

FRANCES FERDINANDS

BIRTHPLACE : Colombo, Sri Lanka

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EDUCATION:

B. ED.	University of Toronto (Visual Art & Drama)
HON. B.F.A.	York University (Visual Art)
A.R.C.T.	Royal Conservatory of Music, Toronto (Classical Piano)

SELECTED GRANTS & AWARDS:

BRIDGEMAN STUDIO ART AWARD - Shortlist 2019
ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL Chalmers Professional Development Grant 2019
ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL Access and Career Development Grant 2016 (Sri Lanka)
ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL Mid-Career Grant 2016
ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL Access and Career Development Grant 2014 (Sri Lanka)
CANADA COUNCIL Travel Grant 1999
ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL Exhibition Assistance Grant 2019, 2017, 2015, 2014, 2013,
2008, 2007, 2006, 2005, 2004, 2003, 2000, 1999, 1995, 1989, 1987, 1986
ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL Artist-in-the-School Grant 1994, 1992, 1991, 1978
CANADA COUNCIL Project Grant 1985
ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL Project Grant 1975

COMMISSIONS:

PARN (Peterborough Aids Resource Network) container art project - 2020
Design of the 2019 Multi-Cultural Coin - Royal Canadian Mint
Coffin Design/Execution - 2019 "Eulogy for the Coffin Factory" - Nuit Blanche Toronto
Winner of 2017 "Diwali" Coin Design Competition - Royal Canadian Mint

PUBLICATIONS:

Featured Artist in "ACRYLIC INNOVATION"- Nancy Reyner, Northlight Books, 2010
Featured Artist in "RETHINKING ACRYLIC" - Patti Brady, Northlight Books, 2008
EDITOR: " ECLECTIC EVE " - Coach House Press, 1974

CONFERENCES:

Panelist - RESISTANCE THROUGH ART Academic Conference
Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto, 2018

FAIRS: EXHIBITOR, SURTEX, Javits Centre, NYC, 2019

RESIDENCIES: Rocky Neck Art Colony, Gloucester, MASS, 1997

EXHIBITIONS: SOLO

- 2020-21 Art Gallery of Mississauga, Ontario "26"
2020 The Noble Sage Art Collection, London, England "ENDURING PATTERNS"
2018 Open Sesame, Waterloo, Ontario "EXOTIC LANDSCAPES"
2017 Station Gallery, Whitby, Ontario "BETWEEN LATITUDES"
2017 Visual Arts Clarington, Ontario "CONNECTIVE THREADS"
2017 Gallery Stratford, Ontario "BETWEEN LATITUDES"
2015 Articsok Gallery, Toronto, Ontario "LASSANAI" (BEAUTIFUL)
2013 Propeller Centre, Toronto, Ontario "CONVERGENCE"
2009 Lola's Lounge, Sarnia, Ontario "FRANCES FERDINANDS @ LOLA'S" 2008
2008 ARTSPace, Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia "FOOD FOR THOUGHT"
2007 Propeller Centre, Toronto, Ontario "FOOD FOR THOUGHT"
2004 Buffalo Arts Studio, Buffalo, New York (U.S.A) "EMBODIED IDEALS"
2003 Gladstone Hotel, Toronto, Ontario "EMBODIED IDEALS"
2003 Kelowna Art Gallery, Kelowna, British Columbia "ADRIFT"
2001 MacDonnell Gallery, Toronto, Ontario "ADRIFT"
2000 Gallery Lambton, Sarnia, Ontario "ADRIFT"
2000 Ka 'Ikena Gallery, Kapi'olani College, Honolulu, HI. "PALM BREEZE"
1991 Kenneith Gallery, Sarnia, Ontario
1990 Gallery Lambton, Sarnia, ON "FRANCES FERDINANDS 1983-1989"
1988 Albert White Gallery, Toronto, Ontario "URBAN / NATURE"
1987 Galerie Arpege, Collingwood, Ontario "MYSTERIOUS TRAVELLERS"
1986 Albert White Gallery, Toronto, Ontario "MYSTERIOUS TRAVELLERS"
1986 La Centrale, (formerly Powerhouse) Montreal, Quebec "WAR"
1985 Kozak Gallery, Toronto, Ontario "WAR"
1981 Merton Gallery, Toronto, Ontario "SOLITARY WOMEN"

