

# BAU-XI GALLERY

## VIRGINIA MAK

Pushing photography beyond traditional limits, Virginia Mak explores the visual possibilities of the medium. Known for its soft focus and minimized light values, her work disrupts the boundary between painting and photography.

Mak was born in Hong Kong. After graduating with a Philosophy Degree from the University of Calgary, she went on to study Photography at the Ontario College of Art. Mak has exhibited her work internationally. She is a recipient of project, exhibition and travel grants from the Ontario Arts Council and the Canada Council for the Arts. Her work has been written about in the Calgary Herald, the Toronto Star and the Globe and Mail; and featured in magazines such as Prefix and PhotoLife. Mak's photographs can be found in public and private collections in North America and Hong Kong.

### Education

1993-94	Ontario College of Art, Toronto
1992	Ryerson, Toronto - filmmaking
1989	Humber College, Toronto - writing
1982	University of Montreal - French
1979-81	University of Calgary – B.A. in Philosophy

### Solo Exhibitions

2022	Bau-Xi Photo, Toronto, ON - <i>Countenance</i>
2019	Newzones Gallery, Calgary – from <i>Composed</i> , Calgary/Banff Photo Festival
2019	Bau-Xi Photo, Toronto, ON – <i>Composed</i>
2017	Newzones Gallery, Calgary – <i>Small Moments II</i> , Calgary/Banff Photo Festival
2016	Bau-Xi Photo, Toronto, ON – <i>Small Moments</i>
2015	Newzones Gallery, Calgary - Character Reference II, Calgary/Banff Photo Festival
2014	Bau-Xi Photo, Toronto, ON – <i>Character Reference</i> , Feature Exhibition 2014 Scotiabank Contact Photography Festival
2013	Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver BC - <i>Of One's Own</i> (Featured in 'Photo Fest')
2013	Bau-Xi Photo, Toronto, ON
2011	Newzones Gallery, Calgary – <i>Of One's Own</i>
2010	Drabinsky Gallery, Toronto – <i>The Far Country</i>
2009	Victoria Manor Gallery, Harbour Grace, Newfoundland - <i>Hidden Nature</i>
2009	Newzones Gallery, Calgary – <i>Hidden Nature</i> during Calgary/Banff Exposure Photo Festival
2009	Harbourfront - Service Canada, Toronto – <i>And sunlight thronged the glass</i>
2006	Drabinsky Gallery, Toronto – <i>Hidden Nature</i>
2006	The Fringe Gallery, Hong Kong – <i>Letter to My Mother</i>
2005	Harbourfront Premiere Dance Theatre, Toronto – <i>Side Street</i>
2005	Mayworks' Bookends, Women's Bookstore, Toronto – <i>All I work For</i>
2004	LEE Ka Sing Gallery, Toronto – <i>Oh, Ominous Sunshine</i>
2003	Photo Passage, Toronto - <i>Letter to My Mother</i> - Contact Opening Event

