

Bradley Ertaskiran

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Stephanie Temma Hier Biography

Stephanie Temma Hier's work emerges at the intersection of oil painting and ceramic sculpture. She creates meticulous figurative paintings, many featuring scenes of fruit and other consumables which then nestle within hand-built ceramic sculptures. Working mostly from found imagery and scouring the internet for content, Hier fixes the ephemeral stream of fleeting digital imagery into slow, hand-wrought processes and earthly materials. Her paintings interact with their sculptural pairings to create new narratives both rich in the use of art historical references and feather-light by the means of pop-cultural ephemera. The vision put forward in her work reminds us that no image, context, or framework exists in a vacuum.

Stephanie Temma Hier (b. 1992, Toronto, Ontario) lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. She holds a BFA from the Ontario College of Art and Design University (Toronto) and studied at the Academy of Art Canada (Toronto). Notable solo exhibitions include Bradley Ertaskiran (Montreal), Gallery Vacancy (Shanghai), Nino Meier (Los Angeles & Brussels), David Dale (Glasgow), Downs and Ross (New York), and Neochrome Gallery (Turin). Recent group shows include Kotaro Nukaga (Tokyo), Rodolphe Janssen (Brussels), The Kitchen (New York), Galerie Hussenot (Paris), Kasmin Gallery (New York), Friends Indeed Gallery (San Francisco) The Power Plant (Toronto), and the Art Gallery of Ontario (Toronto), among others. Stephanie Temma Hier's work is found in the permanent collections of the X Museum (Beijing), The Contemporary Art Foundation (Tokyo), the Longlati Foundation (Shanghai), ICA Miami (Miami), and the Mint Museum (Charlotte).

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Rick Leong Biography

Leong's painted landscapes are rooted in a bilingual vocabulary and style. Drawn from observation and influenced by classical Chinese paintings, imagery and symbols, his large-scale paintings incorporate a holistic view of the Canadian landscape and the artist's relationship to it. Leong's pursuit and recording of nature abide by the terms of traditional landscape painting; thus, he succeeds in disseminating an ongoing relational narrative. Paying attention to phenomenal changes in botany—such as temporal and meteorological conditions—the artist reimagines the natural world. Light becomes solid and massive and rainbows become architectural. One is tempted to dwell in the poetry of experience. Painting no longer entails that the artist work solely from memory. What isn't remembered accurately is invented, forming a synthesis of inspiration, observation, memory and imagination.

Rick Leong lives and works in Victoria, British-Columbia. Leong received his BFA from the University of Victoria (2003) and an MFA from Concordia University in Montreal (2007). Solo exhibitions have been presented at Bradley Ertaskiran (Montreal), Art Windsor Essex (Windsor), Arsenal Contemporary Art (New York), Empty Gallery (Victoria), The Art Gallery of Greater Victoria (Victoria), among others. Leong's work has been included in numerous group exhibitions staged at the National Gallery of Canada (Ottawa), the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts (Montreal), the Contemporary Art Gallery (Vancouver), The Art Gallery of Greater Victoria (Victoria), PHI Foundation (Montreal), Esker Foundation (Calgary), and the Richmond Art Gallery (Richmond). His work can be found in numerous collections, including the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec, the Canada Council Art Bank, and the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria.

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Shaan Syed Biography

Shaan Syed's practice is characterized by the decoding and re-contextualising of visual signs and references drawn from European and American post-modern painting. In Syed's artworks, this approach seamlessly intertwines with elements from his personal experiences and cultural background. His works are recognizable by the tension between the graphic lines of hard-edge abstraction and gestural personal mark-making, often revealing the many revisions and changes undergone throughout their making. Together, these elements embody Syed's concept of painting as "a process of reverse archaeology", where material is added in order to uncover.

Often drawing comparisons and similarities across histories, with particular attention to Islamic architecture, craft and ornament, Syed explores traditions and contemporary preoccupations which have historically been considered part of vastly different worlds. "[Syed] takes the visual language of American abstraction (Barnett Newman, Clyfford Still, Jasper Johns, etc) and smashes it into non-Western symbolism. ...It's abstraction with very un-abstract meanings and intentions" – Eddy Frankel.

Shaan Syed was born in Toronto, Canada and now lives and works in London, UK. He holds an MFA from Goldsmiths College in London (2006) and a diploma in Fine Arts from OCAD in Toronto (2000). Recent solo exhibitions include presentations at Bradley Ertaskiran (Montreal), Vardaxoglou (London), Sundy (London) Galeria Nuno Centeno (Porto), FREEHOUSE (London), Parisian Laundry (Montreal) and Kunsthalle Winterthur (Winterthur). He has participated in numerous group exhibitions in venues such as The Power Plant (Toronto), Aga Khan Museum (Toronto), Indigo + Madder (London), Nicodim Gallery (Los Angeles), Lundgren Gallery (Palma Majorca), Art Gallery of Peterborough (Peterborough), and the Roberts Institute of Art (London). Syed is the recipient of the Pollock-Krasner Foundation Award (2013) as well as the Arts Council of England and Canada Council for the Arts project Grants. His work is part of the permanent collections of the National Gallery of Canada (Ottawa), Art Gallery of Peterborough (Peterborough), UBS Art Collection (Dubai), Saatchi Collection (London), MoMa Library (New York), Goldsmiths College (London), RBC Art Collection and TD Canada Trust, among others.

