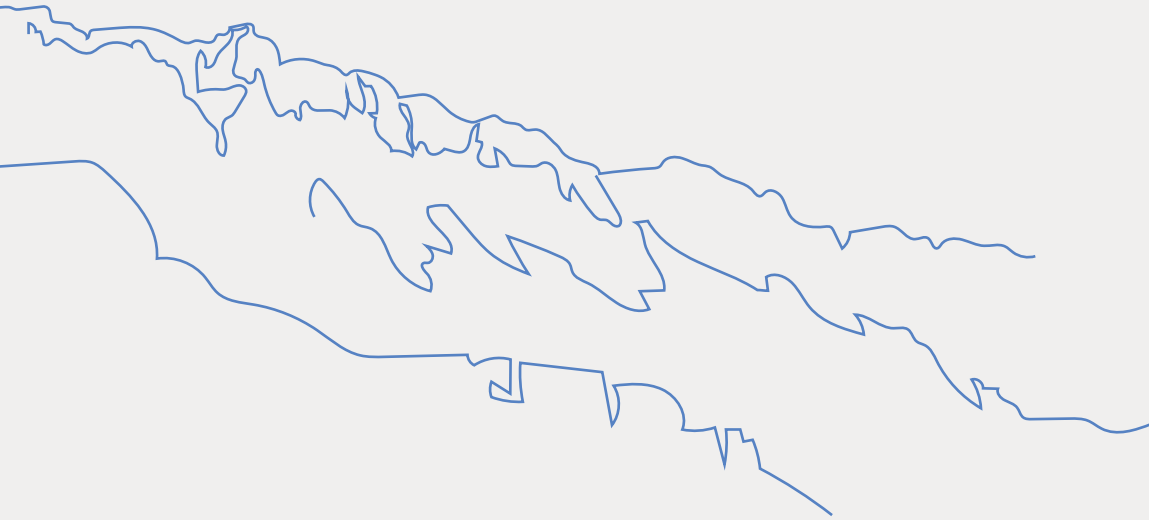


vicki hadland jenna hoffart matias martinez brenda mercer glen velcro chanel schultz erica teulon  
bridget trout

# STRANGE AND KNOWN PLACES

vergo vanelle curtis windover



# STRANGE AND KNOWN PLACES

50.0292° N, 110.7034° W

**Co-curated by Genevieve Farrell and Kira Vlietstra**

Alberta Foundation for the Arts  
Travelling Exhibition Program

Interpretive Catalogue

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# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



The Alberta Foundation for the Arts and the Travelling Exhibition Program (TRES) acknowledge that the artistic activity we support takes place on the territories of Treaty 6, 7 and 8. We acknowledge the many First Nations, Métis and Inuit who have lived on and cared for these lands for generations, and we are grateful for the traditional Knowledge Keepers, Elders and those who have gone before us. We make this acknowledgment as an act of reconciliation and gratitude to those whose territory we reside on. We reaffirm our commitment to strengthening our relationships with Indigenous communities and growing our shared knowledge and understanding.

This publication was produced in conjunction with the TRES Southeast group exhibition *Strange and Known Places*. *Strange and Known Places* will tour throughout Alberta to non-traditional gallery spaces from September 2022 to February 2025. Visit [trexsoutheast.ca](https://trexsoutheast.ca) to find out more about the program and locations of each exhibition.

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*A special thanks to Jennifer Utrera Barrientos, Assistant Archivist, Esplanade Arts & Heritage Centre, for re-humidifying Vicki Hadland's photographs which had been damaged in a flood.*

## TRES Space

#2 516 3rd Street SE, Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada, T1A 0H3

## CURATORIAL STATEMENT

*Strange and Known Places* is a collaborative curatorial project featuring the work of 10 artists based in or with strong ties to Medicine Hat. The exhibition's title reflects on the familiar geography that ties these artists together (Known Places) and the overarching use of personal mythology or an exploration of lesser-understood aspects of the human experience (Strange Places). The exhibition presents 30 works in a range of materials including textiles, photography, leather work, blown glass, painting, drawing and a music video. The included artworks envelop a wide range of enthusiasms, curiosities and passions, offering audiences a chance to see the world in surprising and affecting new frames. For the exhibition's opening at TREX Space, works by each artist were reproduced as posters that were available for audiences to take home as a token of the exhibit and celebration of local talent.

— Genevieve Farrell, TREX Southeast

## Vicki Hadland

Multimedia artist with present emphasis on oil and acrylic painting and various drawing materials such as graphite and charcoal.

### *Connection to Medicine Hat:*

Resident for 40 years.

### *What books, movies, music or visual artists have influenced your art practice the most?*

Ancient spiritual myths from ancient Mesopotamia and Sumer and a fascination with Australian Aboriginal spirituality and art. The book "Women Who Run with Wolves" by Clarissa Estes is often referred to, as is the work of Joseph Campbell on the common archetypes present in all myths and legends. I also owe a great debt to Maureen Newton at Inspire Café and my teachers at the Medicine Hat College, in particular, Dean Smale and Jessica Plattner, for helping me develop skills and range.





