

**Gardiner  
Shop**



Mississauga  
Potters'  
Guild

**Mississauga Potters'  
Guild Mentorship Group  
presents**

***Confluence***

**July - September 2022**

# Mississauga Potters' Guild Mentorship Group Confluence

**July - September 2022**

“Confluence”

an act or process of merging, coming or flowing together.

The Mississauga Potters' Guild Mentorship Group led by Susan Low-Ber is an aggregate group of ten experienced ceramic artists, each with a distinctive voice and varying points of departure. Interrupted in its beginnings by the pandemic, the group reconvened to bring to fruition the long process of exploration and experimentation which culminates in this exhibition.

The Mississauga Potters' Guild is a non-profit, community-based volunteer organization. Since 1978, the Guild has grown to provide opportunities for potters of all skill levels--hobby, amateur, emerging and professional. They have a well-equipped studio space, multi-level classes, guest artists at monthly meetings, educational workshops, sales and exhibitions as well as community outreach programs. In recent years, they began offering mentorship programmes to their members. More information about the Mississauga Potters' Guild can be found at [mississaugapotters.com](http://mississaugapotters.com)



## Featured Artists

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**July 20, 5 pm**

**In-person Artist Talk**

**August 17, 1 pm**

**Online Artist Talk**

**September 21, 6 pm**

**Closing Reception**

# Annika Hoefs

## *Bloom*



Despite everything that has happened, and continues to happen, we grow. Stronger, wiser, more resilient than before. Drawing from the perseverance of plant life, various stages of growth are explored through botanical-inspired forms. Embodying the inherent need for all living things to survive and thrive, the florae overcome seemingly harsh or inhospitable environmental obstacles in order to bloom.

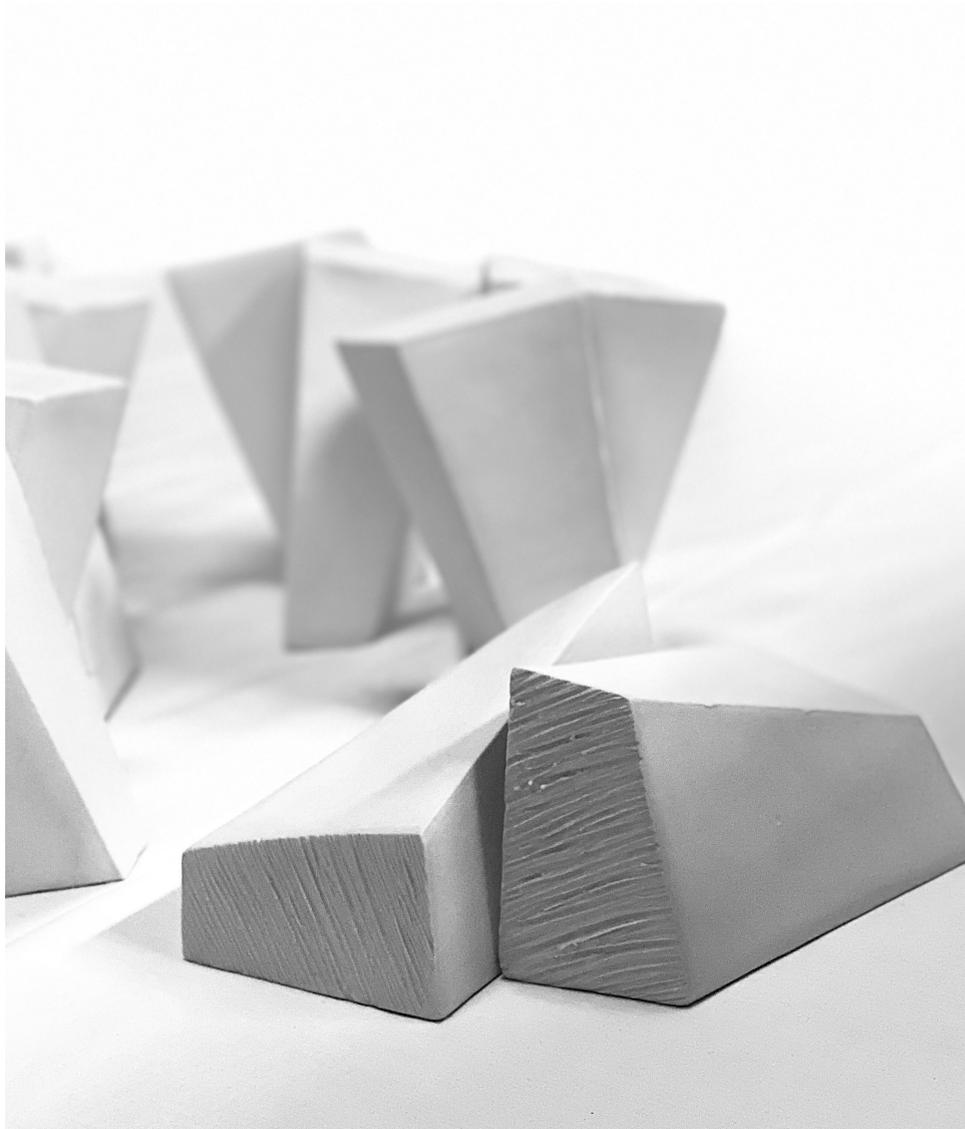
As we currently grapple with the consequences of climate change, this series seeks to remind us to find positivity and motivation in nature's small acts of resilience.

