

GABRYEL HARRISON

ARTIST STATEMENT / BIO

Gabryel Harrison was born in New Zealand. The artist now lives and works in Vancouver, B.C. She completed a Fine Arts Degree at the University of Ottawa in 1980, later fulfilling post-graduate requirements to become an art therapist in 1992. Working as an art therapist until 1996, and thereafter in the creative arts field, Harrison has devoted herself to paint full time since 1999.

"I am presently cultivating a garden of grasses and of flowers on the bank of the Fraser River. The composition of my life holds greater unity in this proximity to nature, and in particular, water. Water holds power for me. I choose to live at the edge of the tide. I am part of a place where the river meets the sea, a place of fluid boundaries, currents merging both salt and fresh. I am part of a fugitive space where the moon is midwife to a transitory shore. At this confluence of energies, I am reminded that the line of earth and water is as elusive as memory, as intangible and mysterious as the human journey itself. It is here, through the cultivation of my creativity, that I make effort to be part of the flow of creation, to reveal the truth of my own inner nature. My paintings are evocations of states of mind and the constant transformations in the sea of the senses, the ever-changing landscape of the emotions and the mutable mind reflected in the surrounding natural world. We see not only with our eyes, but with our mind and our heart. I feel a certain devotion to seeing. I want to see the truth of my own life, to know more deeply my response to the world and of my place in this vast unknowing. It is the process of life I am most interested in not the process of painting."

Gabryel is an artist inspired by the common roots of painting and poetry, the rhythmic gesture from heart to line, the inspiration of image, metaphor and symbol. She seeks to honour not to unravel the connection between the outer surface of the world and the inner realm of spirit. Gabryel looks to nature and botanical forms as well as to the historical tradition of vanitas paintings for her motifs and compositions. Her expressions are less about representation than illuminations of inner states of consciousness.

Working in translucent layers of oil paint, Gabryel sometimes incorporates crushed rose petals or other organic or inorganic matter that becomes a physical carrier of meaning and memory. Gold leaf is occasionally used in symbolic reference to the transmutation of human consciousness - the objective of spiritual alchemy. The artist also explores text, including the physical meditation of inscribing words, phrases and marks into the surface of her paintings. The gesture reinforces her philosophy that words, and the imaginative impulse behind them, have the power to transform reality. The physical acts of painting and of writing is the artist's self-abandonment to the challenge of life's ambiguities, her pleasures, her melancholy, her tenderness and her joys.

SELECTED EXHIBITION HISTORY

SOLO SHOWS

2023	Visual Space Art Gallery, Vancouver, Canada
2021	After Every Winter, Soft Wind, Visual Space Gallery
2020	Vancouver Art Gallery Rentals, Canada
2018	International Art Centre, Auckland, NZ
2016	Winsor Gallery, Vancouver, Canada
2015	Winsor Gallery, Vancouver, Canada
2014	Winsor Gallery, Vancouver, Canada International Art Centre, Auckland, New Zealand
2013	Poems for the Earth, Winsor Gallery, Vancouver, Canada
2012	Learn the Flowers, Winsor Gallery, Vancouver, Canada
2010	Winsor Gallery, Vancouver, Canada
2009	Winsor Gallery, Vancouver, Canada
2008	Jacana Gallery, Vancouver, Canada
2007	Jacana Gallery, Vancouver, Canada
2006	Jacana Gallery, Vancouver, Canada
2004	Aion Gallery, Vancouver, Canada

GROUP SHOWS

2013 - 2024	Muse Gallery, Toronto, Canada
2021	A New Day, Muse Gallery, Toronto, ON Pendulum Gallery, Vancouver Canada Gallery George, Vancouver, Canada
2020	Summer Group Show, Visual Space Gallery
2017	International Art Center, Auckland, NZ Winsor Gallery, Vancouver, Canada
2016	International Art Center, Auckland, NZ
2015	International Art Center, Auckland, NZ
2014	Winsor Gallery, Vancouver, Canada International Art Centre, Auckland, NZ
2013	Winsor Gallery, Vancouver, Canada International Art Centre, Auckland, NZ
2012	Melissa Morgan Fine Art, Palm Desert Flora, James Baird, Pouch Cove & Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, Argentina Salon, International Art Center, Auckland, New Zealand
2011	Fleurs, International Art Center, Auckland, New Zealand New Work, Agnese Burgera Gallery, Edmonton, Canada
2010	UNICEF Unite With Art, Vancouver, Canada
2009	UNICEF Unite With Art, Vancouver, Canada
2008	UNICEF Unite With Art, Vancouver, Canada
2006	Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver, Canada
2006	Art for Life, Vancouver, Canada
2005	Jacana Gallery, Vancouver, Canada

NOTEWORTHY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

EDUCATION

Diploma in Art Therapy
Ottawa University, Fine Arts, Canada
Ryerson Photographic Arts, Toronto, Canada
Liberal Arts, University of Victoria, Canada

ARTIST TALK

Featured artist talk, Vancouver Art Gallery, 2019

RESIDENCY

2018 Earthskin Creative, Muriwai, NZ