

Bryna COHEN

☎ (613) 789-7145

C U R R I C U L U M V I T Æ**PROFILE**

Bryna Cohen has worked professionally as a visual artist and educator for more than 20 years. A graduate of McGill University, Montreal, and a Fine Arts graduate of the University of Ottawa she furthered her studies at the Rhode Island School of Design, and the University of Michigan. In May 2004 Galerie St-Laurent + Hill presents 'White' her eighth solo exhibition. In 2000 her work was the subject of two major solo exhibitions, 'Shores of Newfoundland & Ireland', at Galerie St-Laurent + Hill, Ottawa, , and 'Bryna's View' at David Ariss Fine Arts, St. John's Newfoundland. Ottawa. She has exhibited her work extensively and it is in major collections including The Canada Council Art Bank, and the City of Ottawa. For more than 15 years she was employed by the National Gallery of Canada as an educator and guide. She teaches presently at the Ottawa School of Art and continues to work actively as a visual artist.

EDUCATION

- comp 89 *University of Ottawa*, Bachelor of Fine Arts.
82, 78-80 *Algonquin College*, Painting, Print-Making.
-- -- *Rhode Island School of Design*, Providence, R.I., Bachelor of Fine Arts
66-70 *McGill University*, Bachelor of Arts.

ADDITIONAL STUDIES – STUDIO

- 1992 *Vermont Studio Centre*, Johnston, Vermont.
1968 *University of Michigan*, Interlochen, Michigan.
1969 *American Centre for Students & Artists*, Paris, France.
69-70 *Sir George Williams University (Concordia)*, Montreal.
69-71 *Montreal Museum of Fine Arts*, Montreal.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2004 Galerie St-Laurent + Hill, Ottawa, 'White'.
2000 Galerie St-Laurent + Hill, Ottawa, 'Shores of Newfoundland + Ireland.'
2000 David Ariss Fine Art Inc; St. John's Newfoundland.
1998 Galerie L'autre équivoque, Ottawa.
1995 Galerie L'autre équivoque, Ottawa.
1992 Galerie L'autre équivoque, Ottawa.
1988 Galerie L'autre équivoque, Ottawa.
1986 Galerie L'autre équivoque, Ottawa.

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CURRICULUM VITÆ PAGE 2/2**GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

- 2003 Ottawa Art Gallery, 'Progressions; Celebrating Our First Decade'
- 2002 Ottawa School of Art, Instructors' Exhibition.
- 2002 Galerie St-Laurent + Hill, "*Happy New Year*".
- 2001 Ottawa Art Gallery, Arts Court Ongoing Exhibitor
- 2001 Ottawa Art Gallery, "Small Paintings".
- Elmwood Art Fair, Ottawa 86-89, 91, 97-98
- 1996 *Intervals*: Artengine, Ottawa
- 1991 Evergreen, Juried National Exhibition, Ottawa.
- 1990 Embassy of Israel, Artist Showcase for Tamir House.
- 1990 St. François Gallery Artists.
- 1989 Sans Serif, Arts Court, Ottawa.
- 1988 Living Nature, Ottawa.
- 1988 Festival of the Arts, Ottawa.
- 1987 Noteworthy Art Exhibition, Ottawa.
- 1984 Festival of the Arts, Ottawa - Juried Exhibition.
- 1983 Graphic Art Horizons, Ottawa - Honourable Mention.
- 79-82 Algonquin College, Ottawa - Juried Exhibitions.
- 1976 S.A.W. Gallery, Ottawa; 'Canadian Poster Art 1960 -74', (Canada Council Grant, 1976)

PERMANENT COLLECTIONS

- Ontario Arts Council Grant, 2000
- Residency, Pouch Cove Foundation, Newfoundland, April 1999
- Canada Council Travel Grant, 1999
- Glaxo Welcome Inc., 1999
- Collection, Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton, 1996
- Canada Council Art Bank Collection, Works on Paper; purchased 1991
- City of Ottawa Art Bank, Ottawa, 1986
- Canada Council Explorations Grant, 1976
- Ottawa Police Association

MAJOR GRANTS AND RESIDENCIES

- 2000 Ontario Arts Council Grant
- 1999 Residency, Pouch Cove Foundation, Newfoundland,
- 1999 Canada Council Travel Grant
- 1976 Canada Council Explorations Grant



G A L E R I E

St-Laurent + Hill

Pierre Luc St-Laurent

Membre
ADAC
+
AGAC
Member

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Ottawa
Ontario
K1N 7E5

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ARTIST'S STATEMENT

WHITE

Bryna Cohen's most recent series of paintings was inspired by the gift of a bouquet of white flowers. Varied in bloom and texture, the bouquet was unified in its evocation of purity and light. Flowers are one of Cohen's favourite subjects, embracing a traditional still life motif as the symbol of the beauty, frailty, and brevity of life, she creates works that have both personal and universal resonance. The voluptuous bouquets and hushed tones of white on white whisper joy, transience, and loss, the presence and fragrance of nature now only a memory.

In the beginning of the white flower series, Cohen resisted colour, wanting to pursue a palette that was austere and restrained, animating her compositions with energetic brushwork and changing textures. Mining the apparent simplicity of white acrylic paint, she explored warm and cool whites, and flat, glossy, and pearlized finishes, employing their subtle differences to express ranges of emotion and nuances of feeling. In the shadow paintings, opaque gray tones define the silhouette cast by the flowers at night, giving eloquent form to ideas of presence and absence. Later, in other works, the outward exuberance of colour appears, summoning the vitality and regeneration of nature.

A graduate of McGill University and a Fine Arts graduate of the University of Ottawa, Bryna Cohen has worked as a visual artist and art educator for more than twenty-five years and has exhibited her work extensively since 1976. *White* is her eighth solo exhibition.



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