



2023 ONTARIO
JURIED
EXHIBITION
thamesartgallery

Norman Barney Joe Cashin Grace Dam
Brittany Forest Gail Gifford Clara Laratta
Tavis Lea Michaela Lucio Grahame Lynch
Sarah Martin Adam Matak Vicki McFarland
Joanne Morris James Olley Slavica Panic
Penelope Colleen Schindler Lynch
Ashley Snook Ann Towell Danielle Vincent
Heather Wheldrake



Sarah Martin, *Something to Soften the Blow*, photographic pigment print, 30" x 20", 2023

Juror's Statement

The Ontario Biennial Juried Exhibition 2023 at the Thames Art Gallery features 21 talented artists and showcases 35 unique pieces of art. As the juror for this group show, I was drawn to pieces that conveyed a connection to nature or family, or both.

The artists involved in this project work in a variety of media such as felted wool, acrylic, oil paints, ink, mixed media, photography, video, and installation, presenting a range of perspectives. While some artists may identify as conservationists, others have a deep appreciation for the natural world, and some may feel the weight of its vulnerability. Some pieces are abstract, while others are personal or realistic, providing visitors with the opportunity to discuss how different media and techniques can impact the interpretation of similar themes.

Although I was initially hesitant to include larger dystopian works, I ultimately decided to do so because they reflect the anxiety that underlies much of the current climate crisis. Additionally, some pieces celebrate the beauty and diversity of the natural world, articulating what is at stake.

Consequently the artists featured in this exhibition, inclusive of Norman Barney, Joe Cashin, Grace Dam, Brittany Forest, Gail Gifford, Penelope Jones, Clara Laratta, Tavis Lea, Michaela Lucio, Grahame Lynch, Sarah Martin, Adam Matak, Vicki McFarland, Joanne Morris, James Olley, Slavica Panic, Colleen Schindler Lynch, Ashley Snook, Ann Towell,

Danielle Vincent, and Heather Wheldrake, not only explore the concept of inhabiting our fleeting utopian present, they caution us against entering an increasingly dystopian future. While their works can be interpreted from various angles, including technical, spiritual, political, and aesthetic; the installation itself is theatrical, resembling a stage or a forest-themed maze. This way, visitors are encouraged to navigate through the exhibit and experience a sense of environmental empathy.

Overall, the pieces on display strive to capture the psychological and ecological wilderness of our natural world, portraying it as something that is both comprehensible and enigmatic. As the juror of this group show, I agree that our nature is an intricate and dynamic body that defies complete understanding.

Juror - Carla Garnet Bio

Carla Garnet is the Director and Curator of the John B. Aird Gallery. She has worked as the JOUEZ curator for the annual BIG on Bloor Festival of Arts and Culture in Toronto (2007-2010 and 2014-19), the curator at the Art Gallery of Peterborough (2010-2013), as a guest curator at Gallery Stratford (2009-2010), as an independent curator (1997-2010), and was the founder and director of Garnet Press Gallery (1984-97).

Garnet holds an Associate Diploma from the Ontario College of Art and Design and a Master Degree in Art History from York University.

Garnet is interested in the politics of the art exhibition and its potential to function as a common—a public space for dialogue. Her curatorial area of interest engages with an exploration of work that presents the possibility of existing simultaneously in many tenses or occupying more than one subject position at once, or both as a way to open up space for greater empathy. For Garnet, an artwork's significance is tied up with an ability to say what otherwise might be unsayable.



Danielle Vincent, *Opia*, oil on canvas board, 8" x 10", 2023



Ann Towell, *In the Pasture*, inkjet print on Hahnemuhle FineArt Baryta paper 1 of 10, 20" x 26", 2023



(top left) **Adam Matak**
Soft Bouquet (Annotated), paint swatches and acrylic on panel,
24" x 16", 2022

(top right) **Colleen Schindler Lynch**
Joanne's Room, stitched drawing with cotton and oil pastels,
14" x 11", 2023

(bottom left) **Joe Cashin**, *The Bunny*, coloured pencils on paper,
12" x 9", 2023



Gail Gifford, Mum's the Word, oil on canvas, 48" x 36", 2023

2023 Ontario Juried Exhibition

August 25, 2023 - October 22, 2023

Opening Reception: August 25, 2023 | 7-9PM

Curator: Phil Vanderwall

Assistant Curator: Michaela Lucio

Program Coordinator: Irene MacCreadie

Juror: Carla Garnet

Design: Donna Nolan

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Acknowledgements

The Thames Art Gallery extends its gratitude to Carla Garnet for her involvement in the selection of this exhibition. The Gallery thanks all the artists who submitted to this years Juried Exhibition.