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## Group Exhibitions

- 2023 *Looking Forward*, Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, Canada
- 2022 *A Year In Review*, Bau-Xi Photo, Toronto, Canada
- 2022 Photo Gallery Preview 2022, Bau-Xi Photo, Toronto, Canada
- 2022 Gladstone House - *Two-person Exhibition — Tai Nan Street*
- 2020 Online Exhibition at Capital One Toronto, 4-person show -- *Tai Nan Street*
- 2020 Eastern Edge, St. John's - *Summer Group Exhibition — from Lightness*
- 2019 Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto – *Mixed Media*
- 2018 Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto – *Method*
- 2018 Eastern Edge, St. John's, *Faceless*, Christmas group show
- 2018 Bau-Xi Photo, Toronto – *Untitled series*, Summer Focus group show
- 2018 Newzones Gallery, Calgary – *Untitled series*, Calgary/Banff Photo Festival
- 2017 Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto
- 2016 Esplanade Arts & Heritage Centre, Medicine Hat, AB, *Outside In.*
- 2015 Bau-Xi Photo, Toronto - Character Reference II, Summer Focus Series
- 2014 Newzones Gallery, Calgary - Character Reference, Calgary/Banff Photo Festival
- 2013 Newzones Gallery, Calgary – *The Comfort of Objects*, Calgary/Banff Photo Festival
- 2012 Newzones Gallery, Calgary – *Small Song For the Firefly*, Calgary/Banff Photo Festival
- 2009 York Quay Gallery, group show *Close Distance* curated by Lena Oehmsen, Contact Festival Event
- 2009 MacLaren Art Centre, Barrie – 2-person show *Where is Home* with Tim Laurin – *Tai Nan Street*
- 2008 Newzones Gallery, Calgary – *Exposure* group show, Calgary/Banff Photo Festival
- 2007 Drabinsky Gallery, Toronto – group show *Scapes*– works from *Hidden Nature*
- 2006 LEE Ka Sing Gallery, Toronto – group show of photos and paintings – works from *Summer*
- 2006 Toronto Image Works Gallery - Contact Festival Juried show – *Imaging a Global Culture*
- 2005 Artcite, Windsor – *Hidden Nature* - two-person show with Toni Hafkenschied
- 2004 Metro Hall, Toronto – *Workbound* - Mayworks group show
- 2003 York Quay Gallery, Toronto -*Toronto Grid Works* group show - Contact Opening Event
- 1998 Gallery 1313, Toronto - Multiple Exposure group show – *Seeking*
- 1997 Annual Miniature Art Show, Del Bello Gallery, Toronto
- 1996 Express Café, Toronto – works from *Aria*, *Requiem*, and *Disappearing Woman*
- 1995 & 94 Visual Arts Centre of Bowmanville - Annual Photography Juried Show(s)
- 1994 Market Gallery, Toronto - *Laundromat* - *Toronto After Dark* group show

## Grants

- 2016 Exhibition Assistance - *Hidden Nature* – 2-person exhibition at Esplanade Art Gallery

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- 2014 Exhibition Assistance - *Character Reference* – solo exhibition at Bau-Xi Photo, Toronto
- 2014 Visual Arts Mid-career Project Grant, Ontario Arts Council
- 2013 Exhibition Assistance – Vancouver Photo Fest (at Bau-Xi Gallery)
- 2012 Visual Arts Mid-career Project Grant, Ontario Arts Council Awards
- 2012 Exhibition Assistance – *Small Song for the Firefly* – Exposure Group exhibition at Newzones
- 2011 Exhibition Assistance - *Of One's Own* – solo exhibition at Newzones
- 2011 Travel Grant, Canada Council for the Arts - *Of One's Own* Exhibition – solo exhibition at Newzones
- 2010 Exhibition Assistance, Ontario Arts Council (OAC) - The *Far Country* Exhibition – Drabinsky Gallery
- 2010 Exhibition Assistance, OAC - *Hidden Nature* – HarbourFront York Quay Gallery
- 2009 Exhibition Assistance, OAC - *Tai Nan Street* series - MacLaren Art Centre
- 2007 Visual Arts Project Grant, Ontario Arts Council
- 2006 Exhibition Assistance, OAC - *Hidden Nature* – Drabinsky Gallery
- 2006 Exhibition Assistance, OAC - *Letter to My Mother* – Fringe Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2006 Exhibition Assistance, OAC - *Imaging a Global Culture* – TIW Gallery
- 2005 Exhibition Assistance, OAC - *All I work For* – Mayworks Bookends
- 2005 Exhibition Assistance, OAC - *Hidden Nature* - Artcite, Windsor
- 2004 Exhibition Assistance, OAC - *Oh, Ominous Sunshine* – LEE Ka-Sing Gallery
- 2004 Visual Arts Project Grant, Ontario Arts Council
- 2003 Exhibition Assistance, OAC - *Toronto Grid Works* – York Quay Gallery
- 2002 Exhibition Assistance, OAC - *Letter to My Mother* – Harbourfront Photo Passage
- 2001 Visual Arts Project Grant, Canada Council for the Arts
- 2000 Visual Arts Project Grant, Ontario Arts Council
- 1994 & 95 “Best in Colour” and “Mayor’s” Awards, Visual Arts Centre of Bowmanville
- 1994 Second prize for “Places” in *Photo Digest* magazine

