

Bent On Art is organized on the traditional and unceded territories of the Sinixt, who are not extinct. We also acknowledge that there are overlapping land claims of the Ktunaxa, Secwepemc and Syilx Nations through the colonial land claims process. We respect this land and graciously defer to the knowledge and wisdom of the indigenous elders of this territory.





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# ABOUT

**Bent On Art: Kootenay Queer & Trans Art Festival** is a series of virtual events designed to promote the work of LGBTQ+ artists in the Kootenays while creating educational opportunities, fostering community connection and promoting resilience through the arts.

**Website:** [www.samontecruzstudios.com/bent-on-art](http://www.samontecruzstudios.com/bent-on-art)

**Email:** [bentonartfest@gmail.com](mailto:bentonartfest@gmail.com)

 /BentOnArtFest

 @BentOnArtFest

## Organizers

### **Samonte Cruz** Festival Director & Co-Curator



@SamonteCruzStudios

[www.SamonteCruzStudios.com](http://www.SamonteCruzStudios.com)



Samonte Cruz is a Filipinx metalsmith, artist, and educator with over 17 years of community organizing experience. In addition to their work with Bent On Art, Samonte makes custom, one-of-a-kind jewelry, while running their own online store. Samonte also offers beginner jewelry courses at Kootenay Studio Arts, Selkirk College and works as an apprentice to award-winning master goldsmith, Paul Durkin at Lauener Brother's Jewellers in Trail, BC. In their spare time, Samonte enjoys playing music & spending time with their pups.



## **Maggie Shirley** **Co-Curator & Advisor**

[www.MaggieShirley.com](http://www.MaggieShirley.com)



Maggie Shirley is a poly-media artist and curator. Her art work is based on thematic research into the human body, environment and technology, primarily taking the form of installation and socially-engaging projects. Her work has been exhibited in Ireland, Canada and Spain. She graduated with an MFA from UBC Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies (UBC) in 2013. In 2007 Shirley was honoured to act as an Invigilator for the Irish Pavilion at the Venice Biennale (2007). Following her undergraduate degree, she returned to Canada and worked at the Banff New Media Institute (The Banff Centre).

Currently, Maggie Shirley lives in the Kootenays where she works as Curator at the Kootenay Gallery of Art in Castlegar, BC. Shirley has curated a number of solo and group exhibitions including Building the World We Want and The Hidden Hero Project. Shirley is currently co-curating Overburden: Geology, Extraction and Metamorphosis in a Chaotic Age with Genevieve Roberston.



## **Bee Schroeder** **Administrator**

[www.TrailheadGlass.com](http://www.TrailheadGlass.com)

Bee Schroeder is a glass artist and community arts organizer. Using flameworked borosilicate glass they explore themes of flora and fauna in making jewelry, pipes, and other ornamental household items. In addition to raising two kiddos, Bee is currently focused on spearheading Creative Exchange, an arts cooperative designed to support the visual arts community of the Central Kootenays by building affordable studio spaces, making tools and technologies accessible, and connecting artists with each other and creative business services. Connect on Instagram via @prairiepies, @trailheadglass and @creative.exchange.cooperative

# Stephanie Wiggins

## Festival Coordinator



@Becoming.Education

[www.BecomingEducation.ca](http://www.BecomingEducation.ca)



Steph is a second and third generation settler who has spent their life living on unceded and traditional Sinixt tum-ula7x. She is a genderfluid Early Childhood Educator caring for and teaching children 6 and under. They also teach sexual health, body science, gender, sexuality and consent education to learners of all ages through their business, Becoming - Education and Advocacy, as a Sexual Health Educator. Steph is extremely passionate about children, parents and families and finds deep joy in helping adults to begin seeing the learning and teachable moments that happen in all the ordinary instances of our lives. Their teaching focuses on celebrating all the beautiful differences we have as humans and in creating opportunities for us all to grow, unlearn and relearn as we break cycles of shame and abuse, find our voices and discover our authentic identities.

Community is extremely important to Steph, so they enjoy the role of Community Organizing, putting on Kootenay Pride events and other queer events in the Nelson area. Steph loves making audio as a co-host on Queery, a bi-weekly Kootenay Coop Radio show. You can find Steph on stage (pre-COVID times) performing as their drag king alter-ego, Dmitri Spankov.

