partly living, partly dreaming, partly lingering in existence. 'Botanical I' is part of small series of oil paintings currently under development. These paintings portray her individual insights and surroundings while in state of dissociation. Current work is focussing on simplicity of nature, natural environments, and self-healing. For Santa, botanicals signify the passing of time and the resources needed to grow and develop, all wrapped in a vibrant, yet atmospheric, palette.

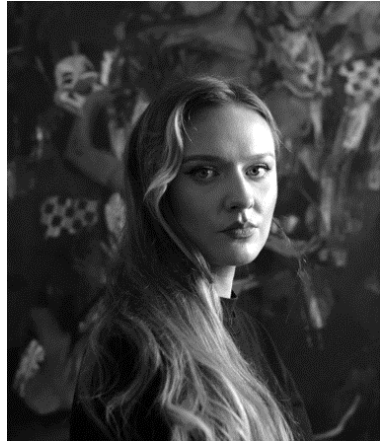
Santa has completed several private commissions, taken part in a number of group exhibitions and undertaken solo shows, both in Belfast and abroad. Her paintings have been purchased for the permanent collections of both the Visual Artists Northern Ireland, and the Arts Council of Northern Ireland.



Botanical, Oil on Canvas, 90 X 60 cms

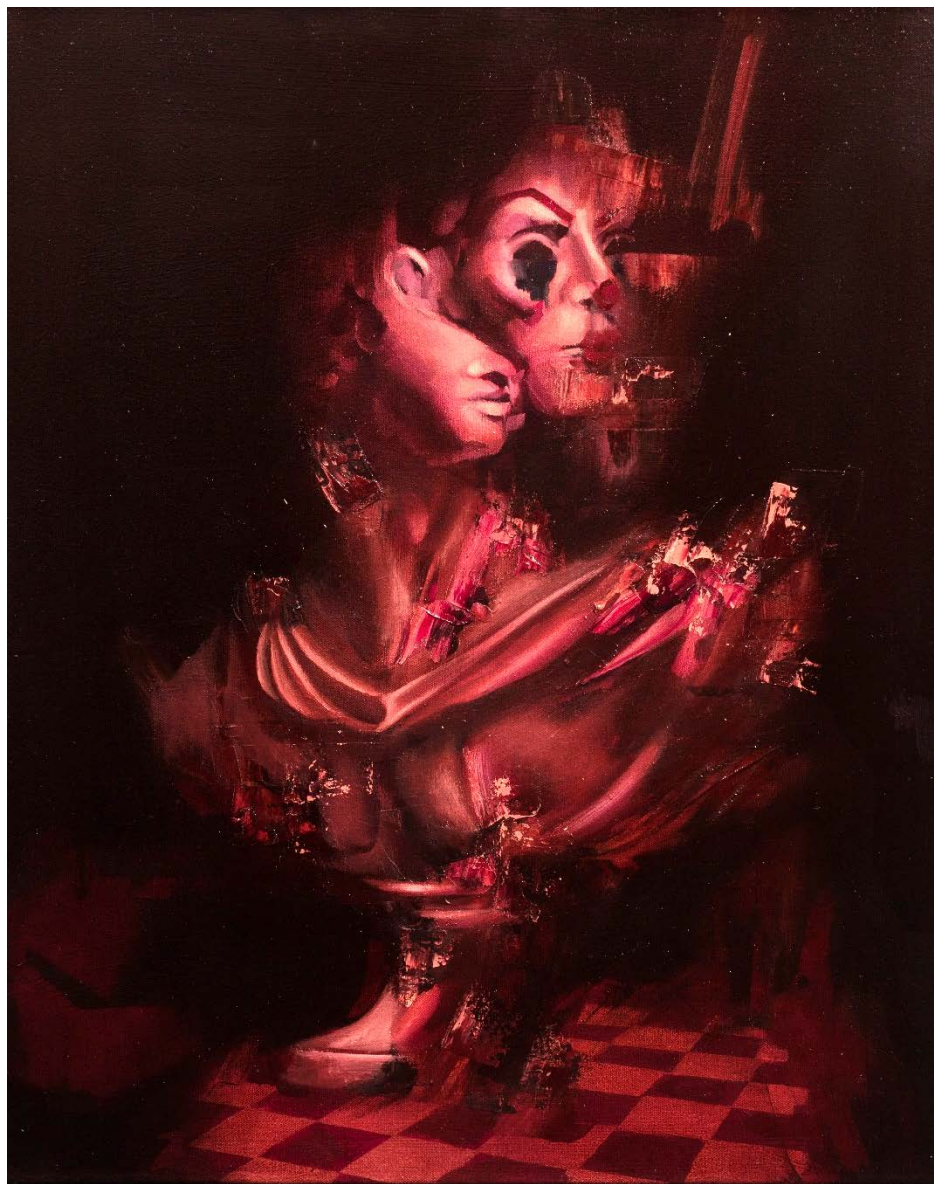
AIMEE MELAUGH

Aimee graduated with a First Class BA Honours Degree in Fine Art Painting in 2018 from the Belfast School of Art. She was recently shortlisted for the Robert Walter's UK *New Artist of the Year Award* in collaboration with Saatchi Gallery in London and had her work exhibited at Saatchi Gallery in 2021. She recently had a solo exhibition at The Glassworks, Derry, supported by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland.



Drafty Museum, draws upon themes surrounding detachment and disintegration of the individual. Resonating with events which have taken place throughout the past few years, reference is made to the notion of depersonalisation. Surrealistic imagery is present as a mask wearer, a desperate figure and a broken inanimate object are intertwined, hinting at how fragments of oneself are at times patched up to create an alter ego in order to fit into today's modern, image-based society.

