

BAU-XI GALLERY

JANNA WATSON
Canadian [b. 1983]

Janna Watson is well known for her now iconic gestural abstract compositions. Her works possess a sophisticated and powerful yet light-hearted energy, created with a carefully balanced pairing of loose painting and gestural mark-making. They are honest, confident and evocative portraits of colour, texture, space, and movement – expressions of pure emotion.

Watson's work can be found in several significant collections including the TD Bank Financial Group, CIBC, and the Ritz Carleton Hotel. Notably, she was selected to create an 11x31 foot painting for the feature space in AURA, North America's largest condominium building, which has a strong focus on building a meaningful Canadian art collection.

Born in Flesherton, Ontario, Janna Watson lives and works in Toronto and has exhibited across Canada and internationally.

EDUCATION

2003 - 2008 BFA Drawing and Painting (Honours), Ontario College of Art + Design University,
Toronto, ON

SOLO EXHIBITONS

- 2026 Undercurrent, Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver, BC
- 2025 Elementals, Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver, BC
Emotion Potion, Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 2024 Poems, Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver, BC
Speaking in Tongues, Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 2023 The Heat of Blue, Kenise Barnes Fine Art, Kent, CT
I Didn't Eat the Garnish, Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON
Skywriting, Laura Rathe Fine Art, Dallas, TX
Skywriting, Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver, BC
- 2022 Janna Watson, Northbridge Piazza, Perth, Australia
Night Water, Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON
The Heat of Blue, Newzones, Calgary, AB
Blue Moon, Blue Ocean, Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver, BC
Float, Laura Rathe Fine Art, Houston, TX
- 2021 Fruit for the Loom, Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON
Finding Joy, Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver, BC
Seven Perfect Syllables, Kenise Barnes Fine Art, Kent, CT
- 2020 Dragging a Thought Over, Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver, BC
Falling Forward, Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 2019 Seven Perfect Syllables, Foster/White Gallery, Seattle, WA
In the Fog Everything I See is Mine, Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON

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- Suspended in Time, Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver, BC
Strange Legacy, Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON
2018 Moody as Light, Foster/White Gallery, Seattle, WA
Patterns of Up and Down, Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON
Light is Heavy, Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver, BC
2017 Heavy with Dreams, Foster/White Gallery Seattle, WA
Still Life, Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON
Something in the Air, Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver, BC
2016 The Body Moves, Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON
There is No Dimmer, Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver, BC
Talking to Orchids, Foster/White Gallery, Seattle, WA
2015 Out of Line, Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON
2014 Silent Ocean, Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON
New Paintings, Couture Galleri, Stockholm, Sweden
2013 A Line with a Mind of its Own, Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver, BC
Levitation, Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON
Inside: I Burst to Flames, Couture Galleri, Stockholm, Sweden
2012 Magic is Also Involved, Bau-Xi Gallery Vancouver, BC
When Poets Hallucinate, Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON
Come up to My Room, installation at annual Gladstone Hotel event, Toronto, ON
2011 Rooms with no Floors, Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver, BC
Put a Straight Jacket on a Fire, window installation, Gallery 1313, Toronto, ON
2010 Light is Not Heavy, Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON
Overexcited Sensitivity, Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver, BC
2009 The Objects Have Lost Their Colour, Median Contemporary, Toronto, ON
2008 Wet Tambourine, Fute Design, Toronto, ON
2007 Nervous Laughter, Soho Gallery, Toronto, ON
2006 Janna Watson, River Salon, Toronto, ON

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITONS AND ART FAIRS

- 2024 Primavera – Carly Allen Martin & Janna Watson, Laura Rathe Fine Art, Dallas, TX
Palm Beach Modern + Contemporary, Laura Rathe Fine Art, West Palm Beach, FL
Eleven: 11th Anniversary Group Exhibition, Laura Rathe Fine Art, Dallas, TX
2023 Beyond the Beyond – McKay Otto & Janna Watson, Laura Rathe Fine Art, Houston, TX
Looking Forward, Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON
Art Taipei, Bluerider Art, Taipei, Taiwan
Art Toronto, Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON
DnA SHENZHEN Design & Art Fair, Bluerider Art, Shanghai, China
Method VI, Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON
2022 Art Taipei, Bluerider Art, Taipei, Taiwan
Art Toronto, Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON
Autumn, Bluerider Art, Taipei, Taiwan
Method V, Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON
Midnight Bloom, Laura Rathe Fine Art, Dallas, TX
On Cloud 9, Laura Rathe Fine Art, Dallas, TX
2021 Imagine, Laura Rathe Fine Art, Dallas, TX
Art Toronto, Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON

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- Method IV, Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON
OMG Art Fair, Kenise Barnes Fine Art, New York, NY
Multimedia Trio Exhibition, Laura Rathe Fine Art, Houston, TX
Art Cares, Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON
Winter Showcase, Kenise Barnes Fine Art, Kent, CT
2020 Iris Blue Each Spring, Kenise Barnes Fine Art, Kent, CT
Intersect Aspen, K Contemporary, Denver, CO
Colour Theory (Colorado Governor's Mansion), K Contemporary, Denver, CO
Method III, Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON
LA Art Show, K Contemporary, Los Angeles, CA
2019 Art Toronto, Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON
Holiday, Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver, BC
Method II, Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON
Mixed Media, Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON
FreshFaces, Newzones, Calgary, AB
2018 Holiday, Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver, BC
A Deeper Shade of Blue, Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver, BC
Method, Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, BC
Revivify, Kenise Barnes Fine Art, New York, NY
Art Toronto, Toronto, ON
2017 Holiday, Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver, BC
CONTEXT Miami, Miami, FL
Seattle Art Fair, Seattle, WA
Art Toronto, Toronto, ON
Summer, Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON
Focus, Spring 2017, New York, NY
2016 CONTEXT Miami, Miami, FL
Art Toronto, Toronto, ON
Through Forest, Sea, and Sky, Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver, BC
2015 CONTEXT Miami, Miami, FL
Seattle Art Fair, Seattle, WA
Art Toronto, Toronto, ON
2014 Art Toronto, Toronto, ON
2013 Art Toronto, Toronto, ON
2012 Miami Scope, Miami Basel, Miami, FL
2011 The Memory Project, Okanagan Heritage Museum, Kelowna, BC
2009 Queen West Art Crawl, Trinity Bellwoods, Toronto, ON
Art Expo 2009, Toronto Convention Centre, Toronto, ON
Spring Exhibition, Hamilton Art Gallery, Hamilton, ON
2008 Winter Exhibition, Hamilton Art Gallery, Hamilton, ON
Queen West Art Crawl, Trinity Bellwoods, Toronto, ON
Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition, Nathan Phillips Square, Toronto, ON
Our Space is Vast, Transit Space, Installation, Toronto, ON
2007 Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition, Nathan Phillip Square, Toronto, ON
Who Dunnit, Ontario College of Art + Design University (OCADU), Toronto, ON
2006 Art Fest, The Huron, Collingwood, ON

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COLLECTIONS

Regent Seven Seas Grandeur	GZ International
Oceania Vista	Hudson's Bay Company Global Art Collection, New York
The Well, Toronto	IIROC – Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada
200 Amsterdam NYC	Oni One, Toronto
The Set NYC	Relative Space– Window Installation, Toronto
InterContinental Buckhead, Atlanta	Rosa Properties, Vancouver
Manulife, Toronto	The Keg, Toronto
River Green, Vancouver	The Ritz Carlton, Toronto
Microsoft, Toronto	Soho Metropolitan Hotel, Permanent Painting Collection, Toronto
Saks Fifth Avenue, Toronto	TD Bank Financial Group, Toronto
Nordstrom, Canada & US	TELUS, Toronto
AURA Condominium large-scale commission	
2014, Toronto, Ontario	
Cenovus Energy Inc. Calgary	
CIBC, Toronto	

MEDIA AND PUBLICATIONS

2019	'People- Janna Watson', Creators Vancouver, Feb 1
2018	'Abstraction Attraction' by Movato Home, At Home in Canada, February 1
2017	'Something in the Air', Galleries West, Feb 4
2016	'10 Works to Collect at Seattle Art Fair' by Demie Kim, Artsy.net, July 28
	'The Knockoff: Punchy abstract art gives room a boost' by Wendy Jacob, The Star, August 19
	'Gallery Surf: Janna Watson, Takao Tanabe, Deryk Houston and more for your weekend' by Amanda Siebert, Feb 12
2015	'More for the floor: Meet the Toronto artisans behind Twofold reversible carpets," by Laura Beeston for the Globe and Mail, June 11
2011	'Check in and Check out the art', Toronto Star article about Ritz Carleton artwork, March
	Featured by designer Kelly Deck on CityLine TV, February
2009	NOW magazine Artist Feature, August
	New York Art's Magazine—Tips and Picks January/February issue, New York

AS SEEN IN

2024	Law and Order Toronto: Criminal Intent	2011	Frenemies
2022	Wedding Season	2011	The Listener
2021	Maid	2011	The Firm
2021	In the Dark	2011	Being Erica
2019	Grand Army (Netflix)	2010	Being Erica
2018	Designated Survivor	2009	Being Erica
2017	Designated Survivor		
2016	Conviction, Warm Cases		
2014	Good Witch One Production		

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