

Arts Professional's Bios



Heather Cline is a painter and mixed media artist living and working in Regina, Saskatchewan. Since completing her MFA at the University of Saskatchewan in 2001, Cline has been exploring narratives around place and personal history. Over the past 10 years Cline has been involved in a series of residency programs and public engagement across Canada. Her activities have included setting up a 'Story Collection' office from an inner city store front in Oshawa, Ontario and riding along on combines in rural Manitoba. Cline is fascinated by how personal history intersects with

human geography; currently this involves merging collage soundscapes with lush intricate paintings of everyday places.

She has participated in multiple group exhibitions, with solo exhibitions at the Robert McLaughlin Gallery (Oshawa, ON), the Mendel Art Gallery in Saskatoon, and regional exhibition centers throughout Saskatchewan. Cline's work can be found in many public and private collections, including the Colart Collection, the Mendel Art Gallery and the Saskatchewan Legislature Building.

Cline has a keen interest in community engagement and art education. In 2014 Cline received the Saskatchewan Lieutenant Governor's Arts Award: Arts & Learning for her work as the Artist Manager of an innovative distance learning 'Artist in the School' program. Currently, Cline is an instructor at the University of Regina. View her work online at: heathercline.ca

Joe Fafard



Nationally and internationally acclaimed artist, Joe Fafard, was born to French-Canadian parents in the small agricultural community of Ste. Marthe, Saskatchewan. He attended the University of Manitoba (BFA 1966) and Pennsylvania State University (MFA 1968).

He was at the University of Saskatchewan, Regina from 1968 – 1974 and visiting lecturer at the University of California at Davis in 1980-1981. Joe Fafard is a distinguished full-time artist and

sculptor who currently resides on an acreage near Lumsden, Saskatchewan.

Joe Fafard is one of Canada's leading professional visual artists and has exhibitions of a wide variety of work in galleries and museums across the country and around the world, including the United States, Great Britain, France and

Japan. He is widely recognized as being at the forefront of his art, and his outstanding contributions to the arts have significantly raised the profile of both Saskatchewan and Canada on the national stage.

View Joe's work online at: <http://joefafard.com/wpnew/>



Leah Dorion is a Metis person with cultural roots to the historic Metis community of Cumberland House, Saskatchewan. Born in Nipawin, Saskatchewan she is a passionate interdisciplinary artist and educator who is committed to sharing historical and contemporary knowledge regarding Metis culture. Leah has undergraduate degrees in Native Studies (B.A.) and Education (B.Ed.) and a Master of Arts degree (M.A.) which explored traditional Cree and Metis parenting teachings and how to create a healthier society based on our traditional knowledge.

Leah believes that women play a key role in passing on vital knowledge for all of humanity. She believes women are the first teachers to the next generation.

She is a respected children's book writer and several of her books have been nominated for various awards for their art and cultural content. Leah continues to develop and expand her practice as an artist, writer, creative consultant, and instructor with the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP). In recent years Leah has started to make large rock effigies and labyrinths to take her artistic practice out on to the land. Leah is presently raising her son, tanning hides, making drums, working on educational stories, picking berries, taking care of the family pets, growing organic food, and living near Prince Albert, Saskatchewan.

View Leah's work online at: <http://www.leahdorion.ca>



Holly Fay received an MFA at the University of Ulster in Belfast, Northern Ireland, a BFA in Visual Arts and an Arts Education degree at the University of Regina. Holly Fay's visual art practice encompasses painting, drawing, mixed media and installation, with projects that have examined emergent patterns and ecology, systems of knowledge, ideas of place and landscape, and phenomenology. Fay's work has been awarded several Sask Arts Board grants, and is represented in public collections including the Mackenzie Art Gallery, the City of Regina and the Saskatchewan Arts Board.

Fay has exhibited in Canada and abroad.

