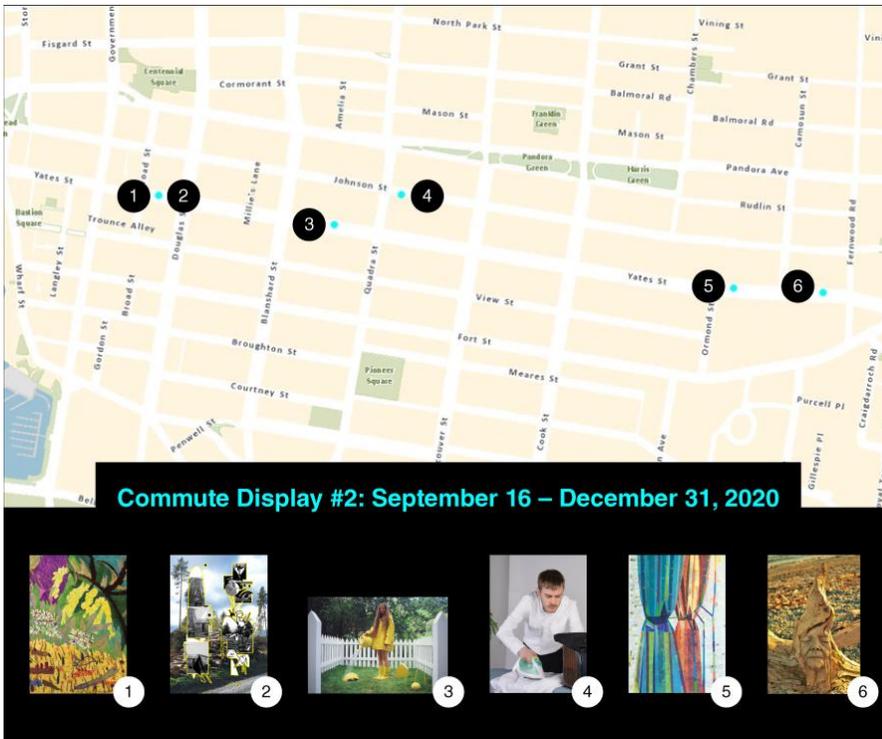


Commute: A Bus Shelter Art Exhibition – Artist Bios & Artwork Descriptions



1: Maureen Hourigan *In the Wild*, 2019, mixed media on paper

In the Wild is an illustration about the life on the forest floor.

Maureen Hourigan grew up in the country on a farm in Saanichton, BC. She has been a practicing artist for many years, creating flora and fauna in layers of expressive line work in pastel, pen, sculptures and embroidery. Maureen conveys her admiration of the natural world through the instinctual expression of the pen, brush and needle. She is influenced by artists such as Vincent Van Gogh, William Morris and Matisse.

2: Leah McInnis *Logging Housing Industry*, 2020, digital collage

Logging Housing Industry features two black and white collages made from found images, laid over a logging site in northern Europe. The common thread between them is architecture

and the potential for building, while acknowledging the layered histories of industries, such as logging. The environmental and social impact of logging are often far removed from the finished steps of your home.

Leah McInnis is a conceptual artist, writer, designer and arts worker of settler Canadian ancestry, currently based in Victoria, BC. Her work has been exhibited in galleries, artist-run centres and art book fairs throughout Canada and abroad. Most recently, she had a solo exhibition, Mass, at Open Space Arts Society. She has completed artist residencies in Alberta, Quebec and abroad in Finland and is a graduate of the University of Victoria's MFA program. She also holds a BFA (ECUAD) and BA (UofA). McInnis is a founding member of Mope Collective and continues to collaborate with artists in Winnipeg, MB, and Brooklyn, NY.

Visit www.leahmcinnis.com or follow Leah on Instagram @leah__mcinnis

3: April Winter *The Tortoise and the Hair*, 2019, 35mm film photograph

The Tortoise and the Hair is 35mm film photograph self-portrait

April Winter is an emerging artist living on the Southern Gulf Islands. After graduating with a BFA at OCADU she made the permanent transition to the West Coast in 2015, where she learned the basic carpentry and construction skills to build her own studio and photography sets. Her playful self-portraits revolve around the transformations of these little worlds, filling the space with found, made or borrowed objects to tell a story; often about topics of sexuality, utopia and isolation. Her work questions the gaze of onlookers as she peers right back into the audience.

Visit www.aprilwinter.com or follow April on Instagram @aprilbluwinter

4: Alex Jensen *Inside Voice 1*, 2019, digital photograph

The internal dialogues depicted in *Inside Voice* parallel scenes from Anno Hideaki's Neon Genesis Evangelion series, in which teenage protagonist Shinji Ikari repeatedly appears conversing with mental projections of himself and close friends. These introspective and surreal conversations read like memories (or dreams); through them the audience gains insight into the character's traumas and state of turmoil. *Inside Voice*, as presented as part of Commute, finds irony in its title as it externalizes spaces of vulnerability and hurting. My goal for this work as part of Commute is to encourage connection with others and create dialogue in the public sphere.

Alex Jensen is a queer, early-career multimedia artist living and working on the unceded traditional lands of the Lekwungen peoples, in Victoria, BC. Alex was born and raised in the interior of BC, where he received his BFA from Thompson Rivers University in 2017. His practice engages with themes of memory, popular media, relationships to others, and queer identity. Through his work, Alex explores ideas of self, and aims to create a space for both contemplation and connection with others. Alex primarily works with image-based media including photography, videography, printmaking, and intermedia sculpture.

Visit <https://alexanderjensenart.tumblr.com/> to see more of Alex's work.

5: Chin Yuen

Sentinels, 2015, acrylic on canvas

Sentinels shows my abstract interpretation of strength and stability--these shapes stand like guards, protecting with their constant presence.

Canadian painter, Chin Yuen, was born in Malaysia. Having lived in seven countries, Yuen sees her diverse cultural exposures as an artistic asset and inspiration. She paints about her travels and landscapes from an imaginative abstract perspective—always with the aim to interpret and not depict what she can see with her bare eyes. Since painting is a solitary process, Yuen balances it by sharing her experiences and techniques with her community through teaching at different institutes, including her own studio. Yuen proudly call Victoria, BC, home.

Visit www.chinyuenart.com or follow Chin on Instagram @chinyuenart

6: Debra Bernier

Wisdom in Wood, 2018, digital photograph of driftwood carving

Full of intricate detail, *Wisdom in the Wood* is a piece of driftwood that shows an old face, kissed by time. It celebrates the natural and beautiful process of aging.

Debra's earliest memories formed on the beach where she would dig under the sand for the clay she used to sculpt. Her mother always encouraged messy projects and play in nature. This formed a lifelong love of the natural world that continues to inspire her work. She finds driftwood particularly fascinating as the pieces are already sculptures, and like the bones of old trees, each hold a secret story to the past. Debra's sculptures bring out this hidden spirit revealing our connection to nature. She currently lives with her family on beautiful Vancouver Island.

Find Debra on Facebook @ShapingSpirit