### Reviews and Publications

- 2018 *Art Card*, “*Tai Nan Street #1*”, Canada Council Art Bank
- 2017 *Newfoundland Quarterly*, Volume 109, Number 3, p. 16-p.21, “*Portfolio: Virginia Mak*”
- 2016 *The Telegram*, St.John’s, “*Creating portraits with photography and paint*” article by Joan Sullivan
- 2015 Mentioned in *Toronto Life* magazine, on *Character Reference II* July Exhibition at Bau-Xi Photo
- 2015 *Calgary Herald Swerve Magazine*, on *Character Reference* exhibition at Newzones Gallery, Calgary
- 2015 *Canadian Art* Winter Issue online version, *Must-Sees This Week* on *Character Reference* exhibition
- 2015 *Art Rubicon*, on *Character Reference* exhibition at Newzones Gallery, Calgary
- 2014 *Riddle Fence*, Issue #18, 3 full-page photographs appeared inside magazine
- 2014 *Globe and Mail*, on Contact Feature solo exhibition, *Character Reference series*
- 2013 Vancouver Sun, mention of *Of One's Own* Exhibition and Artist's Talk
- 2012 Canadian Art Fall Issue, Agenda: *Of One's Own* Exhibition

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- 2011 Apr 30, Artist Profile, Interview by Travis Reynolds, Calgary Herald, video and print on *Of One's Own*
- 2011 Apr 28, "Colouring outside the line" by Marcella Ducasses, FFWD Weekly, Vol.16 No 21, on *Of One's Own*
- 2011 Apr, Mentioned in Avenue Magazine, April issue, on *Of One's Own*
- 2010 Oct 12, "Memory and truth are not the same", Interview by R.M. Vaughan, Globe and Mail on *Far Country*
- 2010 Oct 22, Interview by Michael Hansen, aired on Artsync Television Oct 22 on *Far Country*
- 2010 Oct 7, Mentioned in Canadian Art Online version on *Far Country*
- 2010 Nov, Interview by Nicole Leung, Fairchild Television on *Far Country*
- 2010 MacLaren Art Centre's *Where is Home?* exhibition brochure, prepared by Sandra Fraser, Curator
- 2009 Aug 9, "Weekend Arts Report", Interview by Angela Antle, CBC St. John's, on *Hidden Nature*
- 2009 Aug 19, *The Scope*, brief mention of *Hidden Nature* show at Victoria Manor, Harbour Grace, NFLD
- 2009 Apr 9, "Focusing on yesterday ... " article by Leigh Blenkhorn, *Barrie Advance* – on *Tai Nan Street*
- 2009 Mar 12, Mentioned in "Art that comes with a road map" by Peter Goddard, *The Star* – on *Tai Nan Street*
- 2009 Feb, Selected as "Spotlight Artist" in *Where* magazine, Calgary - *Hidden Nature* show at Newzones
- 2009 Feb, *Avenue* magazine, Calgary, "Give me land ..." by Wes LaFortune - *Hidden Nature* at Newzones
- 2009 Jan 30, *Metro Calgary* Jan 30 Issue, brief mention of *Hidden Nature* show at Newzones
- 2008 *Canadian Art* Winter issue, "Preview – Guide to season's best exhibitions ..." - on *Hidden Nature* show at Newzones Gallery
- 2007 Cover and Inside Photographs in *Prefix Photo 16*
- 2006 Dec 16, "Maybe, or not, it's more than it appears", *Toronto Star* review by Peter Godard on *Hidden Nature* show at Drabinsky Gallery
- 2006 Nov 14, *RTHK Radio 3*, Hong Kong, Interview by Philip Whelan, re *Letter to My Mother* show
- 2006 Oct 30, *Monday Art Post* re *Letter to My Mother* show
- 2006 Nov, *Ming Pao Hong Kong* online edition – review of *Letter to My Mother* show
- 2005 *Canadian Art* Spring issue, "Fast Forward" - *Hidden Nature* show, Artcite, Windsor
- 2003 May, *Chinese World Journal*, Toronto - brief review of *Letter to My Mother* show
- 2003 May, Catalogue essay for *Toronto Grid Works* by Claude Baillargeon, *Surveying the Megacity*
- 2002 Photograph appears in *Poems for Parents*, published by Sumach Press
- 1994 *Globe and Mail's* "Gallery Going" by Betty Ann Jordan & Gilliam MacKay re *Laundromat* series
- 1995-2010 Cover (1998) and inside photos (95, 96, 97, 99 & 2010) in *Woman's Daybook*, Second Story Press

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## **Collections**

Canada Council Art Bank

City of Toronto Archives Collection

Private collections in Calgary, Toronto, Hong Kong and New York