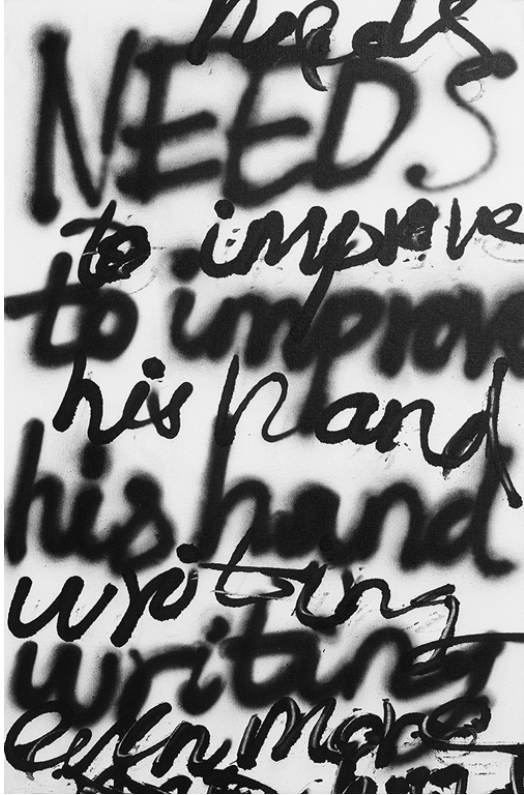


# Adi Amit



**Adi Amit** is a Toronto-based artist whose work bridges the past and future by metamorphosing the subconscious into reclaimed identity by way of truth-seeking. Spray painted on canvas, a child-like unadulterated expression turns pain into strength, negative into positive and denial into acceptance – all mired in a self-deprecating mess. Mirroring our own imperfections, Adi Amit provokes us to embrace them, have the freedom to navigate around them and the courage to find our true selves on the path to self-discovery.

TL;DR: I'm the foam roller you don't want but need.

**Artist Website:** [www.chiild.art](http://www.chiild.art)

# Áine Belton



Collaging has been a way to situate myself in contemporary culture; it is not just a process for creating art but a way for me to navigate the complexities of identification as a neurodiverse and gender nonconforming artist. Collaging has offered me an outlet to compose a variety of media to explore metaphors of overlap with mental health and gender diversity. Magazine cut-ups, drawings, found text and indentations unite on paper—this collision of media is a form of catharsis; a visual expression that embodies the differences and limitations of systemic oppression from religion, art, gender expression and an endless list of structures that I experience as limiting at this point in life.

**Áine Belton** (she/her) is an Irish-born queer, neurodivergent artist working and living in Toronto. She holds a Master of Fine Art from the University for the Creative Arts, Canterbury, and a Bachelor of Visual Arts Practice from the Institute of Art, Design and Technology, Co. Dublin. She makes artwork that discusses the nature of ephemerality and with a focus on mental health and gender constructions through performance, printmaking, photography, sound art, collage, publications and sculpture.

**Artist Instagram:** @ainebelton

# Anna Camilleri



With *One Bowl, Two Spoons, Multiple Possible Futures*, I'm in dialogue with disability as part of the human experience, rather than notions of isolated "short-straw" draws. Through representation of an everyday scene, I am challenging the idea of disability as exceptional and instead invoke disability futures that include all of us, where difference is not deficit.

**Anna Camilleri** works across diverse media, including sculpture, installation, literature and performance. A producer and public artist, her practice is activated through collaboration and mentorship. Camilleri has presented and exhibited at galleries and festivals such as Festival of Live Digital Art, Tangled Art + Disability, STEPS Public Art, National Queer Arts Festival, White Water Gallery, LIVE: Biennial of Performance Art (Grunt Gallery), and the National Library Archives. Her book works have been recognized with distinctions from the LAMBDA Literary Foundation, the Association of Independent Publishers, and the American Library of Congress. She is founding Artistic Co-Director of ReDefine Arts, an Intergenerational LGBT Artist Residency alum, a 2023 Toronto Arts Council/Toronto Metropolitan University Leaders Lab fellow, and Lead Artist with the Countdown Public Art Project, a multi-partner Ontario-wide aesthetic and discursive community art intervention into gender-based violence (2016 to present).