*(opposite)*  
Vicki Hadland

*Eagle Coat*  
cotton applique  
1992



Vicki Hadland

*Applique Coat Photographs*  
film photographs  
1992





Vicki Hadland

*Applique Coat Photographs*  
film photograph  
1992

*What is your most treasured possession?*

If the house was on fire, I would save my dog first, he has been a true friend.

*What jobs have you done other than being an artist?*

Electron Microscopy Technician, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa; Montessori owner and operator; Wanderer, North America, learning wilderness and survival skills and practising them; Subsistence Farmer with animals.

*What is your dream art project?*

For now, I want to develop skill and range and expand my ideas of what art can be. However, I would love to take on the challenge of painting the human figure.

*Favourite or most inspirational place in Medicine Hat?*

My backyard. There are two does, mother and grown daughter, who deliver their fawns every year in my backyard. It is a moving and inspirational experience. Also, lots of bird species courting, nesting and raising families all summer.





Vicki Hadland

*Untitled*  
acrylic  
2021



Vicki Hadland

*Eagle Coat* (back, detail)  
cotton applique  
1992



Vicki Hadland

*Untitled*  
ink and watercolour  
2019

Vicki Hadland

*Identity Totem*  
charcoal on paper  
2021

*Is solitude an important aspect of your art practice?*

Being in wild nature away from human habitation is an absolute necessity for me to maintain equilibrium.

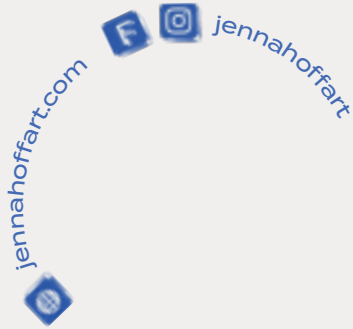
*Do you collect anything?*

Objects made by hand in particular, beautiful textiles tending towards the primitive and beautiful glass.

*Are there any new art projects you are focused on right now?*

I'm attending Medicine Hat College's Art and Design program and gaining varied and valuable skills and experiences.





## Jenna Hoffart

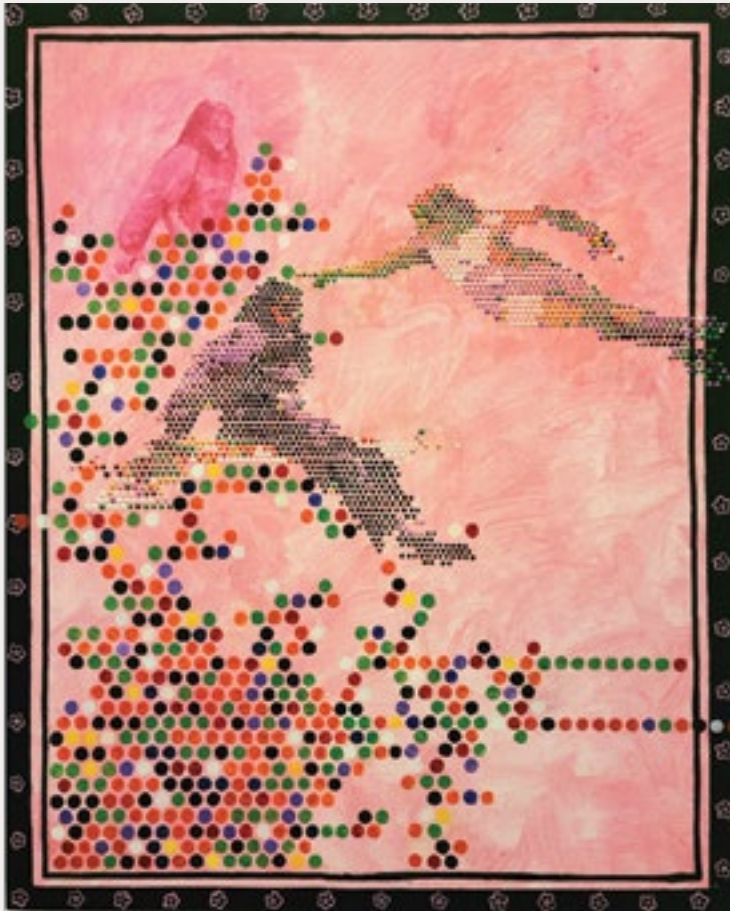
I am a fourth year Fine Arts student at the University of Alberta. I was born and raised in Medicine Hat, where I took the first two years of my degree. I have been drawing and making art since I was physically able to, but I started getting serious about building up my skills and ideas when I was about 11 years old. Using skills to paint and draw semi-realistically has always been important to me, as well as developing my ability to create rhythmic and dynamic compositions. This for me can mean working with a combination of abstraction, surrealism and semi-realism. I am drawn to create work that is specifically personal to me, and that is often created subconsciously and intuitively. I tend to lean towards subjects related to childhood and nostalgia, identity, digital identity and spirituality.





Jenna Hoffart

*Scatter Brain*  
plastic beads, fishing line and 3D printed beads  
(designed by Jenna and printed by Johnson Luong)  
2021



Jenna Hoffart

*The Creation of Little One,  
by Virtue of the Brick-Stitch*  
acrylic on canvas  
2020

***Artistic medium(s):***

Acrylic painting and craft beading.

***Connection to Medicine Hat:***

I was born in Medicine Hat and lived there for 25 years before moving to Edmonton.