SELECTED TWO OR THREE PERSON

- 2014 Art Gallery of Northumberland, Cobourg "MINING BEAUTY"
2010 Rouge Concept Gallery, Toronto "RIPE"
2008 Diamond-Newman Fine Arts, Boston. (U.S.A.) "ECHOES OF SURREALISM"
2006 U. of Waterloo Art Gallery, Waterloo, Ontario "BY APPEARANCES"
1987 Lynnwood Arts Centre, Simcoe, Ontario "FIGURATIVE IMPACT"
1985 Robert McLaughlin Gallery, Oshawa "OLD WARS BY YOUNG ARTISTS"

SELECTED GROUP

- 2021 Curator's Salon, London, England "AUTUMN EXHIBITION"
2021 Propeller Art Gallery, Toronto, "COLLECTIVE EXPERIENCE"
2021 Noble Sage Art Collection, London, England "IN THE MIX"
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2019 Nuit Blanche & Day of the Dead, Toronto, "EULOGY FOR THE COFFIN FACTORY"
2014 Articsok Gallery, Toronto, Ontario "UBUNTU"
2014 Guelph Humber University Gallery, Toronto, Ontario "ROUND ROBIN"
2013 Articsok Gallery, Toronto, Ontario "21st CENTURY SURREALISM"
2013 Guelph Humber University Gallery, Toronto Ontario "COLLOQUIUM"

- 2009 WomanMade Gallery, Chicago, Illinois (U.S.A.) "CULTURAL MEMORY: TRANSDIASPORIC ART PRACTICES"
- 2007 Lennox Contemporary, Toronto, Ontario "DOUBLE DATE" (Tableau Vivant Performance)
- 2006 WomanMade Gallery, Chicago, Illinois (U.S.A.) "ANTHROPOMORPHISM"
- 2006 A.,K.A. Gallery, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan "DOUBLE DATE" (Tableau Vivant Performance)
- 2005 Galeria Carrion Vivar, Bogota, COLUMBIA "NORD – SUD
- 2005 Latcham Gallery, Stouffville, Ontario "GO FIGURE"
- 2004 WomanMade Gallery, Chicago, Illinois (U.S.A.) "FABRICATIONS"
- 2001 Lieutenant Governor's Suite, Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario "THE NEW SPIRIT OF ONTARIO"
- 1996 Gallery Lambton, Sarnia, Ontario "HERITAGE PARK COLLECTION "
- 1993 Passions Gallery, Provincetown, Mass. (U.S.A.)
- 1992 Galerie AderTajan, Paris, FRANCE "ART CONTEMPORAIN DU CANADA"
- 1992 Lynnwood Arts Centre, Simcoe "BEYOND TIME & CIRCUMSTANCE"
- 1990 Art Gallery of Northumberland, Cobourg "CONTEMPORARY REALISM"

CATALOGUES

- 2020 ENDURING PATTERNS, The Noble Sage Art Collection, London, ENGLAND
- 2017 CONNECTIVE THREADS, Visual Arts Clarington, ON
- 2014 MINING BEAUTY, Art Gallery of Northumberland, Cobourg, ON
- 2013 CONVERGENCE, Propeller Centre, Toronto, ON
- 2008 FOOD FOR THOUGHT, ArtsPlace, Annapolis Royal, NS
- 2007 DOUBLE DATE, Lennox Contemporary, Toronto, ON
- 2004 EMBODIED IDEALS, Buffalo Arts Studio, Buffalo, New York, USA
- 2001 NEW SPIRIT OF ONTARIO, Queen's Park, Toronto, ON
- 2000 ADRIFT, Judith & Norman Alix Gallery, Sarnia, ON
- 1992 ART CONTEMPORAIN DU CANADA Galerie Ader Tajan, Paris, FRANCE
- 1992 BEYOND TIME & CIRCUMSTANCE, Lynnwood Arts Centre, Simcoe, ON
- 1990 FRANCES FERDINANDS 1983 – 1990, Gallery Lambton, Sarnia, ON
- 1985 OLD WARS BY YOUNG ARTISTS, Robert McLaughlin Gallery, Oshawa, ON

