

Close To Home

Summer Professional Development

Residency Group show

Every summer the Centre for Craft Nova Scotia takes a break from summer classes to open its studios up for keen emerging residents. The work and studio culture these craft artists create breathe life into our spaces while they work towards the goal of a group exhibition. Their camaraderie allows for cross-media connections and innovative thinking, and year after year it proves to be a truly exciting show in the Mary E. Black programming lineup.

This year we are so excited to celebrate the incredible work made by seven Summer Residents here in our studios! Close To Home is the culmination of all their hard work over the past two months of sharing studio spaces together and building a community.

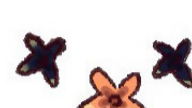


Jacey Byrne is an illustrator and sculptor from Labrador City, NL. They recently received their BFA from NSCAD university, majoring in Interdisciplinary Arts. Byrne spent the bulk of their time at NSCAD practicing narrative based illustration, incorporating more sculptural practices in their final year. Their sculpture work depends heavily on experimentation, trial and error and material exploration.



Byrne's work explores their own experiences with fatphobia and attempts with self love in a society that has pathologized fatness with every intent to profit off of the hatred one holds for their own body. Their fat artworks act as a representation of how they are seen by others, as well as a venue for them to create a representation of themselves with thorough care and love.

Through this residency Byrne has explored topics of both familial and religious trauma. They have created a series of ceramic cakes, each decorated with short sentences that represent their experience living as a fat person. Byrne continued their exploration into Catholicism and fatphobia through creating a large-scale rosary, made up entirely of fat and food, with the crucifix replaced by a fat calliper. Byrne continues to question societal standards for bodies through their "belly" sculptures, filled with scars, stretch marks, and disease. They are playing with what it means to be a vessel and what a vessel can be.



Jiho Choi is a South Korean Jeweller and Metalsmith based in Halifax, Canada. His parents, who were a ceramist and dentist, influenced his attention to detail in his work from a young age. He comes from an engineering background, studying at Hanyang University, creating inspiration for his meticulous pieces. He started jewellery making as an apprentice in Korea, before coming to NSCAD University. While at NSCAD University, he found his interest in kinetic objects. For his kinetic pieces, precision is an essential quality of his work. He strives to bring an interactive element, generating satisfaction and playfulness to the viewer. He has won the 18th Annual National Student Jewellery Competition and

has been awarded numerous scholarships such as Scotia Bank Scholarship and SNAG Student Educational Endowment Scholarship. His work was shown in the 19th Silver Triennial International in Germany, Korea Craft Week, New York Jewellery Week, and various exhibitions globally.

His works are inspired mainly by three things: movements, techniques, and everyday life. His cat pin series is an excellent example of his inspiration from everyday life. During the summer residency, he tried to develop his commercial line on the subject of cats. The cat pins are designed carefully to mimic and capture the playfulness of the cats. Where then, the cats are cut out precisely with a hand saw, and he creatively set the colourful thread on the piece into yarn balls, making the work simple yet elegant.



Beah Learn (She/Her) is a primarily fibre-based artist pursuing a BFA, majoring in textile and fashion design, at NSCAD University. Born in London, Ontario and growing up in a home full of knit hats, mittens, and other handmade wares, Learn seeks to develop a reflective art practise that is soft, compassionate, and warm. Common themes within her work include consumerism, feminine experiences, and bodily awareness. With the intention of engaging the viewer into a safe enjoyable art experience, Learn creates interactive and humorous soft sculptures and woven tapestries that are meant to be shared.

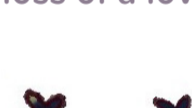


Her work in this exhibition aims to investigate the connection between individuality and customization through offering the viewer the opportunity to become the detective themselves. An interactive doll and dress-up experience, hand-woven, knit, and crocheted by the artist, encourages the audience to question the need for interchangeability in the doll's accessories and in that same thread: the need for unique everchanging clothes for humans. The dolls will be accompanied by a woven tapestry that displays the classic doll and dress-up activity as it has been transformed into digital space. While interacting with Learn's work the participant will be able to explore how they interact with modern customization through play.