***What books, movies, music or visual artists have influenced your art practise the most?***

Visual Artists: Philip Guston, Marilene Oliver, Royden Mills, Dean Smale, Max Ernst, Emilio Villalba, Jenna Gribbon, Sasha Velour, Rembrandt, Salvador Dali, Dennis Sarazhin and many more.

Music: Talking Heads, XTC, Depeche Mode, Arcade Fire, Grizzly Bear, Lady Gaga's "Art Pop" album.

***What is your most treasured possession?***

My two pink teddy bears named "Old Baby" and "New Baby" as well as the "Love Knot" ring my Baba gave to me.



*What jobs have you done other than being an artist?*

Cashier, Line Cook, Barista, Art and Framing Specialist.

*What is your dream art project?*

I'd like to create a wearable art fashion show! Full of my wearable beaded pieces.

*Favourite or most inspirational place in Medicine Hat?*

The South Saskatchewan River (I like to watch it, I don't and have never gone in it). Every important place in my life has a large flowing river running through it: Medicine Hat, Rishikesh India and Edmonton.

*Is solitude an important aspect of your art practise?*

I find inspiration in others, and am aware that I am standing on the shoulders of giants. I receive a lot of inspiration and helpful criticism from my teachers, but in my actual creative process, being alone is very important to me.

*Do you collect anything?*

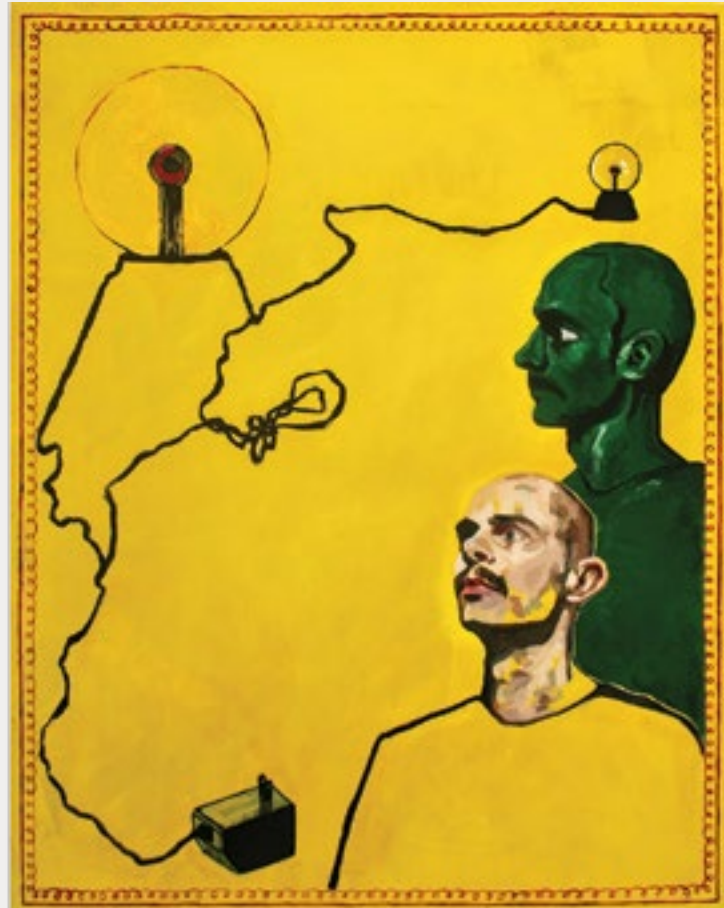
Earrings, beads, clothes and dolls.

*Are there any new art projects you are focused on right now?*

Yes, I am working on many paintings focusing on beads and repetition, as well as a wearable beaded piece.

Jenna Hoffart

*Electric Yellow Reality*  
acrylic on canvas  
2020



## Matias Martinez

I am a Latino Canadian artist based out of Calgary, Alberta and raised in Medicine Hat, Alberta. My main mediums are glass and painting. I love the idea of love. It's what I try to spread the most, and where my ideas usually come from. I try to be experiential both through materials and concepts. I believe that all humans share similar life experiences and that we can use these experiences to grow deeper connections with one another. My art practice is intuitive and based on first-hand research; I relate a lot to how a jazz musician can just play along in a jam session where you can tune in to a sort of flow and freely move from there, or how a dancer picks their next moves in a perfect sequence that looks intentional but may be improvised. I want to end this by saying, if no one has told you today, I Love You.





Matias Martinez

*Memories We Love to  
Experience: Medicine Hat*  
etched glass  
2021

***Artistic medium(s):***

Glass, painting, installation and social practice.

***Connection to Medicine Hat:***

I was born and raised in Medicine Hat; I have lots of my best memories there with friends that I still have to this day. I also remember all the goodbyes I said when I left Medicine Hat; it was hard at the moment but I'm happy about where I'm from and who it made me.

***Inspirations:***

Some of my inspirations as artists are David Choe, Rich Theroux (Calgary-based artist), Ian Zapico and Amber Cowan.

***What is your most treasured possession?***

My dog's glass memorial which holds his ashes.

***What jobs have you done other than being an artist?***

I host events for artists and a community called the Soul Hub.