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**Annika Hoefs** is a Toronto-based artist and educator, specializing in wheel-thrown ceramics. Her interest in ceramics cultivated while she was completing her Bachelor of Material Art and Design at the Ontario College of Art and Design University in Toronto. Since 2015 she has been teaching ceramic classes to students of all ages and skill levels, alongside running her own studio practice where she creates functional and sculptural ceramics.

# Gracia Isabel Gómez Cantoya

## *FORM STUDY SERIES 1*



My current work is an exploration of an irregular geometrical form from different angles. I am fascinated by the infinite possibilities of formal qualities in a single object such as form, colour, light, shadow, and pattern. The historical legacy of colonialism continues shaping our lives by deliberately ignoring subordinated points of view; my intention with this new body of work is to have the viewer consider different perspectives to get to know something in hopes of inspiring change.

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Originally from Mexico City, Toronto-based artist **Gracia Isabel**, is an honours Sheridan College's Crafts and Design Ceramics graduate. She explores themes related to colonialism and migration through functional and sculptural pieces. A few of her exhibiting highlights include: the Gardiner Museum, Sin Fronteras Monarch Butterfly Project (2019), Craft Ontario Gallery, The Body has Reasons which Reason Knows Not Of, 2019, the Embassy of Canada in Hungary, Muscle Memory Exhibit, 2018. She won the TOAE Best of Sculpture award in 2016. In 2020 she started CLAY Voices Symposium on Instagram, a yearly community building gathering of ceramics artists across Canada. The 3rd edition was live-streamed last April. Gracia Isabel is currently developing a new body of work as a year-long artist in residence at Medalta Artists in Residence Program.

# Hana Balaban-Pommier

## *“Were there such a thing as good old days?”*



Objects have history and can tell a lot about who we are. They exist in real space, but also can occupy imaginary, forgotten, or unacknowledged dimensions. I create fictitious narratives and allow the viewer to get involved in the presented story while making their own assumptions. Juxtaposing pieces and letting them occupy the same space and time creates connections and gives opportunities for stories to be revealed. In presenting the objects I try to understand and capture human relationships, stories, and dynamics of inner life.