Hannah Proctor Born and raised in Nova Scotia, Hannah Proctor is a young aspiring artist and recent graduate of the NSCAD University Jewellery Design and Metalsmithing program. Having always been intrigued and influenced by the arts, Hannah spent the vast majority of her formative years exploring different mediums and creating work with the guidance of her mother. The artist finds inspiration in the intricacies of the natural world and the cold materiality of machinery both past and present; these fascinations often work in tandem with Hannah's knack for material exploration as she creates complex sculptural pieces that push the bounds of what is considered jewellery.

Hannah's latest series "Hollow Homes" is inspired by the abstract paintings of her late mother as she memorializes their shared homes, lives and memories through the creation of tiny wearable houses. This series demonstrates a different side of the artist as she breaks away from her usual large scale pieces and creates small labour intensive pieces while working through the grief and longing that follows the loss of a loved one.



Noore Saleh (they/them), an Egyptian-Canadian artist, graduated from the École de Joaillerie de Montréal in 2019 in Jewellery Design and Metalsmithing. After serving as a teaching assistant in extended studies classes at the jewellery school while working on independent jewellery in their free hours, Noore has since enrolled at NSCAD University to major in Jewellery Design and Metalsmithing to further their studies. They exhibited in galleries in Quebec with consistent themes revolving around the fragility of mental and physical health with a focus on resilience in facing those challenges.

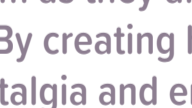


The day that Noore got diagnosed with multiple sclerosis was the day where they decided to enroll at NSCAD University. They decided to open themselves to possibilities and opportunities, they didn't break down, they broke open, like a flower. This statement lead their practice into creating imagery inspired by a floral theme to express joy, the feeling that the artist wants to spread with their work.

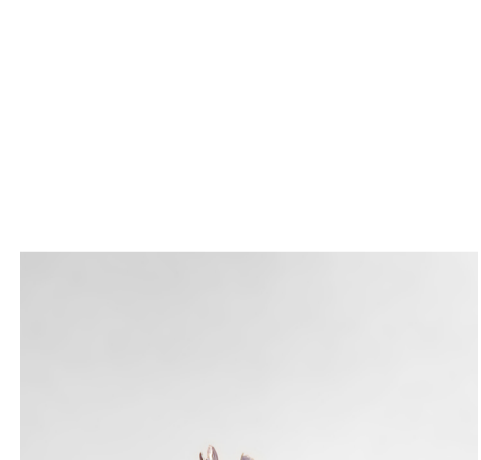


Jackie Toner is a self-directed woodworking and turning artist based in Windsor, NS. She holds a BSc & MSc in Kinesiology and is currently a PhD Candidate in the field of Health & Safety. Her academic background although not artistic by nature, has fueled her work by encompassing her mathematics, problem solving and creative thinking skillsets. Jackie seeks to infuse modern design elements and perspectives into her work, all while pushing the boundaries of wood. Part of this is done by featuring the natural elements and colors of wood, integrating materials such as, glass, metal, and/or resin, and various lamination techniques.

In this body of work, the artist explored her East Coast roots by creating a series of Lighthouses, one for each of the Atlantic Provinces. A staple of our coastline, Lighthouses and beacons were essential with protecting the lives of mariners as they approached rocky shores in the midst of fog and darkness. Although lighthouses still guide seafarers, Global Positioning System (GPS), NOAA's nautical charts, buoys, radar beacons, and other aids to navigation have surpassed the traditional lighthouse's purpose and are a larger role in maritime safety in the 21st century. Despite Lighthouses becoming obsolete to modern day technology, we remain fascinated by them as they are our direct link to the past, but also represent a forward path, a guiding light, protection, and safety. By creating her own interpretation of each iconic landmark, Jackie hopes to provide viewers with a feeling of nostalgia and encourage the preservation of these east coast treasures and their important history.



Meichan (Amy) Yuan Hi! I am Meichan (Amy) Yuan, I am a jewelry designer and silver smith. I am from Xinhui of China. Jewelry is wearable art that tells people stories and showcases ownership identity. I use this art form to express my experience of life and my longing for my hometown. At the same time, this kind of visual art needs a symbol to express ideas, so I am constantly exploring a figurative object as inspiration. For example, I used a violin and hydrangea as symbols of growing and religion in the past.



This summer my inspiration is from one of my niece's hand made work a bouquet, when I did my last time baby sitting before I came to Canada. The bouquet she made when she was playing a game, which as a symbol to commemorate the last time that I shared her childhood time, and a symbol of home sick.

