

CRYSTAL BESHARA

Ottawa, ON

BIOGRAPHY

Crystal Beshara is a Canadian contemporary realist painter and proud two-time winner of the prestigious Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation prize. A self-taught realist, her childhood was spent drawing and observing life on a farm and the quiet, connective world in which she lived. Even after moving to Ottawa to receive her BFA in Studio, Crystal's strong rural narrative continued to play a huge role in her paintings. Her style is a juxtaposition of two worlds; her love of realism collides with her post-secondary studies creating *expressive and emotionally charged* works of art that have been collected by corporate, private, and commercial clients.

Crystal is a member of the *National Guild of Realism*, was the youngest elected fellow of *The Ottawa Watercolour Society*, and also holds a Botanical illustration diploma from the Society of Botanical Artists (UK). She has illustrated four published children's books, including her original story *When I Visit the Farm*, and has been featured in several local and national publications.

ARTIST STATEMENT

My upbringing greatly influenced my lens on the world. I use my artwork as an outlet for contemplative exploration of deeper concepts reflecting on how I and we, as humans, relate to an ever-changing landscape and environment. Painting wildlife for me is both a cathartic and documentative means to record animals, their behaviour and the impact we have on their existence and environment.

Most importantly, I want to share my passion for conservation with others so that these stories and subjects can be heard, seen and live on. In "Practice makes Perfect", I was interested with the balance of play and assertion of status between these two young bucks. The entanglement, push and pull and energy between the two against a stark background lent itself well to the balance I was hoping to achieve that through the application of my paint as well. The realistic nature of honouring their shape and texture juxtaposed with an element of expressionism in the background to communicate an energy, urgency and a tactile quality.

CV

EDUCATION

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- 2012** Society of Botanical Illustrators (UK) with distinction
1997 Bachelor of Fine Arts with Honours in Studio, University of Ottawa

AWARDS & GRANTS

- 2020** People's Choice Award Winner in both Works on Canvas/Panel ("*Alfred, After the Storm*") and Works on Paper ("*Shade Seekers*") Categories, McMichael En Plein Air Competition, McMichael Gallery, Kleinburg, ON
2019 *Frances Trachok Memorial Award of Excellence* for "Lean on Me" (oil on canvas, 24 x 24 in.), AWA *Looking West Show*, Steamboat Art Museum, Colorado, USA
2018 "These Boots", 1st Place Watercolour, Susan Kathleen Black Foundation, WY, USA
2011 Ontario Arts Council
2011 Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation Bursary
2010 Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation Bursary
2007 Nominated as Ottawa's top 3 emerging Artists OSA awards
2006 Nepean Fine Arts League First Prize Excellence award and Trophy, "Isaiah" watercolour
2006 Nepean Fine Arts League First Prize Jurors Choice, "Isaiah" watercolour
2006 Nepean Fine Arts League Members Choice, "Isaiah" watercolour
2005 Ontario Arts Council, Exhibition Assistance
1997 Ottawa Watercolour Society, youngest elected member
1993 Cultural Contributions Bursary PPHS

MEMBERSHIPS

- 2020-present** Canadian Federation of Artists
2020-present Southwestern Watercolour Society
2019-present American Watercolor Society
2018-present Women Artists of the West
2017-present American Women Artists, Associate Member with Distinction
2007-present International Guild of Realism elected member
2007-present Artists who Teach
2005-present Red Salon Artists
2004-present Nepean Fine Arts League
1999-present Art Lending of Ottawa
1997-present Ottawa Watercolour Society, elected as a Fellow FOWS, 2001

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

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- 2021** *Art in the Vineyard, Vignobles Vankleek Hill, ON*
- 2020** *Country Roads, Wall Space Gallery, Ottawa, ON*
- 2019** *To the Waters and the Wild, Wall Space Gallery, Ottawa, ON*
- 2018** *Linger and Lure, Wall Space Gallery, Ottawa, ON*
- 2017** *Songs of the Sea, Wall Space Gallery's Project SPACE, Ottawa, ON*
- 2016** *First Blush, Wall Space Gallery, Ottawa, ON*
- 2015** *Darling Buds of May, Mint Hair Studio, Ottawa, ON*
- 2014** *Life on the Rock, The Studio Café, Ottawa, ON*
- 2013** *Fight of Flight, Orange Art Gallery, Ottawa, ON*
- 2012** *Winter's Promise, Orange Art Gallery, Ottawa, ON*
- 2010** *Have Your Cake, The Table Restaurant, Ottawa, ON*
- 2007** *Bringing home San Miguel, IPO Gallery, Ottawa, ON*

SELECT GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2022** *Bloom, Federation of Canadian Artists*
- 2022** *Animalis, Federation Gallery, Granby, BC*
- 2021** *Ottawa River Keeper Gala, Donation for conservation, Ottawa, ON*
- 2020** *Ottawa River Keeper Gala, Donation for conservation, Ottawa, ON*
- 2020** *Annual Plein Air Competition, McMichael Gallery, Kleinburg, ON*
- 2020** *57th Annual Members Exhibition, Southwestern Watercolor Society, Texas, USA*
- 2020** *Annual International Representation Exhibition, Federation of Canadian Artists*
- 2020** *WAOW 50th Jubilee National, Settlers West Gallery, Tucson, AZ*
- 2019** *SKB Rendezvous, The Susan Kathleen Black Foundation, Dubois, WY*
- 2019** *In the Audubon Tradition, Cincinnati Museum of History & Science, Cincinnati, OH*
- 2019** *Looking West: AWA Showcase, Steamboat Art Museum, Steamboat Springs, CO*
- 2018** *SKB Rendezvous, The Susan Kathleen Black Foundation, Dubois, WY*
- 2017** *Annual Wildlife Exhibition, Algonquin Arts Centre, Algonquin Park, ON*
- 2017** *Art of the Horse, Ottawa, ON*
- 2014** *Bizarre Love Triangle, Cyclelogik, Ottawa, ON*
- 2014** *BLUME, The Studio Café Gallery, Ottawa, ON*
- 2012** *June Exhibition, Marigold Gallery, Sante Fe, New Mexico*

SELECTED PRESS

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- 2022** TVO Original series *Crossroads: American Art Collector, Women Artists Focus*
American Art Collector, Collectors Focus Florals & Botanicals
- 2021** Escarpment Magazine
- 2020** Le Régional, Hawkesbury
The Review, Vankleek Hill
- 2016** International Artist Magazine
- 2014** Ottawa Woman Magazine (cover feature), November issue
CTV, Ottawa Morning LIVE, Ottawa Citizen
Ottawa Start Magazine
Rogers Daytime Television
Metro News
- 2013** Ottawa Magazine
- 2012** Art & Science Journal

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