

Creative Learning Creative Giving



University
of Victoria
Fine Arts



Danielle Proteau (left) and one of Andrea Zitell's land-based camping pods she visited

Exploring the Artistic Journey

Audain Travel Award funds graduate student research

It's easy to appreciate art in local galleries, but sometimes travel is necessary in order to appreciate the full impact of a particular artist's work. Such was the experience of Visual Arts MFA candidate Danielle Proteau, the recipient of a \$7,500 award from the Audain Foundation Travel Fund.

By traveling to the American Southwest in 2019, Proteau was able to visit a series of land-based architectural and site-specific artworks by influential artists Andrea Zitell (California) and Donald Judd (Texas). Seeing these installations first-hand allowed her to experience the relationship between structure and place.

"I observed how the desert serves as a foundation for the artworks functionally

and conceptually," she says. "It wouldn't have been possible to understand this relationship as deeply without the opportunity to experience the landscape. This has broadened my sense of what's possible in these fields."

Proteau's own practice aims to distill and explore ephemeral elements—light, wind, space, natural phenomena—to prompt contemplation and wonder. "Since 2016, I have been expanding a series of artworks featuring site-specific, portable sculptures for chosen landscapes that have sought to create a relationship between object and place wherein both reveal properties of themselves in the presence of the other," she explains.

Proteau was the first UVic recipient of this new fund, established in 2019 to support the



Proteau's *Chair for the North* (2018)

travel needs of BC's university-level visual arts programs. Five Audain Travel Awards are now presented annually to full-time student artists (either undergraduate or graduate) at UVic, SFU, UBC (Vancouver and Okanagan) and Emily Carr University.

"My trip was immensely informative, inspirational and has significantly contributed to the development of my research and art practice." 🐾



Distinguished Alumni: Richard Van Camp

As a multiple award-winning Writing alumnus who has inspired a new generation of writers, Richard Van Camp has written in almost every genre imaginable and seen his work adapted for film. Now, he can add the designation of Distinguished Alumni of the Faculty of Fine Arts to his list of accolades. “I wouldn’t be the writer or human being that I am today had it not been for UVic,” says the Dogrib Tłıchǫ writer of the Dene nation. “I’m so grateful for the mentorship, the friendships and the guidance I received while here.”

New award supports emerging artistic talent

When you consider the new Takao Tanabe Undergraduate Award in Visual Arts is named for the noted BC painter who works in abstracts and landscapes, student Meaghan Crow seems the ideal recipient of the inaugural award. An acrylic painter interested in the creation of surreal spaces and world building, Crow’s work would likely appeal to Tanabe. “I’m thrilled that my professors saw something in me and the potential in my work,” says Crow. “It’s a heartwarming validation that they feel I’m moving in the right direction.”



Music student survives COVID, earns top GPA

Despite contracting COVID-19, School of Music undergraduate soprano Chelsea Kutyn not only completed her degree requirements but also earned the Victoria Medal for the highest GPA in the Faculty of Fine Arts—and attracted national media attention for her efforts. The recipient of the Mary M. & Erich P. Schwandt Scholarship and the Loran Cornwall Davis Award, Kutyn is no stranger to excellence, having performed in five Pacific Opera Victoria productions during her student years. “We were so lucky to have such a bright light for the past four years,” says Voice professor Benjamin Butterfield.

Donor support bouys *Children’s Hour* closure

Among a spring season littered with cancelled events, concerts, readings and exhibits due to the COVID-19 shutdown, one of the most heartbreaking was the forced closure of *The Children’s Hour*—less than two hours before its opening night performance. The final mainstage Phoenix Theatre production of the year, this was the first time in more than 50 years of productions that a planned show did *not* go on. Yet in a remarkable show of support, ticket holders donated nearly \$17,000 in ticket refunds back to the Phoenix.





Steinway Celebration marks 12 key years

Since the School of Music became Canada's first (and only) All-Steinway School in 2008, our students, faculty, guests and audiences have all been appreciating the beauty and quality of these incredible instruments. To celebrate this 12th anniversary, the School of Music offered a series of concerts in spring 2020—including this performance by Steinway artist and professor Arthur Rowe—with \$2,500 in proceeds benefiting our Steinway Legacy Fund, dedicated to the enhancement and maintenance of our 63 pianos.