List of works

Norman Barney, *God Watches but Does Nothing*, mixed media, 31.5" x 31.5", 2023

Norman Barney, *Drunken Moose Hunting*, mixed media, 31.5" x 31.5", 2021

Norman Barney, *Windfall Lake*, mixed media, 36" x 31.5", 2021

Joe Cashin, *Screaming Tree of the Algonquin Park*, coloured pencils on paper, 12" x 9", 2023

Joe Cashin, *The Bunny*, coloured pencils on paper, 12" x 9", 2023

Grace Dam, *The Expedition*, oil on canvas, 30" x 24", 2023

Brittany Forrest, *Let him get your shoulders (Fight)*, cement casting with found objects and spray paint, 34" x 22" x 5", 2022

Gail Gifford, *Mum's the Word*, oil on canvas, 48" x 36", 2023

Clara Laratta, *Grounded by Roots and Presence*, inkjet print with reactive dye on silk georgette, variable dimensions (installed at 78" x 110"), 2023

Tavis Lea, *Vespera*, oil on canvas, 48" x 72", 2023

Michaela Lucio, *Chronicles of a Forgotten Memory*, waved watercolour on frosted mylar, 9.25" x 11.75" (Framed), 2022-2023

Grahame Lynch, *of breath and water #16*, cyanotype on paper, 10" x 8" (14" x 11" framed), 2023

Sarah Martin, *Something to Soften the Blow*, photographic pigment print, 30" x 20", 2023

Adam Matak, *We Lay Down & We Look Up*, paint swatches and acrylic on panel, 24" x 18", 2022

Adam Matak, *Soft Bouquet (Annotated)*, paint swatches and acrylic on panel, 24" x 16", 2022

Vicki McFarland, *Quiet Moments*, acrylic on canvas, 48" x 60", 2023

Joanne Morris, *Whispering Pines Island Retreat*, acrylic on canvas, 30" x 40", 2023

James Olley, *Birch Tree*, oil on canvas on panel, 30" x 40", 2022

James Olley, *Tree Grass*, oil on canvas, 30" x 24", 2022

Slavica Panic, *Waterfall*, mixed media, 62" x 32" x 12", 2023

Slavica Panic, *Burgeon*, mixed media, 36" x 16" x 2.5", 2023

Penelope, *I am ~ ME*, acrylic and ink on canvas, 48" x 24", 2023

Penelope, *County Proud*, acrylic and mixed media on canvas, 18" x 36", 2023

Colleen Schindler Lynch, *Joanne's Room*, stitched drawing with cotton and oil pastels, 14" x 11", 2023

Colleen Schindler Lynch, *The Louis Quatorze Room*, stitched drawing with cotton and oil pastels, 14" x 11", 2023

Ashley Snook, *Recuperative Play for Ecological Grief*, installation, 5' x 10', 2022

Ashley Snook, *A Body Within a Body Within a Body*, 3-Channel Video Installation 7:41:19, 2022

Ann Towell, *In the Pasture*, inkjet print on Hahnemuhle Fine Art Baryta paper 1 of 10, 20" x 26", 2023

Ann Towell, *Two Brown Cows*, inkjet print on Hahnemuhle Fine Art Baryta paper 1 of 10, 20" x 26", 2023

Ann Towell, *The Dandelion*, inkjet print on Hahnemuhle Fine Art Baryta paper 1 of 10, 20" x 26", 2023

Danielle Vincent, *Memory is a Sacred Meat*, oil on canvas, 24" x 18" each, 2022

Danielle Vincent, *Opia*, oil on canvas board, 8" x 10", 2023

Heather Wheldrake, *Buck Lake, Looking West*, needle-felted wool, 34cm x 30cm, 2022

Heather Wheldrake, *Silent Lake*, needle-felted wool, 24cm x 24cm, 2023

Heather Wheldrake, *Long Lake*, needle-felted wool, 33cm x 34.5cm, 2021

Cover image: **Ashley Snook**, *Recuperative Play for Ecological Grief*, installation, 5' x 10', 2022. Photo by Dickson Bou



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