Recognitions include the Belfast Print Workshop Residency Award and the Royal Ulster Academy Award. Her work is included in a number of public collections such as the Belfast School of Art, The Arts Council of Northern Ireland's permanent collection, and the Northern Ireland Civil Service Art Collection, as well as various private collections. Aimee completed an artist residency with Art Arcadia in 2021, a solo exhibition at Hang Tough Contemporary in Dublin in September 2022, and exhibited at the MAC Gallery in Belfast as part of 'New Exits: 10 Years of Painting' Shows.



Draughty Museum, Oil on Canvas, 60 X 50 cms

SAFFRON MONKS SMITH

Saffron graduated in June 2018 with an undergraduate degree in Fine Art, specialising in Printmaking, at Ulster University, Belfast. Her expertise in printmaking rewarded her with the Belfast Print Workshop Membership award in 2015, as well as the Seacourt Print Workshop Graduate award in 2018.



Saffron continued her studies at Ulster University and attained a Masters in Fine Art in June 2020 specialising in painting. This change of practice allowed her to expand on the idea of memory and atmosphere, previously dealing with the figurative, now influenced by urban and suburban landscapes. Her recent work focuses on her surrounding local area, projecting it as somewhere intriguing and atmospheric. Inspired by the everyday, the paintings are intended to create a story-like quality, allowing for the observer to delve into their own imagination. Fixating on illumination through paint, she presents snippets of gloomy streets and dwellings, isolating the viewer from those who leave traces of life through streetlights and lit windows. Providing fragments of light, she brings forward our human affiliation with comfort in amongst the uncomfortable.

Saffron went on to receive the ArtisAnn Emerging Artist award 2020 and her work is currently held in the Arts Council of Northern Ireland's permanent collection.



Down The Alley, Gouache and Oil Paint on MDF, 23 X 14 cms

AIMÉE NELSON

Aimée graduated from Belfast School of Art, University of Ulster, with a First Class Honours Degree in Fine Art. In her sculptural and photographic work, Aimée is interested in the scientific and philosophical principles of light, exploring the