COLLECTIONS: PUBLIC / CORPORATE

ARCHIVES OF ONTARIO, Toronto
 ARCHON CONSTRUCTION, Toronto
 ART GALLERY OF NORTHUMBERLAND, Ontario
 CANADA LIFE ASSURANCE, Toronto
 CADILLAC-FAIRVIEW CORP., Toronto
 CARROUSEL HOLIDAYS, Toronto
 CHSLD PROVIDENCE NOTRE-DAME DE LOURDES, Montreal
 CITY OF MARKHAM, Ontario
 DR. ANNA TUCKA DENTISTRY, Port Hope
 DRESDNER BANK CANADA, Toronto
 FRANCO-NEVADA MINING, Toronto
 GIRIG, INC. Toronto
 JUDITH & NORMAN ALIX GALLERY, Sarnia
 GERLING GLOBAL LIFE INSURANCE, Toronto
 K.P.M.G., Toronto
 KPM KENTE MANAGEMENT CO., Belleville
 LINDA LEIBEL ART SOURCE, Toronto

MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL, Toronto
MUSIC FOR MEDIA, Toronto
NORTHUMBERLAND HILLS HOSPITAL, Cobourg
OJCR CONSTRUCTION, Toronto
REMMUS TEXTILES, Montreal
ROBERT McLAUGHLIN GALLERY, Oshawa
ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM, Toronto
SATOVS CONSULTANTS, Toronto
SEAMARK CORPORATION, Gloucester, Massachusetts
SENECA COLLEGE, Toronto
STANDARD BROADCASTING CORPORATION, Toronto
ST. PETER'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, Cobourg
TOM THOMSON ART GALLERY, Owen Sound

FRANCES FERDINANDS <https://www.francesferdinands.com>

BIOGRAPHY

Born in Colombo Sri Lanka, Canadian artist Frances Ferdinands holds a B.F.A. from York University, an A.R.C.T. (Piano) from the Royal Conservatory of Music, and BEd. from University of Toronto.

Ferdinands has exhibited her work for 4 decades, in such far afield locales as New York, London, Paris, Bogota and Honolulu. Within Canada she has had numerous exhibitions at Public Galleries, most recently the installation “26” at the Art Gallery of Mississauga (2020). She is the recipient of many Arts Council grants and her paintings are featured in two Artbooks: “Rethinking Acrylic” and “Acrylic Innovation” (Northlight Books, 2008, 2010).

Her paintings are held in private and corporate collections including the Standard Broadcasting Corporation, Franco-Nevada Mining, and Dresdner Bank of Canada. Museum collections include the Robert McLaughlin Gallery, the Judith & Norman Alix Gallery and the Royal Ontario Museum.

In 2015 and 2017 Ferdinands (under an OAC Grant) returned to her homeland to be mentored in traditional arts and crafts that are culturally at risk. This experience served to enrich Ferdinands’ understanding of her Sri Lankan heritage and her sense of place within it.

The experience also spawned new work including the “Atomizer” collection - a series of 10 works which the ROM purchased.

She was commissioned by the Royal Canadian Mint to design the 2017 Diwali and the 2019 Multi-Cultural commemorative solid gold coin. In 2019 she traveled to Spain and Morocco to visit important Islamic sites and was awarded a Chalmers Fellowship to travel to London England to study Islamic Patterning. The knowledge gained further expands her focus on exploring visual cultural differences, belief systems and cross-cultural fertilization. In 2020 she had a Solo Exhibition at the Noble Sage Gallery in London England.

ARTIST STATEMENT

My series of paintings acknowledge the Pattern & Decoration movement and its ideals, while expressing my unique vision rooted in my South Asian heritage as a Sri Lankan immigrant and Person of Colour.