When they aren't working, Steph cherishes her time being a Mama to their 4 year old sassy, spicy and hilarious daughter. Steph and their family enjoy impromptu dance parties, dressing up fancy, getting messy (think puddle jumping and full body painting), cooking together and making art. They consider being a parent their most important role in life and Steph feels honoured to watch the incredible journey of watching her daughter grow, learn and gain more independence. In her free time Steph can be found outside enjoying the beautiful land we are so blessed to call home, going on walks with friends, taking long baths and spending time with their family.

Steph feels honoured to be a part of the Bent On Art team this year. She loves people and fostering supportive relationships, so the role of Festival Coordinator is a wonderful challenge for her. Steph enjoys making art casually through sketching, cross stitch, painting, building and jewelry making.



## **Jake Langmuir**

### **Marketing Coordinator**

[www.JakeLangmuir.com](http://www.JakeLangmuir.com)



Jake is a multi-talented marketer, designer, writer, curator, musician, DJ and community builder. Originally moving to the Kootenays from the Toronto area in 2009, he has been an integral part of the electronic music scene here for over a decade, performing for ten consecutive years at the Shambhala Music Festival - while consistently touring across Western Canada and beyond. An avid snowboarder in the winters and hiker in the warmer months, Jake quickly fell in love with the terrain, the people and the general open-mindedness of music and art audiences. Connect with him on Instagram at @dubconscious, and find him on Facebook at /djubconscious.



## **Devon Caron**

### **Volunteer Coordinator**

Devon is a Trans man, a Husband and a Dad. He is not an artist, but he loves the arts, and is thrilled to be working with Bent On Art and its volunteers this year.

## **The Dancing Legs**

### **Performance Coordinators**

Learn more about The Dancing Legs in the Performers Section of the program.







# **The Bent On Art Challenge & Giveaway**

**March 1-28, 2021**

**Make Art Daily & Share Your Creations to Win Prizes!**

**Tag us (@BentOnArtFest) & Use #BentOnArtChallenge**

This contest is open to **anyone**.

Share your daily creative process alongside  
our selected BOA Challenge Artists to WIN!



## **Festival Schedule**

### **The #BentOnArtChallenge**

March 1-28, 2021

#### **Queer & Trans Life Drawing Class**

with Facilitator **Nadia Moss**

Saturdays in March • 12:30-3pm PST • via **Zoom**

#### **Virtual Art Exhibition**

with the Bent On Art Challenge Artists

Sunday March 28 • 7pm PST • via **Zoom**

#### **Online Music & Performance Showcase**

Coordinated by **The Dancing Legs**

Saturday March 27 • 6pm PST • via **Zoom & Vimeo**



# Queer & Trans Life Drawing Class

with **Nadia Moss**  
[www.NadiaMoss.com](http://www.NadiaMoss.com)

Gain drawing skills in a variety of materials and techniques working (remotely) from a live model. Discover & develop your own unique approach to drawing the figure in an explicitly queer & trans-centric, respectful, anti-oppressive and fun environment. Participants selected must reside in the Kootenay region, with priority going to QTBIPOC artists. Fee is sliding scale - no one turned away for lack of funds. Bursaries available.

Registration / Info: [tinyurl.com/BOAQTDrawing](https://tinyurl.com/BOAQTDrawing)



Nadia Moss is a mother/artist/teacher/musician/auntie. They are a white jewish non-binary old man who gets weirder, lefter, queerer every day they are blessed to live and breathe. They live with their daughter in Tiotia:ke/Montreal, and have been part of music, art and political communities there and elsewhere for over twenty years.

They have exhibited drawing and installations across Canada and USA. Their art work has been published in two books by L'Oie de Cravan, and has been featured in a multiple albums, zines and magazines.