***What is your dream art project?***

A warehouse-style show filled with an interactive glass installation with thousands of individual glassworks.



Matias Martinez

*Memories We Love to Experience:  
Medicine Hat and Calgary (details)*  
2021







Matias Martinez

*Memories We Love to  
Experience: Drumheller*  
etched glass  
2021





Matias Martinez

*Memories We Love to*

*Experience: Calgary*

etched glass

2021

***Favourite or most inspirational place in Medicine Hat?***

This might sound a bit odd and maybe not what you're looking for but I really think seeing and being around my friends that still live in Medicine Hat is my favourite place to be in the city.

***Is solitude an important aspect of your art practice?***

No not really, I would say the opposite is true. I need to go out and experience life in order to make art that is filled with energy and purpose.

***Do you collect anything?***

I collect artwork, not a whole lot right now but I love what I have!

***Are there any new projects you are working on right now?***

Of course! I always have to be pushing forward. I have a show in Edmonton this coming December 2021 with a group called Making Space. The exhibition centers around ideas of tending, and then I'm starting the Calgary Glass Club and having a show on January 15, 2022. Also, the Soul Hub is ongoing!

 White Horse Rider Co

## Brenda Mercer

Brenda Mercer

*Parfleche bag*  
rawhide and leather  
2021





Brenda Mercer

*Drum*  
rawhide and bear grease  
2021

*Artistic medium(s):*

Leather and rawhide.

*Connection to Medicine Hat:*

I moved here in 1983, left and came back three times, so I think I was meant to be here!

*What books, movies, music or visual artists have influenced your art practise the most?*

Thomas King's book "The Inconvenient Indian: A Curious Account of Native People in North America."

*What is your most treasured possession?*

My beads and leather.

*What jobs have you done other than being an artist?*

I am a mom and grandmother, which I love!!!



Brenda Mercer

*Rattles*  
rawhide, leather and wood  
2021

*What is your dream art project?*

To do a play on my personal healing journey.

*Favourite or most inspirational place in Medicine Hat?*

The tepee for sure.

*Is solitude an important aspect of your art practice?*

Yes, I think my brain just goes "okay, lets do this" when I have time to myself.

*Do you collect anything?*

I collect teapots.

*Are there any new art projects you are focused on right now?*

Rawhide earrings at the moment.



Brenda Mercer

*Untitled*  
cow skull, leather,  
sweet grass and paint  
2021



## Glen Velcro

Big n' strong since day 1.  
— *Bridget Trout*

*Artistic medium(s):*

Ink and paint.

*Connection to Medicine Hat:*

Spiritual Mogul, velcro distribution.

*What books, movies, music or visual artists have influenced your art practice the most?*

Nickleback and DC shoes.

*What is your most treasured possession?*

My trusty pocket knife.

*What jobs have you done other than being an artist?*

Human meat exterminator, velcro distributor.

*What is your dream art project?*

Global expansion of velcro empire.







Glen Velcro

*Untitled*  
paint on cloth  
2021





Chantel Schultz

*Entanglements 1*  
graphite on velum  
2020–2021



## Chantel Schultz

Schultz is an artist from the Canadian prairies currently based in Regina, Saskatchewan on Treaty 4 territory. She graduated from the University of Alberta in 2020 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art and Design with a studio focus in Sculpture and Drawing/Intermedia. She also holds a Bachelor of Applied Arts in Visual Communications from the Medicine Hat College (2017). Her studio practice centers around an interest in an ostensible nature-culture divide mainly described through sculpture and drawing. She questions what is permeable and porous through materials that undergo transformations and forms that appear to be at once biological and geological to challenge the barriers that keep the respective binaries in their place asking the viewer to reconsider the interconnectivity and relativity of these concepts. Schultz has completed internships at Franconia Sculpture Park in Shafer, Minnesota, USA (2018) and at Salem Art Works in Salem, New York, USA (2019). She has been the recipient of two Edmonton Arts Council CIP Travel Grants (2018, 2019) and received an honourable mention from the International Sculpture Centre (ISC) for the Outstanding Student Achievement in Contemporary Sculpture Award (2019).

*Artistic medium(s):*

Drawing and sculpture.

*Connection to Medicine Hat:*

Medicine Hat College Alumni and former employee at the Esplanade Arts & Heritage Centre.

*What books, movies, music or visual artists have influenced your art practice the most?*

Books that have really influenced my practice are "The Spell of the Sensuous" by David Abram "Becoming Animal: An Earthly Cosmology" by David Abram and "The Poetics of Space" by Gaston Bachelard. As for visual artists, the work of Louise Bourgeois, Andy Goldsworthy, Aganetha Dyck and Suzanne Anker have been very influential.