**Artist Instagram:** @anna.camilleri.red

# Cassandra Chassi



While working on this painting I was able to partake in this amazing and creative experience by trying out some new techniques to improve the painting and my artistic ability to challenge myself in the process. I utilized black and white acrylic paints for the entire painting, allowing me to experiment with light and shadows. I also added a texture component to the painting to offer dimension and character by using pallet knives, brushes, and scraping tools. The painting's initial concept was along the lines of how many lives are taken or stepped on till you become the monster yourself in order to get ahead. As a result, the skulls and hands serve as camouflage for the face, reminding us that not everything is black and white. This is especially true in today's gray world.

**Cassandra Chassi** is a self-taught artist who was born and raised in Toronto, Ontario. She specializes in Acrylic paintings, charcoal sketches and Fine line Art work. Upon graduating, Miss Chassi received a Loretto abbey catholic secondary school certificate in the arts and shortly after was the 2022 recipient of the **Ica Pas Artist Scholarship Award**. Miss Chassi aims to popularize the importance of morality and mortality, to promote mental health awareness as well as segregation in society. Currently, she is pursuing her psychology degree with Queen's University and Miss Chassi has filtered her creative outlet through entrepreneurial approach by starting a small business called Curiously Grimm that will be opening soon.



# E. Franklin



This piece expresses the disconnect and frustration with perceptions of love and commitment.

I have been doing the Art Cart classes for two years now and I enjoy learning techniques and art history. They have inspired me to create my own art - I love collage.

# Grigio Liu



I use acrylic and mix in other mediums to communicate my life's journey. Art is how I heal and I want to help others feel deeper through my work. My paintings are inspired by nature, embodying the texture and movements that parallel my own experiences and struggles.

I'm **Grigio Liu** living in Toronto as an Artist. Coping with Bipolar I for years has taken a toll on me and my family. In 2022 I decided to paint again. Through the process I have been able to express my struggles and emotions on the canvas. I'm hoping my artwork can resonate with the audience and let others have a better understanding of what people living with mental health issues go through everyday.

**Artist Instagram:** @artbygrigio

# Ica Pas



Electric girl was created in the early 80s by repurposing a blouse and a broken electrical appliance which Ica Pas was frustrated by. During this time in the 80s, Ica was often influenced by the idea of mind control via electronics. She often repurposed frames and would recreate a piece from another, as she did with Electric girl, working with plaster and sand to achieve a grainy texture which she attributed to the frequencies emitted and the slow morph to stone it would cause.

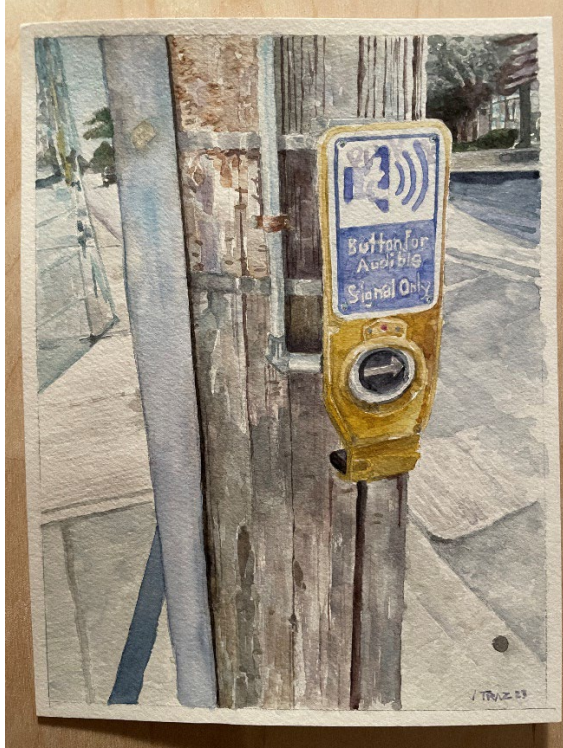
This piece was stored in the basement storage locker at 250 Davenport Road for 30 years and re-discovered after she passed away in 2020. Due to the decades long neglect, *CONSERVATION+CULTURE* adopted it as a project to fully restore and preserve.