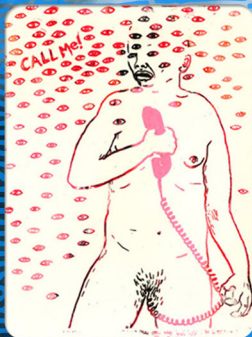
They were primarily self taught until their acceptance into an MFA in 2011, which they completed in order to be able to follow their dream of teaching. Since then, they've taught drawing and performance art at Sheridan College and led life drawing and other specialized workshops for the LGBTQ2SIA+ community



Participant Jimmie Dancer  
at the conclusion of  
Nadia's Bent On Art  
Life Drawing Class in 2019



Call Me by Nadia Moss  
'Gocco' screenprint on  
blank postcard, 3.5" x 5"



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# Bent On Art Challenge Artists

We have hand-selected six local Queer & Trans artists to take on a daily art practice - The #BentOnArtChallenge - culminating in an online exhibition on Sunday March 28. **This year's theme focuses on Queer & Trans Resilience.**

## Vance Wright



@VanceWright



Vance Wright is a two-spirit textile artist and writer, who was raised on the traditional territories of the S'inixt, Syilx/Okanagan and the K'tunaxa Nations in what is now Nelson, BC. They are of the Dakelh people, hailing from the Tl'azt'en Nation, and are a second generation adoptee raised by a white family. They sit on the Board of Directors at Oxygen Art Centre in Nelson, and are currently pursuing their BFA at Emily Carr University in the Cultural & Critical Practices major. Now living as an uninvited guest on the unceded territories of the Musqueam, Skwxwu7mesh, and the Tsleil-Waututh Nations, Vancouver has been considered home to Vance for the past two years.



## sylvie Le sylvie



@sylvieLesylvie

[app.bookme.ink/sylvielesylvie](http://app.bookme.ink/sylvielesylvie)

sylvie Le sylvie is a queer artist living in the Slocan Valley on Sinixt Territory. They have been tattooing for 15 years. After all this time they still love drawing on people's skin, as well as drawing on paper, drawing on wood and other surfaces, drawing in general, making prints and occasionally painting. They also like spending time with their dog, spending time in rivers and lakes, pina colodas and getting caught in the rain.



# Nichola Hare

 @Nichola.Hare

Nichola Hare finds resilience in the creative process of hand weaving. She is cultivating renewal, metamorphosis and transformation in the depths of winter, living above the snow line in an off grid community on unceded Sinixt territory. Nichola is a multi-hyphanate-creative, having worked primarily in textile based arts, upholstery, sail-making, sewn soft goods manufacturing and as a skilled trades person. Honesty and integrity begin a list of qualities that Nichola has worked diligently to cultivate. Her passion for collaborative team based approaches and diverse and inclusive workplaces has lead to a number of roles in HR management and administrative duties.

# Seed



@\_knitbone\_

[knitboneceramics.bigcartel.com](http://knitboneceramics.bigcartel.com)



My name is Seed and I'm a ceramic artist living in Winlaw, BC. I started taking pottery classes at a community studio in 2015 and quickly became obsessed with clay. I made the move from Victoria to the Kootenays in 2017 to pursue a diploma in Ceramics at the Kootenay School of the Arts. My work is reflective of the beautiful rural place I live. I enjoy using a deep red clay body and natural earthy glazes to finish my work. I mostly make functional ceramics & it brings me joy to fill peoples' homes with handmade pots, know that they are being used in the daily rituals of cooking & eating.



# Jimmie Dancer



@m\_bielu

[inprnt.com/gallery/mbielu](http://inprnt.com/gallery/mbielu)



Jimmie Dancer is a bisexual trans man with big dreams of becoming the perfect housewife. He loves cooking, hand-sewing, embroidery, old thrift store furniture, tea, spicy romance fiction, the 2010 animated children's movie "Megamind," wizards, and baking sourdough bread. Most importantly, Jimmie likes to create art, expressing queerness and other themes through colorful fantasy imagery.



# Carter Balzer



@Carter\_Balzer

Carter is a non-binary gender rebel, artist, metal-smith, sculptor and international arts educator. Carter tends to use organic forms and the human form to create both sculptural and functional art. They celebrate the diversity of the human body through sculpture and drawing.

