

JOHANNA WRAY was born in the Netherlands and moved with her family to Alberta, Canada at a young age. Her upbringing in a European household focused on the importance of art and music as part of daily life. She practiced piano diligently, but in her teenaged years started to focus on art, which came more naturally to her.

Having received excellent instruction in art at the high school level, Johanna decided to continue her art training at the University of Calgary, receiving her Education degree majoring in Fine Arts. A couple of trips to Europe in the 70's included a "Study Abroad" program in Florence, Italy. Johanna has had the privilege to study the art of many European countries. When she came home, she continued studies at the University of Alberta and Summer Series at Red Deer College.

In 1991, Edmonton Public Schools changed art classrooms into computer labs at the elementary schools. Seeing a niche market for her training, Johanna started her own business, "Originals Art Studio," mentoring many award-winning students over the past 29 years.

Johanna was recently named as one of the "Top 60 Masters of Contemporary Art" by Art Tour International Magazine, New York. Recent shows in New York and Paris have raised her profile to an international level.

Johanna's work can be found in private collections and public spaces across Canada, in the United States, Europe and Japan.

ARTIST STATEMENT

Currently, I am working on my "Selfie-portrait Series," a series consisting of twelve works sized 12 inches (30.5 cm) square. I am inspired by "selfies" taken by students on my Instagram feed. For the first time in art history, the models are taking pictures of themselves en masse, creating a new genre in art. I am attracted by the unique compositions and perspective this square format dictates. I have also started a new "Fashion Series" where I make select creative cuts from a variety of magazines (recycling) and paint the resulting compositions. Both these series have recently garnered the attention of the international market and have also appeared in a number of well known magazines.

Exhibitions: * European Exhibitions Represented by
Galleria Monteoliveto

2020 "Le SM'ART AIX 2020", Aix-en-Provence, France *

2020 "Lausanne International Art Fair", Lausanne, Switzerland *

2020 "Paris International Contemporary Art Fair", Paris, France *

2019 "Luxembourg Art Fair", Luxembourg *

2019 "London Contemporary", Coningsby Gallery, London, U.K. *

2019 "ATIM Top 60", Viviana Puella Gallery, New York

2018 Galerie Etienne de Causans, Paris *

2018 "Solo Exhibition", Studio YEG Art, Edmonton

2017 "Unbound Perspectives", Agora Gallery, New York

2016 "Big, Big Portrait Show", Naess Gallery, Edmonton

2014 APEGA, Shaw Conference Centre, Edmonton
2011 "Solo Exhibition", CIBC Wood Gundy, Manulife Place, Edmonton
 "The Last Picture Show", Coordinator, Jeff Allen Gallery, Edmonton
2010 Spruce Grove Art Gallery, Spruce Grove
2008 "Young at Art", Coordinator, Jeff Allen Gallery, Edmonton
 Spruce Grove Art Gallery, Spruce Grove
2006 "Art Walk", Edmonton
2005 "Art With Heart", Coordinator, Jeff Allen Gallery, Edmonton
2004 "Solo Exhibition", CP Station Gallery, Virden, Manitoba
2003 "Three Broads with Brushes", Johnson Gallery, Edmonton
 "One For the Show II", Coordinator, Jeff Allen Gallery, Edmonton
2001 "Solo Exhibition", Robert's Creek, B.C.
 "One For the Show", Coordinator, Jeff Allen Gallery, Edmonton
1999 "Show Your Colours", Coordinator, Jeff Allen Gallery, Edmonton
1998 Collection's Gallery, Edmonton
1997 Collection's Gallery, Edmonton
 "Spring Debut", Coordinator, Jeff Allen Gallery, Edmonton
1996 Collection's Gallery, Edmonton
 "Solo Exhibition", Jeff Allen Gallery, Edmonton
 Snowbird Gallery, Edmonton
1995 Snowbird Gallery, Edmonton
 "Curator's Choice", Edmonton Art Gallery
1994 Snowbird Gallery, Edmonton
 "Curator's Choice", Edmonton Art Gallery

Public Art & Awards:

2019 EAC Travel Grant, New York
2019 "Top 60 Masters of Contemporary Art", Art Tour International Magazine, New York
2017 EAC Travel Grant, New York
2016 YEGCANVAS Billboard
 YEGCANVAS Transit Poster
2014 Grey Nun's Hospital

Publications:

2019 "London Contemporary", Catalogue, London, U.K.
2019 "The World of Interiors" Magazine, March, April, and May Issues, Condé Nast, UK
2019 "Art Tour International" Magazine, Spring Edition, New York
2018 "Tombola" Catalogue, Paris
2017 "Unbound Perspectives" Agora Gallery Catalogue, New York

2004 The Virden Empire-Advance, Virden, Manitoba
2003 The Edmonton Journal, Edmonton, Alberta