**Ecaterina (Ica) Pascaluta (née Ciolan)**, born in Iași, Romania, January 28, 1931, began her journey as an artist in the capital of Romania, Bucharest, where she graduated from the Fine Arts Institute "Nicolae Grigorescu" (now Bucharest's National University of Arts), with a specialty in sculpture and graphic design. Throughout her career, Ica Pas also worked in several media including, painting, furniture, mosaics and mural design. She later turned increasingly to drawing and painting. She was greatly influenced by the Dada Art Movement which was evident in her work. She adhered closely to the tradition of modern expressionism, portrait and landscape painting, as well as abstract composition.

Not only did she create visual art, she also began studying piano at the age of 75 at the Royal Conservatory of Music. She often said that she was inspired to compose music during her stay at the Artscape Gibraltar Point on Hanlan's, Toronto Island, where she saw the melodies unfold in the waves and in the Toronto skyline. Of her dozens of musical works, some were performed during her final weeks in palliative care before she passed away at the age of 89 at Bridgepoint in Toronto.

**Artist Instagram:** @ica\_pas

# Jace Traz



This watercolour painting is part of a larger series. They are part of an ongoing real life diary of my travels and jobs. I let my surroundings decide what my hand does on paper. It's been a relief to just bear witness to life instead of feeling like I have to shape it into something interesting: the interest is manifest through the biased attempt to simply record directly what is seen.

**Jace Traz** is an artist who creates when it is necessary. When creating is not necessary, he hordes vintage clothing and pocket knives until bankrupt. It is the bankruptcy that makes art necessary again. And again.

**Artist Website:** [jacetraz.com](http://jacetraz.com)



# Lorette C. Luzajic



This mixed media collage painting is part of a larger series. They are a tribute to Frida Kahlo, who lived life on her own terms despite terrible odds. She was a brilliant artist who never stopped working even though she lived with severe chronic pain, mobility issues, disabilities, and constant surgeries. She was married to Mexico's most famous painter, but did not live in his shadow. She expressed herself as a bisexual, polyamorous, gender-bending woman while honouring indigenous Mexican life, art, history, and traditions. Frida is extraordinarily popular today because she is like a Santo or saint to artists, women, and to those with disabilities. She has been described as the patron saint of suffering for those with mental illness and physical disabilities, especially artists. These pieces are from a series featuring different facets of Frida, and attempt to capture the verve, wit, strength, brilliance, passion, courage and beauty that made her truly iconic.

**Lorette C. Luzajic** is an artist, writer, editor and educator. She lives with chronic pain and chronic illness. She has survived bipolar disorder, addiction, and cancer. Her mixed media collage artwork explores diverse experiences of culture, archeology, art history and literature. Her award-winning art has been featured on a billboard, in an ad campaign, on two text book covers, as a prop in commercials and mainstream movies, and in a book on emotional healing through collage. She has collectors in 40 countries so far.

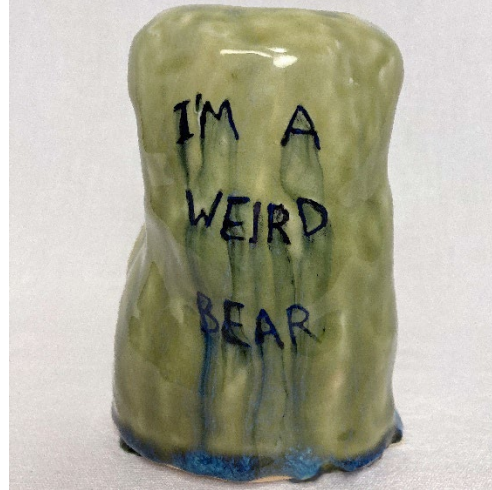
**Artist Website:** [mixedupmedia.ca](http://mixedupmedia.ca)

# Ron Berberich



I was inspired to make these pieces to feel better. Painting is a good way to help myself and other people.