In January 2016, Fay became the Director/ Curator at the Art Gallery of Regina. Previous to this appointment Fay was an instructor and Lecturer in 2D studio in

the Visual Arts Department at the University of Regina, the Resident Artist in Painting and Drawing and a studio instructor at the Neil Balkwill Civic Arts Centre. Fay's engagement in the visual arts also extends to freelance work as a writer, curator and workshop instructor. Active in the visual arts community, Fay has participated in many juries and committees, and has served on the volunteer boards of Neutral Ground, CARFAC Sask, and the Art Gallery of Regina. In 2015 Fay was the recipient of the CARFAC National Visual Arts Advocacy Award.

View Holly's work online at: <http://www.hollyfay.com>



Kimberley Fyfe was born in Welland, Ontario and has lived in Toronto, Montreal and Los Angeles. She received an Honours degree in Art History and Theory at the University of Saskatchewan and was previously employed at Nouveau Gallery and MacKenzie Art Gallery.

Kimberley is an enthusiastic promoter and supporter of the visual arts in all media. She met Gina Fafard in the early process of developing her own art gallery and they combined forces to create SLATE Fine Art Gallery.

Opened in 2013 in Regina's Heritage neighbourhood, Slate Fine Art Gallery has 2,000 square feet of exhibition space – a main gallery for feature shows, a smaller area to showcase emerging talent.

Owners Gina Fafard and Kimberley Fyfe are available for consultation to new and experienced buyers and can assist with the acquisition and investment of artworks for private, corporate and public collections and quality framing services. Visit the gallery online at: <http://slategallery.ca/index.cfm>



Grant McConnell lives and works with his wife and 3 children in Saskatoon, Sk. Born in York County, Ontario, he has lived in Saskatoon since 1981. He studied Fine Arts at Mount Allison University in Sackville, New Brunswick before completing an MFA at the University of Saskatchewan in 1994.

He is known primarily for his acrylic on wood painting derived from an ongoing investigation of subject matter related to Canadian historical themes. This work varies in approach and media, from a meditative engagement with still life through to landscapes chosen for their social or political significance. He also works in sculpture and monument design.

His work has been exhibited across Canada and abroad, and has been purchased into public, corporate and private collections in Saskatchewan, Canada and the United States. He has served as Provincial Representative of CARFAC Sask., and is past president of CARFAC National. He is currently on the board of directors of Access Copyright, has also served as a board member of the Saskatchewan Arts Board. He currently teaches studio and art history at St. Peter's College in Muenster, Sk., and at the University of Saskatchewan. The exhibition *PowerHouse* is currently on tour, with the inaugural showing of the touring exhibition *Rogue Royal* slated for late Spring of 2017. View Grant's work online at: <http://www.grantmccconnell.ca>



Robin Schlaht Among Robin's many achievements as a filmmaker is *Sons and Daughters*, a documentary exploration of childhood in seven different countries which won several national and international awards (including four Golden Sheaf Awards). His feature length documentary *Moscow Summer* was named Best Foreign Film at the 1996 WorldFest International Film Festival, and Robin's first dramatic feature film, *Solitude*, starring Lothaire Bluteau, premiered in 2001 to rave reviews, including "A gem" (Macleans), "Genuinely thought-provoking" (Boston Globe), "Quietly provocative" (New York Newsday) and "This is where filmmaking is headed - I hope" (Ain't It Cool News).

Robin's arts documentary work includes directing the feature-length *To Be Romeo & Juliet* (winner Audience Award at Possible Worlds Film Festival, Sydney Australia), producing the feature length documentary *ChristCORE*, directed by Justin Ludwig, and acting as executive producer of Ian Toews' Gemini-winning documentary series *Landscape as Muse*.

In 2011 Robin created *The Saskatchewan Network for Art Collecting*, and produced its website www.sknac.ca with its vast array of information on Saskatchewan visual arts, including over 600 biographies of Saskatchewan artists past and present, a listing Saskatchewan visual arts news and upcoming visual arts events provincewide, and articles focused on the Saskatchewan art scene.

Robin is a member of the Directors Guild of Canada, the Saskatchewan Motion Picture Association and Documentary Film Group London. He lives and works in Regina with his spouse, writer Iryn Tushabe. In 2001 Robin was named a Distinguished Alumnus of the University of Regina, and in 2011 the inaugural Distinguished Alumnus of the university's Film Department, in recognition of his career achievements and community involvement.