*What is your most treasured possession?*

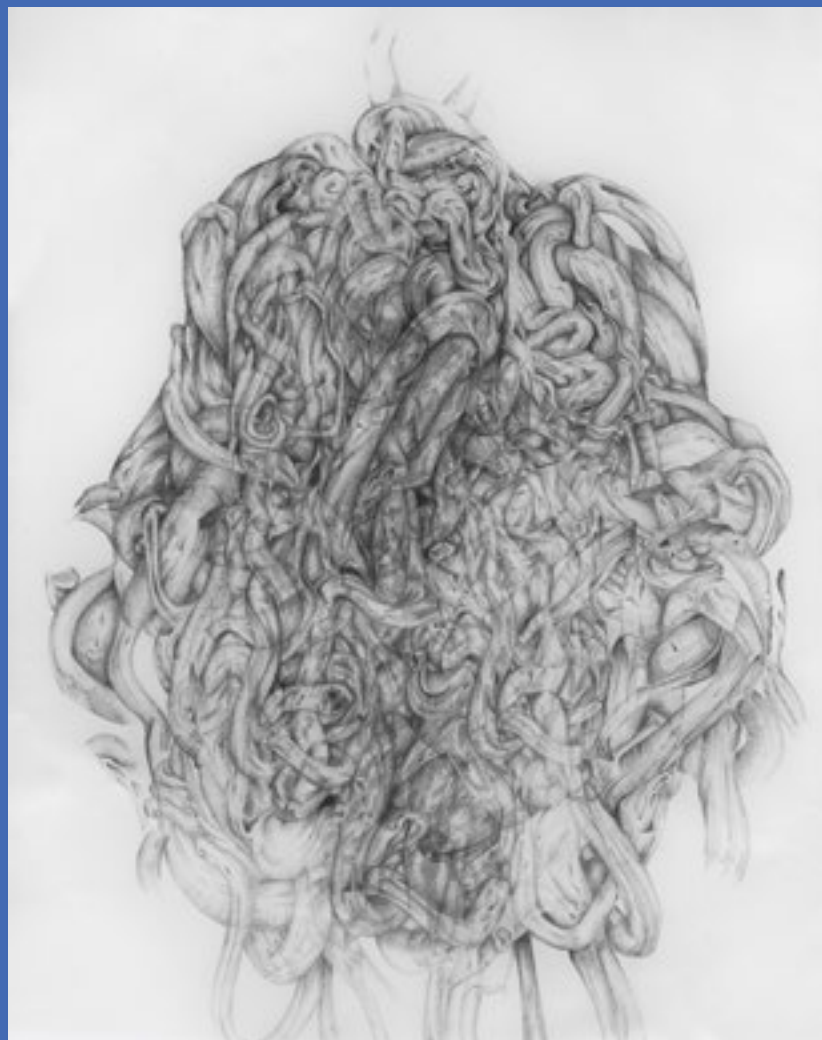
My most treasured possession is my bike! It is a vintage Fiori in neon blue and green!

*What jobs have you done other than being an artist?*

In the last few years, I have had many different jobs. I have been a server at a popular locally owned vegetarian restaurant in Edmonton, I have taught English as a second language online to young students in China, been an art instructor at the Esplanade Arts & Heritage Centre and I have been a curatorial assistant!

Chantel Schultz

*Entanglements 2*  
graphite on velum  
2020–2021





Chantel Schultz

*Entanglements 3*  
graphite on velum  
2020–2021



*What is your dream art project?*

My dream art project is to have the opportunity to make another large-scale sculpture! It would be interactive in some capacity and would involve working with nature and community.

*Favourite or most inspirational place in Medicine Hat?*

The coulees or down along the river! Every morning before work at the Esplanade I would take a walk along the river to prepare for the day. I often walked in the coulees between classes to clear my head or to take a break with friends.

*Is solitude an important aspect of your art practice?*

Solitude is a very important aspect to my work. I find I work best when I have had time alone to tune in to myself and begin to work with a calm and steady mind. That being said, I thrive best when I can connect with friends regularly to talk through my work.

*Do you collect anything?*

I don't have any collectibles, but I do have hordes of old art materials, empty containers, jars, recyclable items and scrap materials that I have a very hard time letting go of. You never know what a project might call for!

*Are there any new art projects you are focused on right now?*

I am currently working on a project in collaboration with the Art Gallery of Regina under the mentorship of Aganetha Dyck. A handful of artists throughout Saskatchewan were selected to produce artworks that can be placed in beehives. It is a very exciting project investigating interspecies collaboration!



Erica Teulon

*Voyager*  
acrylic paint and  
permanent marker  
2020

# Erica Teulon

## *Artistic medium(s):*

Acrylic paint, permanent marker, silk screen, ink, fabric paint and fabric.

## *Connection to Medicine Hat:*

I started taking classes in the Medicine Hat College Art & Design program in 2008. After finishing the Diploma, I took a break to travel. I moved back to Medicine Hat in 2020 to take the rest of the classes for the Bachelor of Applied Art & Design Degree.

## *What books, movies, music or visual artists have influenced your art practise the most?*

My art has been influenced by artists Wes Wilson, Heinz Edelman, Peter Max and sci-fi novels I had in my childhood.

## *What jobs have you done other than being an artist?*

I have had a lot of jobs in the service industry, apart from creative jobs. I met an art collector that commissioned a lot of art from me while working as a waitress.



Erica Teulon

*Planet Kaleidoscope*

acrylic paint

2019

*What is your dream art project?*

My dream project is to design a sci-fi inspired clothing and accessory collection.

*Favourite or most inspirational place in Medicine Hat?*

Police Point Park is lovely. I made some paintings there in my first years of college.

*Is solitude an important aspect of your art practise?*

I like to think of ideas in public places like coffee shops, but execute them in solitude.