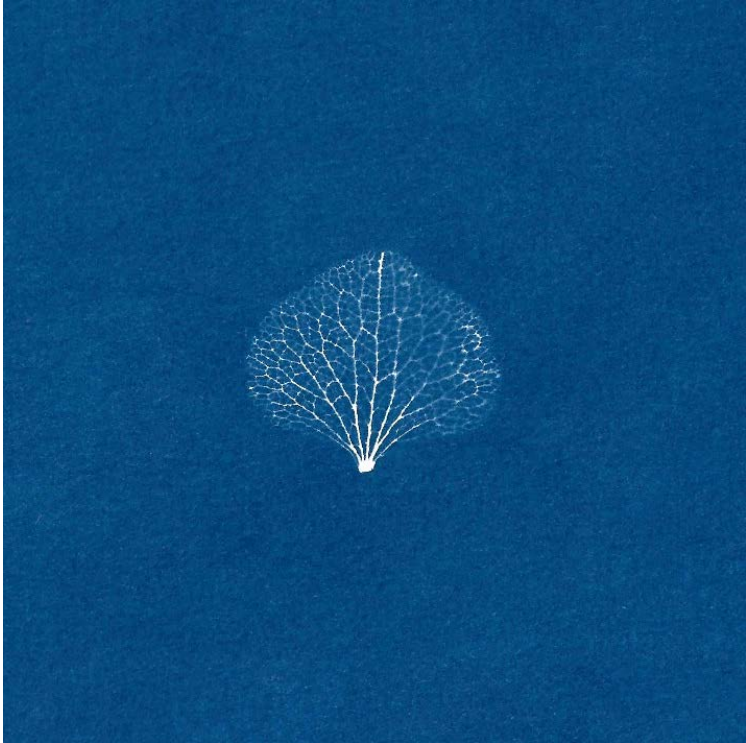


fragility of perception and the transformative properties of light via alternative photographic processes. Her preferred medium, Cyanotype, involves placing objects onto light sensitive paper and exposing it to sunlight (UV light) in order to create the image.

Reflected in the process and material used, this work examines the meaning of the word ‘transparent’ – to allow light to pass through and to easily perceive. Following her degree show, Aimée was awarded exhibitions in FCB Studios, ArtisAnn Gallery, Queen Street Studios and the Royal Ulster Academy 2019 Annual Exhibition in which she won The Mullan Gallery Award for Best Sculpture.

Aimée was shortlisted for the Woon Foundation Sculpture and Painting Prize 2019 and exhibited with the 10 shortlisted artists from across the UK in an exhibition at Gallery North, Newcastle upon Tyne. In 2021, she was selected to exhibit in ‘Portrait of Northern Ireland’ Centenary group exhibition at Golden Thread Gallery, Belfast.

Her work is held in public collections including Belfast School of Art and Arts Council of Northern Ireland permanent collection.



Leaf Skeleton, Cyanotype, 20 X 20 cms

LAUREN REYNOLDS

Lauren is a 23-year-old Belfast-based artist who attended Art College at the Ulster University from 2018-2022, graduating with a BA Hons degree in Fine Art. She is currently in her first year of studying for her Masters in Fine Art. Lauren works predominately with acrylic on canvas, but soft sculpture, collage, and embroidery also play a role in her practice. Her current work explores the idea of synthetic relationships, and within this, the role of dolls.



As Lauren explains, 'I became interested in how dolls are viewed as a physical shell of a person that could take on the role of surrogates for human companionship. Dolls are naturally utilized in shaping how children define, experience, and relate to their environment. I enjoy creating works based on something stereotypically innocent and, by showing them in an eerie light, instead of making them representative of society's ideals, I make them representative of the mindsets and perceptions warped by mental illness.'

Her work plays with negative space and the translucency of colour to mimic the fickleness of memory through time. Unlike most other figurative painters, Lauren prefers to use acrylic rather than oils as she like to layer her painting with a wash-like consistency.

Lauren's work is held in a number of private and corporate collections throughout Northern Ireland.



Birkin Babies, Acrylic on Canvas, 80 X 80 cms

AMBER ROSSI

Originally from Belfast, Amber graduated from Ulster University in 2021 with a degree in Fine art painting and was awarded the ArtisAnn Gallery's *Emerging Artist Award* for her degree work. Her work is very much inspired by memories and the nostalgia.

As Amber explains: 'In the studio I will often sit and flick through old family photographs, pick out the one that makes me feel the most nostalgic that day and then I'll make a collage or rough sketch of the image, playing about with different mediums, colours and compositions to see if it will make a resolved painting.'



This, however, is not always my painting process. More often than not I will start a painting without any prep work and I'll just see how it goes from there. This is definitely my favourite way of beginning a painting. I feel like it's more exciting for me as an artist to not know how it's going to turn out. My go to surfaces to work on are canvas or board. My medium of choice for starting a painting is always acrylic paint because it dries quite quickly, allowing me to work faster. However, it is rare that I will stick to just acrylic paint, as my love for mix media often leaves me feeling like my paintings aren't finished unless I use at least one other medium.'

Amber has work in several private collections as well as in the Office of the Northern Ireland Executive in Brussels.



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IRENE SWEENEY

Irene is an internationally exhibiting artist who was awarded her MA in Fine Art at Ulster University in 2022. She won several institutional awards throughout her education and has participated in numerous exhibitions, some of which include *Concurrence* and *Polyphony 21* at Queen Street



Studios, Belfast, the *Graduates Exhibition* at the MAC, Belfast in 2020 and *í'klektik* at The Playhouse, Derry in 2018.

