

Canmore artist's first solo gallery show goes 3D

TANYA FOUBERT

CANMORE – When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Canmore artist Layla Messner was disappointed the public health crisis would cancel her first solo exhibition.

But then, as artists are known to do, she got creative and is launching a 3D online solo art show – Her Little Pocket of Happy – beginning Friday (Nov. 20).

“I wanted to do my very first art show this year,” Messner said recently in an interview with the *Outlook*. “I was proactive and signed up as a feature artist with the Canmore Art Guild, and then COVID happened and obviously my show was cancelled.”

While the CAG gallery in Elevation Place is expected to be reopening soon, Messner has a compromised immune system, so an in-person exhibition was out of the question.

“I crossed that off my goals for the year,

because clearly it wasn't going to happen,” she said. “But then it hit me, maybe it could happen if I could open my mind.”

Messner found an online platform that would provide her with a 3D virtual gallery to display her abstract expressionist paintings. She works in acrylic paint and has been focused on her painting for the past four years.

“For the last two years, I have been working on a series – Her Little Pocket of Happy – which is based on a simple line drawing of the female form and then I use different colours to convey different moods or emotions,” she said.

The series of paintings explores the connection between colour schemes and emotion through the lens of feminine joy.

“My underlying philosophy of the art I make is manifestation – positive feelings and experiences people want to feel and art is a way to focus on them with beauty and colour,” she said.



Canmore artist Layla Messner will launch her first solo exhibition on Nov. 20 through an online 3D virtual reality gallery.
KELLEY RUSSELL SUBMITTED PHOTO

Messner has an eye for colour and an intuitive sense of what emotions are evoked by different hues, as well as how different colours work with or contrast with others.

“I decided to work with my strength and focus on colour when I was doing this series,” she said. “The form was the same, all I had to work with was the colour and texture. But I wanted to make each one different.”

“I tend to paint very intuitively and it comes from the feelings I am experiencing anyway, so it kind of arises organically.”

For the duration of the art show, Nov. 20-27, the 3D online virtual gallery will be live and available for people to view. She will also be engaging with her audience through dedicated Facebook and

Instagram pages.

“People will be able to go on any device to the 3D gallery and it allows you to move around the gallery,” she said, adding those who own a 3D virtual reality system will be able to use it as well to view the art show.

Messner will have 20 paintings on display from this particular series – Her Little Pocket of Happy – and will share them through social media.

Fans of young adult science fiction and fantasy novels might also recognize Messner's name, as she has authored several books in those genres as well.

Go to Layla Messner Virtual Art Exhibition on Facebook for more information about the upcoming show and Messner's other works of art.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ARTSPACE?



Friday Night Comedy: Noor Kidwai

PRESENTED BY BLAKE BREWHOUSE
AND DISTILLERY ~ LIVE STREAM

Fri. Nov. 20 at 7:30 pm

Host Scott Dumas is thrilled to share laughs with you once again in a high-quality, 4-camera live stream stand-up show! Headliner Noor Kidwai performed at Just For Laughs Festival in Toronto, the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, The Seattle International Comedy Competition, and the YYC Comedy Festival.



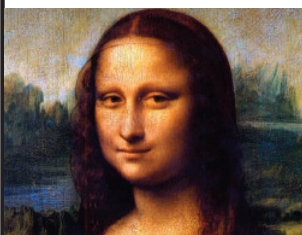
Beethoven and Beyond by Trio Nobara

CLASSICAL CONCERT CO-PRESENTED WITH
PRAIRIE DEBUT

~ IN PERSON + LIVE STREAM

Sun. Nov. 22 at 7:30 pm

Returning to artsPlace, pianist Akiko Tominaga is joined by her musical friends, violinist Laura Reid and cellist Kathleen de Caen, in a program that celebrates the pinnacle composers of three musical periods.



A Night at the Louvre: Leonardo da Vinci

'IN THE GALLERY' SPECIAL SCREENING
~ IN PERSON

Thurs. Nov. 26 at 7:30 pm

Commemorating the 500-year anniversary of the death of da Vinci, the Musée du Louvre held a major retrospective of the painter's career. Filmed especially for the cinema, this visit is a unique opportunity to contemplate the most beautiful works of da Vinci up close.

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Alberta

Environment
and Parks

NOTICE OF DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPROVALS

The following application has received conditional approval in accordance with the Kananaskis Improvement District Land Use Order by the Development Authority.

20-07 Development - Trails Centre Deck Installation
Location - West Bragg Creek Trails Centre
13-7-23-5 W5

Further information regarding this permit may be obtained from the Kananaskis Improvement District, Box 70, Kananaskis, AB T0L 2H0, (403) 591-7774. Each approval may be appealed within 21 days of the date on which the approval was signed, in accordance with the provisions of the Land Use Order.

Leah Schmidek
Development Officer
November 19, 2020