*Do you collect anything?*

I collect small pyramids made of various crystals, stones and organite.

*Are there any new art projects you are focused on right now?*

Lately, I've been working on hand-embroidering, painting, and altering clothing.



Erica Tuelon

*The Egg Dream*  
silkscreen, ink, fabric paint and fabric  
2020



## Bridget Trout

*Artistic medium(s):*

expensive art supplies.

*Connection to Medicine Hat:*

demon.

*What books, movies, music or visual artists have influenced your art practice the most?*

professional art.

*What is your most treasured possession?*

Bobathy Jenkins, age 2 .

*What jobs have you done other than being an artist?*

Trimmin' weed.

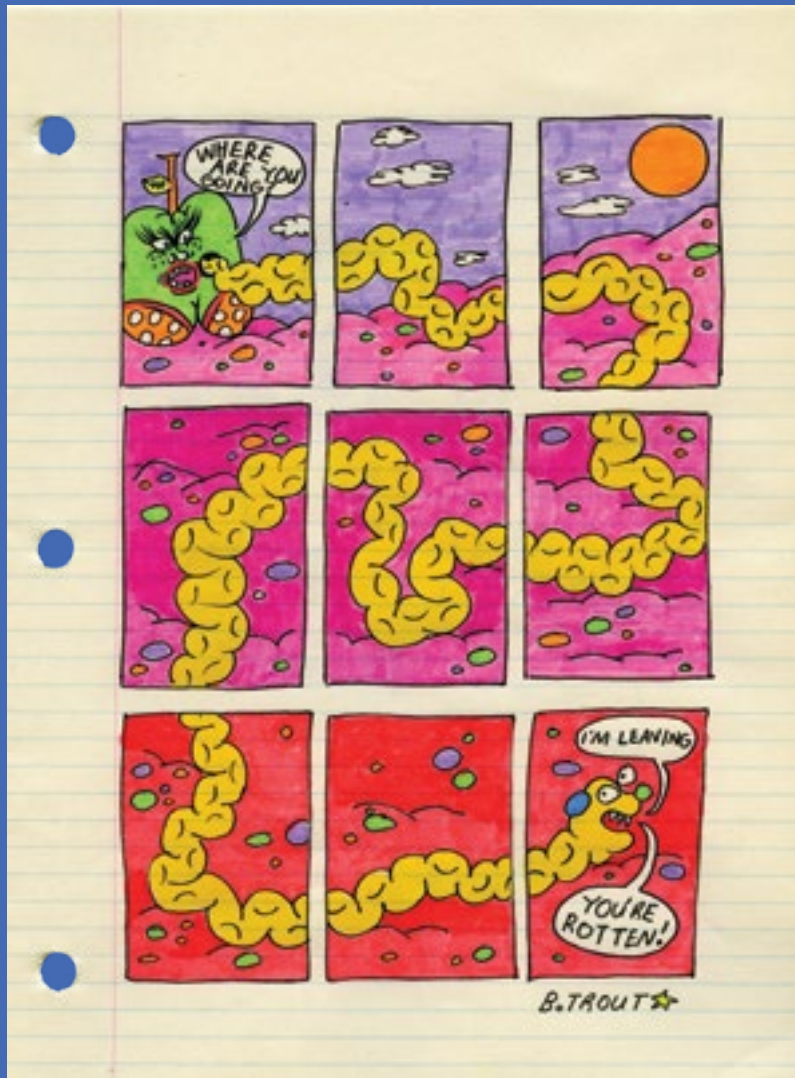
*What is your dream art project?*

Collaboration with Glen Velcro.



Bridget Trout

*Bad Apple*  
marker and ink on paper  
2021





Bridget Trout

Tuesday afternoon  
marker and ink on paper  
2021

*Favourite or most inspirational place in  
Medicine Hat?*

The Medicine Hat Mall Food Court.

*Is solitude an important aspect of your  
art practice?*

No!

*Do you collect anything?*

Vintage loose leaf books.

*Are there any new art projects you are  
focused on right now?*

maybe...



## Vergo Vanelle

Vergo Vanelle is a Canadian painter, sculptor and clothing designer.

His main focus through art are his abstract paintings, which are his own version of modern day hieroglyphics and abstract language. Every group of lines on the canvas represent something very personal, whether it is about a memory, feeling, thought or a specific person.

Vergo's paintings are a glimpse into his diary which makes him feel a bit exposed when the work is displayed. His work has an overall unique and personal composition that is visually attractive and would compliment any type of décor or gallery.

Vergo Vanelle

*August View*  
acrylic and oil pastel on wood  
2021



*Artistic medium(s):*

Acrylic paint and oil pastels on canvas and wood.

*Connection to Medicine Hat:*

Born and raised in Medicine Hat.

*What books, movies, music or visual artists have influenced your art practice the most?*

Jean-Michel Basquiat, Cy Twombly and Philip Guston.

*What is your most treasured possession?*

Jesus Crucifix.





Vergo Vanelle



*Sharp Teeth*  
acrylic and oil pastel on canvas  
2021



Vergo Vanelle

*Beautiful Sadness*  
acrylic and oil pastel on canvas  
2021

*What jobs have you done other than being an artist?*

Owner/Designer of royaleye clothing.

