

## Gallery Gachet

Nicole Desrosiers grew up living off the land for most of her childhood, until her mom and sister moved to the city. Escalators and fizzy pop fascinated her.

She sold her first painting in preschool and has since sold commissions and original works. A year ago she started her own gallery, studio nikki, and has a professional background in curating, gallery management, custom framing, and stained glass teaching. Nicole works in multimedia, using her photography as a reference. She explores the cycles of life and death and the



balance between the two, as well as cloudscares and waterscapes. In her youth her work was mostly figurative, however, her work is currently progressing into abstract expressionism.

My name is Sabrina Lynn Hilton. I was always a shy person but very nice, and I would give the shirt off my back for a person in need. I've always been like that; I grew up in a dysfunctional



household where

I had to raise my sister and me basically by myself. I was

also there when my Auntie OD'd

on heroin in 2006. She was

an amazing artist; I learned a lot from her.

I took on art because she was gone and I

knew my Auntie

would be proud of me, of the way I had become a good painter.

I've learned a lot from painting – it helps me with my anxiety and my depression from losing most of my family members. It helps me stay on the right track and keeps me busy. Art is very important in my life today.

Roberta Naziel is a 2spirit person from the Wet'suwet'en and Gitksan Nations currently working on the stolen lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) peoples. Her art practice was influenced early in her life by her mother and grandmother, who taught her how to bead, make birch bark baskets, and tan



moose hides. These days Roberta works more with paint, drawing, and mixed media. Drawing upon Indigenous ways of seeing the world, she is reimagining traditional stories passed down through oral tradition. Roberta is currently working on a piece that seeks to upgrade the story of the wild woman.



Geraldine Brake is from Marystown, Newfoundland.

Coping with the loss of her son, Shawn Gerard

Brake, Geraldine

moved to

Vancouver in 1989

with her daughter,

Lesley. She found

an apartment

and a job, but life

was difficult. She

got into a drug

scene that took

her downhill. Now,

for her, drugs and

life don't mix. Art

takes her to a

different world. She

paints plants and

flowers – daffodils,

tulips, and poppies.

At first when I got

into art, my head

was into it. Now I am much more focused. I'm still

learning, and I love it. I can picture a lot of things

in my mind, but when I see it on the canvas it's so

much more beautiful.





Vanessa Webster is of the Nuxalk and Cayuga nations residing on the unceded territories of xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətaɬ (Tseil-Waututh). Living in so-called Vancouver for many years has shaped her experience as an urban Indigenous person. She is a multi-faceted artist who uses many different media in her practice. Trained as a graphic designer, Vanessa currently incorporates ceramics, beadwork, sewing, illustration, and hand lettering. Vanessa started her own

business in 2018. She uses her digital and sewing talents to produce Indigenous-themed wearable items such as patches, pins, and tote bags. She produces the items almost entirely herself. She continues her artistic endeavours in art and through her business, Renovatio Creative (total rebirth).

Tina Terrie Desnomies, Native Spirit name Whispering Wind, was born August 25<sup>th</sup>, 1959 in Regina, Saskatchewan. She was raised by her grandmother, a kind, loving, and positive role model until she was twelve years old, after which she grew up through the streets all over Canada and the United States. For the last five years she has been focused on her art practice, working with painting, beadwork, carving, sculpture, and mixed media. Art helps me relax and deal with stress and emotional and financial issues; it helps me to problem solve, to clear my mind, and to see things in a more positive way. If you look into the darkness, you can choose to see the darkness as the negative or as the positive — we all have a choice to a certain degree. Art is balancing and gives me a new outlook on life, a new direction.



## Letter from Gallery Gachet's Outreach Coordinator

Dear Tina, Roberta, Vanessa, Nicole, Geri, and Sabrina,

Thank you for allowing me to experience your art. I have such fond memories of meeting you all on the rooftop, doing collages together, and learning about your philosophies of life and ways of being. Tina, you shared a phrase with me—"the perfectly imperfect"—that has become a guiding force in my life. Roberta, it was such an honour to listen to your stories and ideas about medicine, creator, and ancestors—it was truly transformative for me. Vanessa, I felt such common ground with some of the experiences you have lived through, and my sister loved those earrings you made! Sabrina, your creative output is so inspirational and prolific. Your orcas seem so vibrant and resilient! Geri, I love your sense of humour, your tulips, and your dedication to keep going. And Nicole, your collage addressing themes of life and death is layered with so much meaning—this small image doesn't do justice to its scale and level of detail.

While working with you these past months, a reciprocity has been offered in the stories we have shared with each other. Transitioning our time together to the virtual world was less than ideal, but I'm glad that the dual pandemics of the Drug Poisoning Crisis and COVID-19 that have transformed our communities didn't stop us from getting art supplies to you and forming these new connections. I hope the publication of this work is a truly celebratory moment for you, as it is for me. And I hope all those reading these pages can witness the vitality of these artists and allow this project to uplift your spirit, as it has ours.

Your friend from Gallery Gachet,

Manuel Axel Strain (Manny)