A transformative learning experience

Describing her degree work with the Art History & Visual Studies department as a “transformative learning experience,” Erin Slivka has been able to deepen her knowledge of and appreciation for global visual culture thanks to the Stephen & Eunice Lowe Legacy Scholarship. By supplementing her core classes with “interesting and enriching electives” ranging from art education to cultural studies, Slivka is now planning on pursuing a Master’s in Library & Information Science with a greater sense of insight and knowledge.



Writing student a national prize finalist

While it's not unusual for one of our Writing students to get published, it's rare when it happens on a national level. But, as a queer/trans poet and short-story writer, Butterfield Scholarship recipient Kai Conradi offers a fresh voice to Canada's literary scene. One of three finalists for the Writers' Trust Journey Prize in 2019, Conradi's work has appeared in *The Malahat Review*, *Poetry* and *Grain* and the anthology *Best Canadian Stories 2019*. They were also nominated for the Pushcart Prize and the National Magazine Awards.

“Thanks to your generous gift I can happily focus on my studies without financial stress... it felt empowering and reassuring to know my hard work has been honored in this way.”
—Erin, 4th year, Art History & Visual Studies

Student Voices

“Receiving this scholarship was a welcome surprise. For me, this kind of recognition serves as validation that I’m doing the right thing, which can be hard to come by.”
—Liz, 2nd year, Writing

“Your award made my final year easier and smoother . . . I know future recipients will be able to thrive and succeed thanks to your gift.”
—Una, 4th year, Theatre

“This award has aided me greatly in continuing to pursue my dreams in the career path of my choice.”
—Emily, 4th year, Music Education

A Legacy of Jazz & Blues

Concert series raises \$25K for students

Throughout 2018/19, Victoria music fans enjoyed a series of concerts featuring local musicians all with one purpose: raising \$25,000 to establish the Eric LeBlanc Memorial Scholarship, to benefit future School of Music jazz students.

Organized by local jazz writer Joe Blake, the “Blues for Eric” concert series honoured the memory of Eric LeBlanc, UVic’s iconic CFUV DJ whose *Let The Good Times Roll* radio and online blues show ran for 33 years prior to his passing in 2015. Having established the scholarship, Blake then funded it with a series of 10 concerts, culminating in a sold-out public performance by the UVic Jazz Ensemble.



School of Music director Christopher Butterfield (left) with donor Joe Blake

“[Eric] would have loved the students’ smart, soulful jazz performances,” says Blake. “And the students who will benefit from the scholarship played at the last Blues for Eric celebration. Now that’s cool!”

A Believer in Excellence and Success

Bishop Awards benefit Fine Arts students

The late Roger J. Bishop—scholar, book collector and supporter of the arts, humanities and library at UVic—strongly believed in the power of a liberal arts education. That belief lives on for a new generation of students, thanks to a \$1.6-million donation from the Bishop estate in 2019.



Scholarship recipient Emily Markwart with Brian D. Young, alumnus & Bishop friend

Over \$300,000 of the estate gift goes specifically to the Faculty of Fine Arts for the creation of three new endowments: the Roger J. Bishop Writing Prize, the Ailsa & Roger Bishop Travel Award in Music, and the Ailsa & Roger Bishop Entrance Scholarship in Theatre.

“Roger Bishop has always had a presence in our department, because one of our theatres is named for him,” says Theatre chair Anthony Vickery. “But his generosity, as represented by this gift, will directly and positively

contribute to the success of our students and continue the great legacy of excellence in the Theatre department.”

School of Music student Emily Markwart was one of the 2019 recipients of the Bishop Travel Award. “Music can be a challenging career choice but knowing there are people who believe and want to invest in our education is encouraging,” says Markwart. “There are no words to thank the Bishops for their generosity properly.” 🐾



\$1.2M

Donated to Fine Arts in 2019/20

We are so grateful to our donors who established new awards this year and expanded the range of opportunities available to our students:

- *Alan J. Hodgson Memorial Scholarship in Music*
- *Janet Moerman Memorial Scholarship in Art History + Pacific & Asian Studies*
- *Gail O’Riordan Memorial Graduate Award for Cello*
- *Avis Rasmussen Graduate Award in Visual Arts*
- *Takao Tanabe Undergraduate Award in Visual Arts*
- *Takao Tanabe Graduate Award in Visual Arts*



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New Fine Arts awards created in 2019/20

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To learn more about our giving initiatives, please contact our Fine Arts Development Officer:

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