# Serena McCarroll



The piece "Weird Bear" is an invitation to celebrate the idiosyncrasies that make each of us unique. In a world often preoccupied with polished perfection, this misfit bear fully accepts its asymmetry and unconventional form. Its misshapen head, streaks of glaze and unnatural colour are not flaws but marks of a strong character. Etched on its back, the sentence "I'm a Weird Bear" is both a declaration and an affirmation. Special thanks to Inspirations Studio. The opportunity to work in ceramics would not be possible without them.

**Serena McCarroll** received her BFA degree from the Emily Carr Institute of Art and her MFA from Ryerson University. Her work has been shown in galleries such as Harbourfront Centre (Toronto), Stride Gallery (Calgary), The Art Gallery of Southwestern Manitoba, Paved Arts (Saskatoon), The Nickle Arts Museum (Calgary) & IMA Gallery (as a featured solo exhibition at Toronto's Scotiabank Contact Photography Festival). She is the author of the book *All Citizens* (Conundrum Press, 2012).

**Artist Website:** [serenamccarroll.com](http://serenamccarroll.com)

# Shannon Taylor-Jones



Immersed into the active encounters of multi-species world-making, my work focuses on the creative processes of living, being, and dying. Submerged into the underworld of plant and fungal embodiment, the self is a symbiont, entangled in an ecosystem of collaboration.

This exploration into the collaborative interdependencies of life stems from lived experience within the intersection of disability/neurodivergence/madness. This intersection is a liminal place of being, an ecosystem of simultaneous, disparate truths, where growth and decay both thrive. Shared between disability and ecology are metaphors of rot and ruin, contamination, uncertainty, and impurity. I place the body in and as an ecosystem, a biome of relationships that are constantly both becoming and unbecoming. Essential to life, the consistent undercurrents of death and grief are felt as biological and creative processes.

Corporeality is haunted by intimate kinship. I am exploring detritus as the answer to one question and the ask of another. Existing as the layered (un)domestication of interwoven life forms, the paintings exist as fragments of larger processes. Through layers and intersections of care, the inevitability of transience remains.

**Shannon Taylor-Jones** is an interdisciplinary artist working with painting, textile, and organic matter. She has a BFA in Drawing and Painting from OCAD University and a post-graduate certificate from Centennial College in Museum and Cultural Management. She is a current resident artist at Good Sport, an art collective, gallery, and studio space in London, Ontario. Her work explores the interdependencies of life, death, and grief as biological and creative processes.

**Artist Instagram:** @staylorjonesart



# Stephanie Avery



With her ongoing 'AdHack' series, Stephanie uses salvaged ads as her canvas, hand-painting her own whimsical additions directly onto them to critique duplicitous aspects of consumer culture and the constructs of advertising. Using farce to undermine the pervasive power and influence they wield, she shifts and subverts ad content from being manipulative and insidious to hilarious and absurd, and transforms the viewer/advertiser relationship from predatorial to empowering.

**Stephanie Avery** is a Toronto-based multi-disciplinary artist with a degree in visual art from York University. With an emphasis on interactivity and empowerment, Stephanie's practice intervenes with familiar spaces, objects and imagery to imbue her subjects with new meanings and narratives. Being especially interested in our collective relationships to the spaces we inhabit, Stephanie explores the world with an equal balance of joy, curiosity and skepticism: a balance she strives to represent in her practice. Her work is both playful and critical, and nothing she does is without a hint of mischief.

**Artist Website:** [stephanieavery.com](http://stephanieavery.com)