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Joseph Tisiga Biography

Joseph Tisiga (b. Edmonton, 1984) maintains a multidisciplinary practice that is rooted in painting and drawing, but also draws from performance, photography, sculpture, and installation. His work reflects upon notions of identity and what contributes to this construct—community, nationality, family, history, location, real and imagined memories. Tisiga’s works look at cultural and social inheritance, the mundane, the metaphysical and the mythological, often all at once and on the same surface. This conflation of interests and perspectives plays itself out in the artist’s narratives, which are distinctly non-linear, cross cultural and supernatural.

Joseph Tisiga is a multidisciplinary artist based in Montreal and a member of the Kaska Dena First Nation. Tisiga recently held solo exhibitions at the Musée d’art de Joliette (Joliette), the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, Michigan State University (East Lansing), the Audain Art Museum (Whistler), and Bradley Ertaskiran (Montreal). Other notable exhibitions include those held at the National Gallery of Canada (Ottawa), the Winnipeg Art Gallery (Winnipeg), MASS MoCA (North Adams), the Museum of Contemporary Native Arts, (Santa Fe), and at the West Vancouver Museum (Vancouver). Tisiga’s work is found in institutional collections as well as in numerous private and corporate collections. Tisiga is the recipient of The Yukon Art Prize (2021), the Sobey Art Award (2020), and the REVEAL Indigenous Art Award (2017).

3550, rue Saint-Antoine Ouest
Montréal, QC H4C 1A9 Canada

T +1 514 989-1056
info@bradleyertaskiran.com

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Ben Tong Biography

The dynamic nature of Ben Tong's process resonates with the evocative impact of the final paintings. His canvases are open and unburdened yet conscious, charged with thought. Tong often utilizes unconventional tools to continuously impress oil paint upon the canvas. The inherent unpredictability of this approach allows the artist to remain open to what may emerge, to be a transmitter for chaos and unactivated imagery. Shapes surface from the repeated acts of painting and wiping away, washed in vivid hues of purple, blue, orange, and pink. Little rainbows revisit various scenes, refracting wavelengths from an unknown origin. Action begets meaning, rather than the other way around.

— Jayne Pugh

Ben Tong (b. 1981 Toronto, Canada) is based in Los Angeles and holds an MFA from the California Institute of the Arts. His work has been exhibited at Night Gallery (Los Angeles); Commonwealth and Council (Los Angeles); K11 Art Foundation (Hong Kong); Art Basel Film program (Hong Kong); Jack Barrett Gallery (New York); Europa NYC (New York); Kling and Bang (Reykjavik); Gallery Vacancy (Shanghai); and the Hammer Museum (Los Angeles), among other institutions. He was a fellow at the Villa Aurora Foundation (Berlin) and in residency at the SOMA Summer Program (Mexico City).

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Janet Werner Biography

Janet Werner's work as a painter focuses on the fictional portrait as a vehicle to explore notions of subjectivity and desire. Her paintings operate within and against the genre of conventional portraiture, taking found images of anonymous figures in popular culture and imbuing them with fictional personalities. The process of painting is a way of investigating the iconic power of the image, invoking imagination, memory, and projection to invest the nameless figure with human subjectivity and emotion. The final paintings are composite portraits that retain aspects of the original while also embodying notions of transformation, innocence, and loss. In her recent work, the artist incorporates collage as a springboard for the paintings, juxtaposing disparate images of the figure to emphasize ideas of displacement, rupture, and competing narratives within each individual work.

Janet Werner (b. 1959, Winnipeg, Manitoba) lives and works in Montreal, Canada, and holds an MFA from Yale University (New Haven). Werner's work has been exhibited extensively across Canada, in the US and Europe. Notable exhibitions include the Musée d'art contemporain de Montreal, Bradley Ertaskiran (Montreal), Almine Rech (Brussels), Kasmin Gallery (New York), Arsenal Contemporary Art (New York), Anat Ebgi (Los Angeles), the Art Gallery of Guelph (Guelph), and Whatiftheworld Gallery (Cape Town). A survey exhibition entitled *Another Perfect Day*, organized by the Kenderdine Art Gallery, was presented in five locations across Canada, including the Esker Foundation (Calgary). Werner's work is held in public collections that include the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec, Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, the Art Gallery of Ontario (Toronto), the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, the Canadian Embassy in Berlin, University of Lethbridge (Alberta), the Winnipeg Art Gallery and the Remai Modern (Saskatoon).