*What is your dream project?*

To have work displayed in The Broad Art Museum in Los Angeles or at MoMA in New York City.

*Are there any new art projects that you are focused on right now?*

Sculptures and clothing designs.



# Curtis Windover

*Artistic medium(s):*

Cinematography, graphic design, songwriting and storytelling.

*Connection to Medicine Hat:*

It was my home ages 5–19 and then I spent a handful of scattered years there through my 20's.

*What jobs have you done other than being an artist?*

I've worked at the Monarch Theatre, Medalta Potteries, Inspire Cafe, Local Pub, Earls on Dunmore, Crescent Heights Dairy Queen... Now I work in digital marketing. Check out my website if you're curious.  
[www.curtiswindover.com](http://www.curtiswindover.com)

*What is your dream art project?*

Everyday I'm trying to think it up and do it.

*Favourite or most inspirational place in Medicine Hat?*

It used to be The Post, Salvation Army and King of Trade. I like to browse miscellaneous items.



Curtis Windover

*Fiction and Curse* (video still)

film

2021



Curtis Windover

*Fiction and Curse* (video still)

film

2021







*Is solitude an important aspect of your art practice?*

100%

*Do you collect anything?*

I used to. CDs, books, cassettes, vinyl. Now I mostly collect camera/lighting/music equipment.

*Are there any new art projects you are focused on right now?*

As I write this I'm scrambling to put a music video together.

# LIST OF TRAVELLING ARTWORK



*Strange and Known Places* opened at TREX Space in Medicine Hat in 2021. The selection of 18 artworks below will travel Alberta from September 2022 to February 2025 with the AFA Travelling Exhibition program.



Vicki Hadland  
*Untitled*  
acrylic  
2021



Vicki Hadland  
*Untitled*  
ink and watercolour  
2019



Jenna Hoffart  
*The Creation of Little One,  
by Virtue of the Brick-Stitch*  
acrylic on canvas  
2020



Jenna Hoffart  
*Electric Yellow Reality*  
acrylic on canvas  
2020



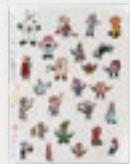
Matias Martinez  
*Memories We Love to  
Experience: Medicine Hat*  
etched glass  
2021



Brenda Mercer  
*Parfleche bag*  
rawhide and leather  
2021



Brenda Mercer  
*Rattles*  
rawhide, leather and wood  
2021



Glen Velcro  
*Untitled*  
ink and crayon on paper  
2021



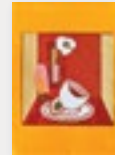
Glen Velcro  
*Untitled*  
paint on cloth  
2021



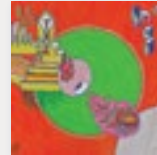
Chantel Schultz  
*Entanglements 1*  
graphite on vellum  
2020–2021



Chantel Schultz  
*Entanglements 3*  
graphite on vellum  
2020–2021



Erica Tuelon  
*The Egg Dream*  
silkscreen, ink, fabric  
paint and fabric  
2020



Erica Tuelon  
*Voyager*  
acrylic paint and  
permanent marker  
2020



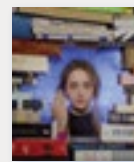
Bridget Trout  
*Bad Apple*  
marker and ink on paper  
2021



Bridget Trout  
*Tuesday afternoon*  
marker and ink on paper  
2021



Vergo Vanelle  
*Sharp Teeth (2 pieces)*  
acrylic and oil pastel  
on canvas  
2021



Curtis Windover  
*Fiction and Curse*  
film  
2021

## ABOUT THE CURATORS

*Genevieve Farrell* (1988) is an emerging curator from Canada. She completed her M.A. in Cultural Studies and Curatorial Practices at the University of Winnipeg in 2018 and currently works as the Program Manager/Curator for TREX Southeast. Genevieve grew up in five countries due to her parent's work assignments and spent the other half of her life residing in various provinces of Canada, all of which led to her interest in cross-cultural and intergenerational exhibition-making. With a focus on emerging and underrepresented art practices, Genevieve conscientiously employs inclusionary curatorial methods in order to bring diverse audiences and artists into a dialogue together through contemporary art.

*Kira Vlietstra* (2000) is an artist and designer. She resided in Medicine Hat from 2018–2021. Originally from small town Saskatchewan, Kira moved to Southern Alberta to complete her Bachelors of Art and Design at Medicine Hat College. During her time in Medicine Hat, Kira focused on local arts and culture and developing her painting practice. Promoting inclusion and diversity, she's created local public art and supported local arts events. In her work, Kira explores both her inner-most reflections, arbitrary imagery and colour through merging fine arts and digital elements together in intuitive compositions.

# ABOUT THE AFA TRAVELLING EXHIBITION PROGRAM

The Alberta Foundation for the Arts (AFA) has supported a provincial travelling exhibition program since 1980. The mandate of the AFA Travelling Exhibition Program (Trex) is to provide every Albertan with the opportunity to enjoy visual art exhibitions in their community. Three regional galleries and one arts organization coordinate the program for the AFA:

*Trex Northwest: Art Gallery of Grande Prairie, Grande Prairie*

*Trex Northeast and North Central: Art Gallery of Alberta, Edmonton*

*Trex Southwest: Alberta Society of Artists, Calgary*

*Trex Southeast: Esplanade Arts & Heritage Centre, Medicine Hat*

Each year, more than 600,000 Albertans enjoy many exhibitions in communities ranging from High Level in the north to Milk River in the south and virtually everywhere in between. The AFA Travelling Exhibition Program also offers educational support material to help educators integrate the visual arts into the school curriculum.

