

BAU-XI GALLERY

MEL GAUSDEN

b. 1987 Guelph, ON

Mel Gausden explores themes of personal and cultural identity through traditions of self-portraiture and landscape painting. Her work combines symbols and markers of Canadiana with painterly gestures, mark-making, and bold highlights. Neon silhouettes add a contemporary freshness and highlight the inherent distortion of personal narratives. Gausden's manipulation of oil paint varies from sculptural—bending and piling thick layers of paint into matchsticks of textured impasto—to painterly—diluting paint until it drips with controlled precision.

Gausden's process is significantly determined by the length of time in which her source material is transformed by time into nostalgic images; a process that can take years. Once memories are bound to her images, the narrative emerges and is rendered in paint.

Mel Gausden earned her Bachelor of Arts at the Ontario College of Art and Design in 2009. She lives and works in Hamilton, Ontario.

EDUCATION

2009 BFA Ontario College of Art and Design

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2024 Future Museums II, Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver, BC

2024 Future Museums, Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON

2022 A Fairytale for the End of the World, Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver, BC

2021 Campfire Stories, Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON

2018 Short Stories, Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON

2018 Girls Gone Wild, Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver, BC

2016 Background Check, Capacity 3 Gallery, Guelph, ON

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2025 Art Auction for Old Growth, Canada-wide online auction, benefitting NBSF

2024 Art Auction for Old Growth, Canada-wide online auction, benefitting NBSF

2023 Art Auction for Old Growth, Canada-wide online auction, benefitting NBSF

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- Artists for Water, live auction benefitting Swim Drink Fish, Vancouver, BC
- 2022 Art Auction for Old Growth, Canada-wide online auction, benefitting NBSF
- 2021 Artists for Water, Canada-wide online auction, benefitting Swim Drink Fish
- 2019 Art with Heart auction, Casey House, Toronto, ON
- Art for Life Auction, Vancouver, BC
- Art Gems live auction, Berkeley Church, Toronto, ON
- Mixed Media, Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 2018 Art Toronto, Toronto, ON
- 2017 The Artist Project, Direct Energy Centre, Toronto, ON
- Art Gems Auction, Berkeley Church, Toronto, ON
- Group Show, Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON
- Art Toronto Fair, Toronto, ON
- 2016 Between Land and Sky, Olga Korper Gallery, Toronto, ON
- Why the @#&! Do You Paint?, The Gladstone, Toronto, ON
- Unsinkable, Guelph Civic Museum, Guelph, ON
- Shades, Arta Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 2015 Guelph Art on the Street, Juried Art Fair, Guelph, ON
- Pop Up Show, Art Gallery of Guelph, Guelph, ON
- 2014 Art with Heart Auction, Casey House, Toronto, ON
- Guelph Art on the Street, Juried Art Fair, Guelph, ON
- Spring Exhibition, Art Gallery of Hamilton, Hamilton, ON
- The Landscaped, SOHO Lobby Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 2013 iSeamonster Collective, Hashtag Gallery, Toronto, ON

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Artcetera, Elora Centre for the Arts, Elora, ON

Toronto Timeraiser, Artscape Wychwood Barns, ON

Toronto "Rouge" Timeraiser, Fifth Social Club, Toronto, ON

Burlington Live Art Auction, Burlington Art Centre, Burlington, ON

2012 Guelph Art on the Street, Juried Art Fair, Guelph, ON

iSeamonster Collective, The Gladstone, Toronto, ON

Queen West Art Crawl, Toronto, ON

The Canadian Landscape, Gallery 1313, Toronto, ON

2011 Guelph Art on the Street, Juried Art Fair, Guelph, ON

2009 Discover OCAD+ Grad Exhibition, OCAD, Toronto, ON

Breakfast and Art, De Leon White Gallery, Toronto, ON

Gems, OCAD, Toronto, ON

Who Dunnit, OCAD, Toronto, ON

GRANTS AND AWARDS

2016 King Family Bursary, Georgian Bay Land Trust

MEDIA AND PUBLICATIONS

2025 "Mel Gausden's First Drafts are Superb", Canadian Art Junkie, June 20

2023 Create! Magazine, Issue #38

2019 Art Gems, Creative Works Studio

"Mel Gausden: Freshened Landscapes", Canadian Art Junkie, August 23

2018 "Mel Gausden: Girls Gone Wild", Galleries West, January

"People: Mel Gausden", Creators Vancouver, January

"Creative Licence", Essential Vancouver Magazine

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Where Vancouver Magazine

Art with Heart, Casey House

2017 Art Gems, Creative Works Studio

"Instagram-esque: Mel Gausen at Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver", Blouin Art Info, December

2016 WTFDYP: Go Figure, The Gladstone

"Nothing is Passive", Guelph Today, July

2013 Burlington Art Auction, Art Gallery of Burlington

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Smith-Valeriotte LLP, Guelph ON

Guelph Business Association, Guelph ON

Guelph Community Health Care Centre, Guelph ON