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**Hana Balaban-Pommier** is a Toronto-based ceramic artist. Originally from Bohemia, she took her first pottery class shortly after immigrating to Canada and found in clay a perfect medium for expressing her ideas and interests. Juggling her family responsibilities and her career in health care, her love for clay eventually led her to enrollment in the Sheridan College Ceramic Program, graduating in 2014. Since then, she has participated in multiple exhibitions and won several awards. Hana’s wide range of interests and experiences, from scuba diving to observations of social relationships and storytelling, all find their way into her art output. Hana holds a B.Sc. in Occupational Therapy from the University of Toronto, and is currently enrolled in the PBC program in Artisanry-Ceramics at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth.

# Karla Rivera

## Corium



In my work, I explore the path I have taken to search for my inner being. Self-knowledge is a fundamental aspect of my path as an artist. With the help of clay, the employ of different materials, shapes, textures, and composition, I try to create a bridge between beliefs, thoughts, and experiences. In my work I explore, interpret, and capture the different states of mind to which we are exposed in different stages of our life. In my sculptures I suggest the materialization of a new form from the use of components that by themselves would not have a meaning. After reconstructing them they become something of their own. Through these sculptural alterations, I hope to suggest that although our perspectives may be the same there is always space for the unidentified. With this, we can open a conversation about our own assumptions, dialogues that we would not have otherwise.

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**Karla Rivera** is a ceramic artist born and raised in Mexico City. After some travelling, she moved to Hamilton, Ontario. In 2021 she obtained a Bachelor of Craft and Design in Ceramics from Sheridan College.

In her work, she shares the path she has taken to try to find her place in this world. She is constantly evaluating things like behavior or beliefs. In this current body of work, she takes an experimental approach to slip casting where she examines themes including: self knowledge, the journey of challenging one's assumptions, and creating space for conversation.

# Kim Ross



These works explore the desire to leave behind the singular and embrace the plural. The moment when you can find each other in the darkness; when each small movement is felt by the other. When we talk in silence. When everything is understood by a look: we leave behind the singular and become “us.”

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Oakville artist **Kim Ross** is a graduate of the Ceramic Program at Sheridan College. She has exhibited in *Come Up To My Room* (2020) at the Gladstone Hotel, Fusion’s *Breakthrough* (2018), and The Elora Sculpture Project (2019). She was awarded honorable mention in Ceramics at the 2019 Toronto Outdoor Art Fair.

# Maria Teresa Hernandez



Looking for myself, I have found us.  
I started by looking down and inwards,  
my hands touching the ground.  
The clay takes the form of roots  
that guide me to the underworld.  
The roots follow the patterns of two different  
cultures  
intertwined, blending and taking turns  
to lead me in different directions.  
Seven generations rose to the surface,  
new patterns of trauma and resiliency around  
the core.  
Many more generations before them connect  
me  
with everything that has been alive.  
My body is 3.7 billion years old.  
My body is built with the same elements that  
make this tree:  
stardust.  
This tree and I nurture each other with each  
breath.  
Nothing separates us.  
“We got ourselves a life that has breath and  
death . . .  
joy and sorrow . . . We got ourselves born into  
a world of unbearable beauty  
and an ocean of tears.” (Jack Kornfield)

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**Maria Teresa** is an artist and Registered Canadian Art Therapist who facilitates groups for women who have experienced violence or who suffer from mental health challenges. She has also created expressive arts programs for health and wellbeing with an emphasis on mindfulness and movement at The Mindfulness Centre in Oakville. Maria Teresa earned a Master's degree in Fine Arts at the National University of Mexico UNAM. She has participated nationally and internationally in more than 20 solo art shows (including at three museums in Mexico: La Tallera National Institute of Fine Arts, Casa Trotsky, and Casa del Poeta) and numerous group shows. Since 2011 she has been a member of the Propeller Centre for the Visual Arts in the Queen Street West Gallery District.

# Mary McKenzie



Containers, objects for holding and saving, preserve everything from the everyday to the precious. A vase, as it holds celebratory or commemorative flowers, develops a patina of special-occasion. Long after the flowers are discarded the empty vessel continues to embody these experiences and invoke our personal histories.