“Decoration” provides the underpinnings of the visual culture of many non-Western traditions and is still embraced as vital and relevant. Recognizing that decoration has been vilified by Western art critics as being non-intellectual, feminine, and inconsequential, I choose to challenge this notion rooted in white male Euro-centrism and celebrate the rich history of these cultures.

These works can be described as “exotic” illusory landscapes hovering between representation and abstraction. Largely painted intuitively, and drawing on music, art, objects, murals, tiles, textiles, wallpaper as reference, they are a mix of objects, nature imagery, patterning and ornamentation. Within the paintings I create narrative and tangential connections reflecting intersections and migrations of various cultural visual languages from South Asian to Middle Eastern to Western. Within this eclectic mix they become vehicles to express my concerns for the loss of nature, the echoes of colonialism, migration and transformation. Through re-interpreting and re-contextualizing these forms within my own unique style and content, this synthesis is a way of speaking to the “in-between space” of varied social and cultural realities that I inhabit. Finally I strive to make each work political, poetic and beautiful. I see beauty as a form of resistance.

FRANCES FERDINANDS: SELECTED ARTICLES, REVIEWS, INTERVIEWS

ARTICLES

2020 - "An Artist's Cottage: Inside the Studio" - Woven Tale Press USA June 19

2020 - 4 page Feature spread of text and images - Woven Tale Press Magazine USA Vol.VIII#3

2020 - "Local Artist donates Painting to Northumberland Hospital" - Northumberland News, Jan. 07

2017 - "Because I Care" Feature by Frances Ferdinands - The Island Newspaper, Sri Lanka Feb. 18

2017- "Between Latitudes" Exhibition, by Anastasia Hare - Station Gallery, Whitby

2016 - "Recent Acquisitions" ROM Blog - by South Asian Curator Deepali Dewan

2015- "Reconnecting with her Roots" by Sadhana Senananyke, Sunday Leader Newspaper, Sri Lanka

INTERVIEWS

2020 - "LIVE Artist Talk" - Frances Ferdinands with Curator Dev Ramsumair, Art Gallery of Mississauga, November ON YOUTUBE

2020 - "View from the Easel" - Frances Ferdinands with Dimitri Papatheodorou, Art Gallery of Northumberland, July ON YOUTUBE

2020 - "Dear Senior Artist" - Interview with Frances Ferdinands - CSARN

2015 - "Lassanai " Exhibition Interview with Haazif Karim - Art Toronto

TRADE SHOWS

2019 SURTEX - SURFACE DESIGN ART FAIR - JAVITS CENTRE, NEW YORK NEW YORK

PROFESSIONAL / GALLERY REPRESENTATION

SINCE 2020, ONGOING REPRESENTATION BY THE NOBLE SAGE ART GALLERY, LONDON ENGLAND.

ONLINE SALES THROUGH ARTSY - NOBLE SAGE ART GALLERY

SINCE 2020, ONGOING LICENSING OF MY WORK THROUGH BRIDGEMAN FINE ART, LONDON ENGLAND

2014-2016 REPRESENTED BY ARTICSOK GALLERY, TORONTO

I AM WILLING TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP RUN EVENTS IF POSSIBLE.

LIST OF 10 IMAGES

1. From Where the Sky Meets the Sea, Acrylic on Canvas, 40"x30", 2020
2. Interlopers, Acrylic on Canvas, 24"x24", 2020

3. It's All In the Game, Acrylic on Canvas, 36" x 36", 2020
4. Love of 3 Lemons, Acrylic on Canvas, 24" x 24", 2020
5. Taking Red for a Walk, Acrylic on Canvas, 30" x 40", 2021
6. String of Pearls, Acrylic on Canvas, 24" x 30", 2021
7. 3 Commas of the Serendip, Acrylic on Canvas, 24" x 24", 2019
8. Silk Roads, Acrylic on Canvas, 30" x 30", 2020
9. The Burden in Becoming, Acrylic on Canvas, 30' x 30", 2020
10. No Fixed Address, Acrylic on Canvas, 24" x 24", 2020