

Madeline LeBlanc

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Website: madelineleblanc.com

Exhibition Workshops: makingmadi.com/workshops/tween-exhibition

ARTIST STATEMENT

In my artwork, I examine the classism present in the art world and the pressure placed on artists and markets by collectors. By using cheap materials like bedsheets and wax crayons, I challenge these power dynamics and encourage viewers to reflect on who has access to participate in and consume art.

As an emerging artist from a low-income background, I have experienced firsthand the barriers faced by those marginalised in the art world. Through my work, I strive to create inclusive spaces for audience participation and highlight issues of accessibility in the industry.

My process often involves interactive elements, such as large-scale colouring workshops at festivals, allowing viewers to take an active role in the creation of the artwork. In doing so, I hope to subvert traditional notions of artistic production and challenge preconceived notions of who can be an artist.

I invite viewers to consider the ways in which classism permeates all aspects of society, including the art world, and urge them to examine their own biases and privileges. My work may appear playful on the surface but it ultimately confronts important issues surrounding power, access, and participation in the arts.

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

2022 - Nominated for the Canadian Sobey Art Award

2022 - Nominated for the Edmonton Eldon + Anne Foote Visual Arts Award

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

2022 - Edmonton Arts Council Trust Fund Award, Edmonton Arts Council (EAC)

2022 - Awarded the Dean Scholarship to attend Mason Gross School of Arts BFA program - Rutgers University (New Jersey, USA)

2022 - Awarded The Distinguished Scholar Scholarship by the Art Institute of Chicago

2015 - Award of Merit for Advocacy of Social Justice, Edmonton Social Planning Council (ESPC)

2015 - National Philanthropy Award, Environmentalism, National Association of Fundraising Professionals

VOLUNTEER

President - Art Gallery of Alberta Youth Council

Alberta Art Gallery (AGA) | 2015 - 2016

Chair of Health & Wellness -City of Edmonton Youth Council

City of Edmonton (COF) | 2014 - 2017

ARTIST TALKS

2023 - Homeless not hopeless: art as a means of overcoming adversity with Madeline LeBlanc

Canadian Artist Representation (CARFAC), Edmonton, Alberta

2022 - Portfolio Pizazz with Madi, Nextfest Festival, Edmonton, Alberta

2022 - Exhibition Interview: Tween, The Works International Visual Arts Society, Edmonton, Alberta

2022 - Artist Interview - Schmoozy, Latitude 53, Artist Studio, Edmonton, Alberta

2021 - Now Live: Allison Tunis Studio Visit, Latitude 53, Edmonton, Alberta

2021 - Artist Talk: The Mother, Artists In The Fallow Fall Show, Brighton Block, Edmonton, Alberta

RESIDENCIES & WORKSHOPS

2022 - Artist in Residence, Bleeding Hearts Artspace, Edmonton, Alberta

2021 - MAG Mentorship Exchange, Mitchell Art Gallery, Edmonton, Alberta

2022 - Crocodile Wizard Halloween Photo Booth, East Glen Public School (EPSD), Edmonton, Alberta

2022 - Rave the Grave Gala: Halloween Adult Colouring Workshop, Art Gallery of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta

2022 - Cariwest Community Colouring Workshop, Cariwest Festival, Edmonton, Alberta

2022 - Large Scale Colouring Workshops, The Works Art & Design Festival, Edmonton, Alberta

2022 - Nextfest Artist Mentor, Nextfest Festival, Edmonton, Alberta

2022 - Portfolio Pizazz with Madi, Nextfest Festival, Edmonton, Alberta

2022 - Colouring with Madi, The Works International Visual Arts Society, Edmonton, Alberta

2021 - Garden Drawing Workshop, Ociciwan Contemporary Art Centre, Edmonton, Alberta

SOLO EXHIBITION

2022 - Secret Garden, Bleeding Hearts Artspace, Edmonton, Alberta

2022 - Tween, The Works Art and Design Festival, Churchill Square, Edmonton, Alberta

2022 - Every Dream is a Heartache, Introspective, Edmonton, Alberta

2022 - Natural Light, YMCA Don Wheaton Gallery, Edmonton, Alberta

GROUP EXHIBITION (select)

2022 - 5 Artists 1 Love, Art Gallery of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta

2022 - Nextfest Festival, Roxy Theatre, Edmonton Alberta

2021 - The Soil Between Plants, Latitude 53, Edmonton, Alberta

2021 - Artists In The Fallow Fall Show, Brighton Block, Edmonton, Alberta

2021 - Community Art Gallery, CO*LAB - Community {Arts} Laboratory, Edmonton Alberta

2021 - AGA Sidewalk Cinema, Art Gallery of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta

2017 - Visual Voices, Youth Empowerment Support Services, Edmonton, Alberta

SELECT PRESS + SOCIAL MEDIA

[Twenty Edmonton artists receive grants to support their creative contributions, Edmonton Journal, December 2022](#)

[Edmonton Arts Council celebrates the achievements of 20 local professional artists, Edmonton Arts Council Blog, December 2022](#)

[THE IMPACT OF ART, Youth Empowerment Support Services \(YESS\), October 2022](#)

[Edmonton artist overcomes homelessness, now featured in exhibit celebrating Black community, City News Edmonton, January 2022](#)

['It gave me hope': Art helps Edmonton woman overcome homelessness, CBC News, January 2022](#)

Instagram Audience 1.5K (Engagement rate 11.48%) - [@makingmadi](#)

I'm honored to be given this opportunity to engage others within art, locally & internationally. At 11.48% my engagement rate has grown to be 10x than that of an average contributor. I believe this to be a testament for the potential of Instagram to foster community spaces.