A descendent of two Albertan Black Prairie pioneer families, artist James Hart (b.1952) has developed a lens-based practice offering depictions of lone figures situated in scenes of “supernatural banality.” In the past, the annual Toronto Friends of the Visual Arts Prize has been awarded to a Toronto artist; this year, a $5,000 prize was offered to each of the three recipients: David Trick in recognition of excellence by Yukon visual artists, a $5,000 prize was offered to each of the three recipients: David Trick in recognition of excellence by Yukon visual artists, a $5,000 prize was offered to each of the three recipients: David Trick in recognition of excellence by Yukon visual artists, a $5,000 prize was offered to each of the three recipients: David Trick in recognition of excellence by Yukon visual artists, a $5,000 prize was offered to each of the three recipients: David Trick in recognition of excellence by Yukon visual artists, a $5,000 prize was offered to each of the three recipients: David Trick in recognition of excellence by Yukon visual artists, a $5,000 prize was offered to each of the three recipients: David Trick in recognition of excellence by Yukon visual artists, a $5,000 prize was offered to each of the three recipients: David Trick in recognition of excellence by Yukon visual artists, a $5,000 prize was offered to each of the three recipients: David Trick in recognition of excellence by Yukon visual artists, a $5,000 prize was offered to each of the three recipients: David Trick in recognition of excellence by Yukon visual artists, a $5,000 prize was offered to each of the three recipients: David Trick in recognition of excellence by Yukon visual artists. The Governor General’s Awards in Visual and Media Arts have acknowledged the achievements of leading Canadian creators, with the 2020 award given to multimedia artist André Fournelle for his project States of Shock (États de choc). James Hart, co-founder of the Scotiabank Photography Award and Chair of the jury, arranged archival materials into configurations that reveal the human impacts on aquatic ecosystems that are largely hidden beneath troubled waters. “My art practice is in complete effervescence at the moment and this award from the Hnatyshyn Foundation will allow me to continue to build on this storywork.”

In the past decade, the annual Audain Prize for Lifetime Achievement in the Visual Arts has been awarded to multiple artists. In 2020–21, the prize was given to David Black Drones in the Hive, a member of the Tsawatsen First Nation, who has created monumental works using steel, sculpture, and projection. In 2010–13, the world’s first freestanding dance screen was installed in Toronto, complementing James Hart’s work exemplifies his innovative approach to traditional Haida forms to the viewer. The Dance Screen (The Scream Too) was initially installed in 2008, and its ongoing presence has contributed to the city’s public art landscape.

In 2020, the Toronto Friends of the Visual Arts Prize, which has been awarded annually since 1963, recognized the work of internationally renowned sculptor André Fournelle. His project States of Shock (États de choc) is a haunting black and white photograph of a lone dog roaming the coastline near Kuredu Island in the Maldives. In October, Fournelle’s work was on display at the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery, curated by Crystal Mowry and Lisa Balicki. The exhibition featured a collection of his works spanning his career, including his famous sculpture Black Drones in the Hive. The installation consists of a large steel sculpture and a video projection of a drone flying over the ocean, creating a powerful visual experience for viewers.

Shellie Zhang (b.1991), whose work reflects on the cultural and ritual significance of fruit, as well as the processes involved in its cultivation, transportation, and consumption. Her piece, Sedna, Ruler of All Sea Animals, is an etching and aquatint on paper that captures the essence of Sedna, the mythological figure associated with the sea in Inuit culture. The piece is testament to how they spark attention to and intensified exploration of an artist’s body of work. The works of artists like Shellie Zhang are a testament to the enduring fascination with different manifestations of light (such as laser, neon, LED, and fibre optics) that continues to captivate audiences today.

In the context of regional arts programming, the 2019–20 Yukon Prize for Visual Arts was awarded to Laakkuluk Williamson Bathory (b.1979) for her project Nannuppugut!, which explores the complexity of Inuit identity and cultural heritage. Bathory’s work, which includes sculptures, installations, and performances, aims to challenge stereotypes and offer a fresh perspective on Inuit culture.

The ACI is a not-for-profit educational charity that receives no government funding. The ACI is dedicated to supporting Canadian artists by providing resources, community, and opportunities to showcase and promote their work. The ACI is committed to fostering artistic excellence and providing a platform for Canadian artists to thrive and contribute to the cultural landscape. Through events, exhibitions, and initiatives, the ACI aims to celebrate the diversity and depth of Canadian art, ensuring that artists are celebrated and supported.

If you would like to support our important work, please consider making a donation to the ACI. Your contributions are vital to the ongoing success of the ACI and the artists we support. Together, we can continue to celebrate the artistic talent of Canada and promote the growth and development of the Canadian art scene.