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Toronto-based artist **Mary McKenzie** has participated in *Hot Mud: Emerging Canadian Ceramic Artists* at Burlington Art Centre; *Boxed-in* at the Rooms, Newfoundland Provincial Gallery; and *War: Light Within/After Darkness* at the Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery in Waterloo. For her installation in Waterloo, she received an Ontario Arts Council Exhibition Assistance Grant. Mary also received an Ontario Art Council Grant enabling her to attend a Ceramic Residency in Kecskemet, Hungary. Along with 14 others from across Canada, she was selected to participate in 'Anton Reijnders: Professional Workshop' at the Art Gallery of Burlington. In 2019, she participated in *Vessel Elaborations* at Craft Ontario's CO Space. Mary will be the Gardiner Museum Shop's feature artist from October to December, 2022.

# Natalie Waddell



My exploration of how clay is able to connect with the human body has brought me back to examples of historic ceremonial ornamentation, jewelry, clothing, and armor. I am creating pieces that can stand alone as sculptural forms but are intended to be adorned and displayed on the human body. I continue my practice of making objects that intimately interact with the user and disrupt the movement and behaviour of the person wearing the pieces.

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**Natalie Waddell** is a Toronto-based ceramic artist and educator. She is a recipient of the Craft Ontario Tuckers Supply Grant and the Mississauga Potters Fusion Design Award. She has exhibited widely, including in the travelling exhibition *Fireworks*, organized by FUSION: The Ontario Clay and Glass Association, and the group invitational exhibition *Bonspiel* in Minneapolis. She has also exhibited at the Gardiner Museum, the Living Arts Centre, Makeology, and the Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition, among others. She graduated from the Sheridan College Ceramic Craft & Design program and has continued her artistic studio practice since 2003.

# Suzanne Thomson



water earth fire air  
unveiling our brokenness  
wage peace with each breath

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**Suzanne Thomson** is a ceramic artist, registered psychotherapist, and art therapist with 30 years of experience integrating these practices to facilitate healing, community building, and social transformation work. As a practitioner of Zen Buddhism with training in contemplative arts, sensorimotor psychotherapy, narrative therapy, and trauma-informed approaches, she offers psychotherapy, clinical supervision, and teaches at the Toronto Art Therapy Institute and the University of Toronto. *Transformation by Fire*, a 10-year retrospective at the Gardiner Museum, won the 2013 Ontario Museum Association Award of Excellence in Exhibitions. The project was a direct reflection of Suzanne's deep commitment to working collaboratively to address social justice issues through the arts.

# Vanesa Trillia



Draw a line on the earth, leave your fingerprints, tell a story, write a poem, doodle. Letters and words. Shapes that capture our inner musings at a point in time. The alphabet as possibility, as beginning and end, as anchor. The alphabet as a connector through time. Intertwining ideas and thoughts with the joy of the sound of writing, movement, pause.

I consider the act of writing – pen and ink and paper - as essential to who I am. The alphabet is part of my inner geography and surfaces in my practice. Sometimes timidly, sometimes as surface treatment, always hovering close to the surface. In this body of work fragments of my writing propel themselves to center stage. These shapes have a rhythm and a form of their own. They are alive, new and with no dictionary to clarify usage, meaning, or origin. My work enables multiple relationships, configurations, and interpretations. Words.



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A crisis and a dream led **Vanesa Trillia** to the Ceramics Program at Sheridan College. Vanesa dove into the program and her creative life was forever changed. She graduated in 2012, selected Valedictorian by her peers and faculty.

Born in Argentina, Vanesa calls Canada home. After many years of working in the financial industry, she can finally say that she is a full-time artist. Vanesa lives and works in Thornbury, Ontario.

# Gardiner Shop

**111 Queen's Park, Toronto**

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