Exhibitions for the Trex program are curated from a variety of sources, including private and public collections. A major part of the program assists in making the AFA's extensive art collection available to Albertans. This growing art collection consists of over 9,000 artworks showcasing the creative talents of more than 2,000 artists. As the only provincial art collection in Alberta, the AFA collection reflects the development of the vibrant visual arts community in the province and has become an important cultural legacy for all Albertans.

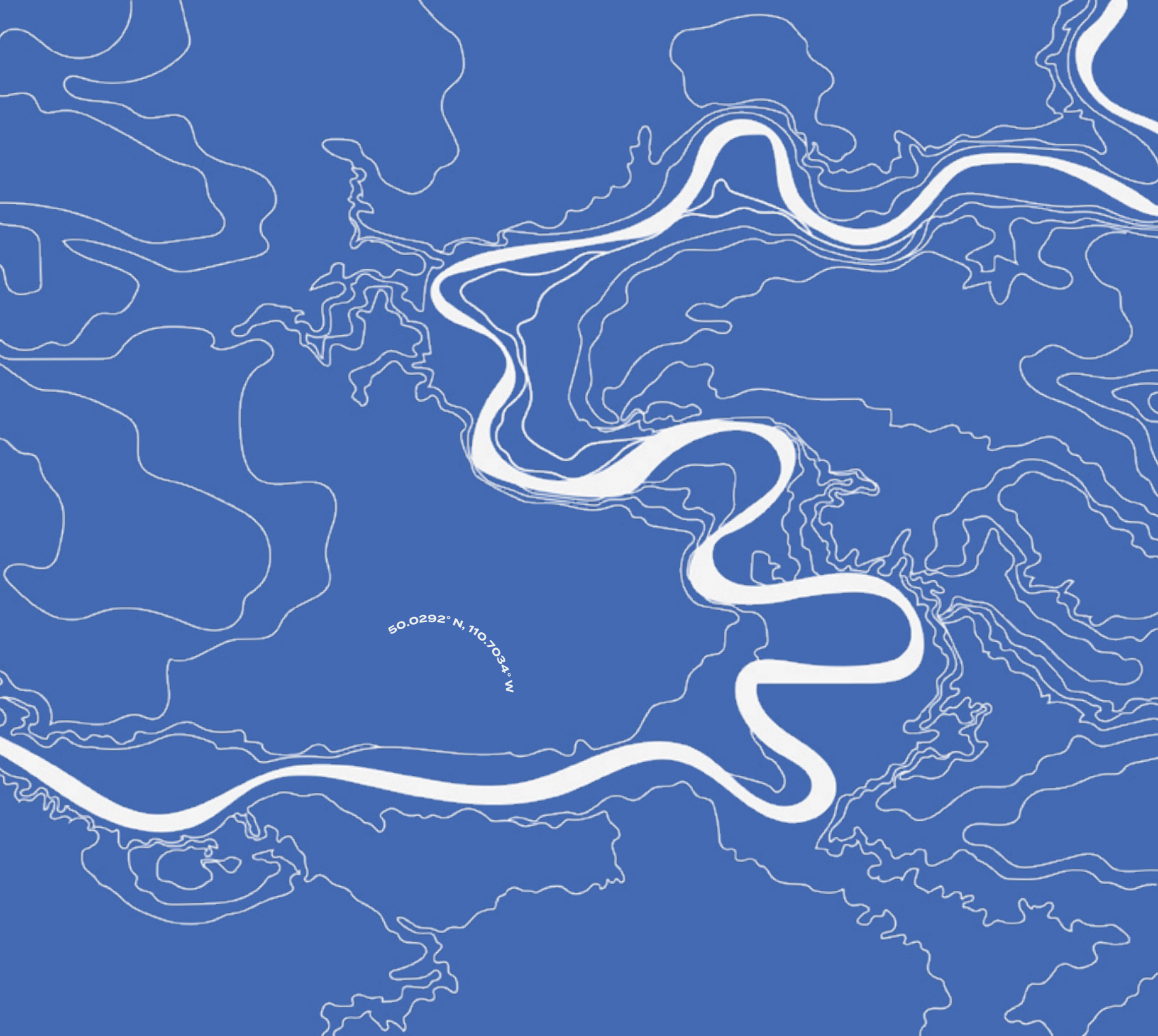
# ABOUT THE ESPLANADE

The Esplanade Arts & Heritage Centre is where the stories of our great collective culture are told through music and dance, painting and sculpture, plays and concerts, exhibitions and installations, artifacts and art, education programs and private events. The Esplanade opened in celebration of Alberta's centennial in 2005 and ever since, Medicine Hat has welcomed a steady procession of artists and audiences, storytellers and story-lovers from around the region and around the globe. The celebration continues today.

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