Irene photographs and paints close-ups of the unfamiliar or unnoticed world around us discovering what she describes as 'magical and soothing' atmosphere within the depths of sunlight illuminated woodlands or forests.

She weaves the magical with the mundane through her macro-other-worldly approach to image making. By depicting this perspective on reality, she hopes to unlock an innocent curiosity and an awe-inspired reverence for nature that helps us to see the beauty and magic in the natural world, and in ourselves, being part of that.

Her work has strong contrasts of dark and light, in both ambient tranquil lighting, capturing a particular mood of a time and place, and within the eco-psychology, eco-spirituality and ecology theory that her practice is rooted in.



Peachy Keen Dream, Oil on Canvas, 40 X 60 cms

FORTHCOMING EXHIBITIONS

KAREN DAYE-HUTCHINSON & DÉIRDRE KELLY

THE NAME OF THE WATER

5TH JULY – 26TH AUGUST 2023

An exhibition of map-related artworks by Belfast based Karen Daye-Hutchinson and Venice based Déirdre Kelly, conceived while both were working at Scuola Internazionale di Grafica Venezia.



EMERGING ARTISTS

6th - 30th SEPTEMBER 2023

Our annual round-up of the best new talent graduating from the University of Ulster. Your chance to snap them up before they become too famous to afford!



JOHN COFFEY

RECENT PICTURES

4th - 29th OCTOBER 2023

As the title suggests, this exhibition showcases the most recent artworks produced by the master of realism.



Join our mailing list to keep up to date with other new shows and gallery events in the future:

<https://www.artisann.org/newsletter-1.html>

ARTISTS SHOWING AT ARTISANN

Painting:

Sophie Aghajanian, RUA
Barbara Allen, RUA
James Allen, RUA
Neisha Allen, RUA
Keith Ayton
Brian Ballard, RUA
Lisa Ballard, ARUA
John Breakey, RUA
John Coffey
Richard Croft, RUA
Jackie Crooks
Karen Daye-Hutchinson, ARUA, ARE
Frank Eyre
Dan Ferguson
Valerie Giannandrea McKeag
Cara Gordon, ARUA
Carol Graham, RUA
Andrew Haslett
Trina Hobson
Gail Kennedy
Rachel Lawell
James MacKeever, ARUA
Sam McCready
Colin McGookin, RUA
Rosie McGurran, RUA
Harry McMahan
Connor Maguire
Aimee Melaugh
Saffron Monks-Smith
Amber Rossi
Gary Shaw
Stephen Shaw, ARUA

Cont.:

Neil Shawcross, RHA, RUA
SMEaton
Matthew Smyth
Irene Sweeney
Jennifer Trouton, RUA
Raymond Watson
Chris Wilson, RUA

Pencil, Paper and Charcoal:

Lenka Davidikova
Terry McAllister

Sculpture, Ceramics and Glass:

Patrick Colhoun, MRSS
Jolita Jarutiené
Alison Lowry
James McKeever, ARUA
Alan Milligan
Raymond Watson
Chris Wilson, RUA

Photography, Prints and Mixed Media:

Margaret Arthur, RUA
Ann and Ken Bartley
Julie Corcoran
Jackie Crooks
Karen Daye-Hutchinson, ARUA, ARE
Rory McVeigh
Tracey Moberly
Aimée Nelson
Peter Richards

Gift Vouchers

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What do I need to apply?

- Photographic ID (driving licence, passport, etc.)
- Proof of address (utility bill, driving licence, etc.)
- Bank Account Direct Debit details (usually on your bank card)
- Employer/Pension details (name, address, phone no. or ref no.)

How long does it take?

Approximately 10 minutes to fill in the form either in the gallery or online at home – and, as you usually get approved straight away, you can bring your new artwork home immediately!

Is there a limit?

You can buy any original artwork from £100 to £10,000 from the ArtisAnn Gallery, including Prints and Sculptures. You pay over 10 months, starting four weeks after you sign up. You can even pay a deposit to make the monthly payments smaller!

For more information, or to sign up, just ask!

ArtisAnn – Art that works for you!

ArtisAnn

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Opening Hours

Tues – Friday 11am – 6pm
Saturday 12pm – 5pm

Viewing also by appointment