When they aren't making art, Carter can be found outside enjoying the mountains and lakes in all their beauty, cooking delicious meals and loving on their friends and family. When the weather gets cold Carter heads outside for snow sculpting, having competed for 7 years in the British Columbia Snow Sculpting Championship. Carter graduated from the Kootenay Studio Arts (KSA) Jewelry program and has studied blacksmithing, and bronze and aluminum casting. After graduation Carter was hired on at KSA where they continue to work to this day teaching jewelry and coppersmithing as a part of community classes.

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Carter was a founding coordinator for Bent On Art, volunteering for the first 2 festivals and is excited to be a part of the festival again this year.



# Performance Artists



## Onibana Taiko

 /OnibanaTaiko

Onibana Taiko is kick ass taiko meets traditional Japanese folk art forms meets feminist queer punk aesthetics. We play taiko (Japanese BIG drums) and combine with our uber tactile and full body resonating beats with the driving sounds of shamisen (Japanese Banjo), amazing and soul piercing traditional Japanese vocals, and the yancha dyke sounds of a fue (a wooden flute). Onibana Taiko invites audience members to commune with our ancestors through Obon dance and music (sort of like a Buddhist Japanese Dia De los Muertos celebration). The group is comprised of Kage (pronounced Kaagay), Noriko Kobayashi and Leslie Komori.

We will present a compilation of varied video performances. We have created all videos recently and specifically for BOA. Some footage was shot with Covid precautions during the pandemic. Some footage is pre-covid including footage from our January 2020 New Year's concert at Moberly Arts and Cultural Centre in Vancouver and various festivals and performances in British Columbia. We hope you will join us to kiai like crazy or yell like a martial artist and dance like a fool to shake off the stress and trauma from those forever seeming Covid lockdown restrictions.



# The Dancing Legs



@TheDancingLegs



We are multidisciplinary artists who performs the art of Drag. Burlesque gave us the platform and the freedom to express our art and our characters. We are happy to call the Kootenays home now and to feel all the support from our community. For us, Drag is a way to break the gender barrier and be whoever we want to be. We aim to inspire other people to follow their hearts and be their true self. We use pure happiness, fun, sass and dance to share our message. Cause let's be honest, what's life without a little spice!

We are telling the story of two conjoined twins - The Hamilton Sisters - who were famous in the 1950's for their physical appearance in film. When they realize they are no longer happy being conjoined, they dream of the independence of having individual bodies. Our number brings that day dream to life to the song *Woman's World* by Cher. We arrive on stage conjoined by a skirt and once the song transitions to Cher we reveal our black cat suits. There is an element of Yin & Yang with our complimentary black and white accessories. The mood of the number goes from dark to empowering. Our pink umbrellas double as boobs with bedazzled pasties. This community really helped create a platform for The Dancing Legs to flourish & this is our homage to burlesque.



# Mother Girth



@Mother.Girth

Since time immemorial, Mother has been jiggling their Girth, gyrating with the flow of the Universe. Mother Girth identifies as a two-spirit, non-binary person. They are proudly from the Syilx, Ho-chunk and Anishinaabe peoples. They won "Most Innovative" in the Edmonton Burlesque Festival's Bunny Competition. Mother Girth believes in creating burlesque that celebrates indigenous queer sexuality!





## Smokii Sumac

 @SmokiiSumac

SmokiiSumac.com

Smokii Sumac (Ktunaxa) is a poet and PhD Candidate in Indigenous Studies at Trent University. His first poetry collection, *you are enough: love poems for the end of the world*, (Kegeedonce Press, 2018) won an Indigenous Voices Award for published poetry, and Smokii has recently been named as a finalist for the Dayne Ogilvie Prize. Currently Smokii is living in ʔamaʔkis Ktunaxa (Ktunaxa territories), with his cat, Miss Magoo, and a "big ole rez dog" named Kootenay Lou.

## t wolfe

 @skipperandthebeat



Woods wanderer. Gender queer. Slow texter.

After a casual flirtation with live performance in a handful of musical projects over the years, mostly performing songs written by others, t is ready to take to the stage once again. Coming out of 2020 with some new music, new covers, old songs reworked and a strong desire to once again play a live show!

## Marloe Blue

Marloe Blue has been bringing his special brand of burlesque to the stage and into the hearts of audience members since 2017. Known for his artistic flair and comedic funny bone, Marloe has performed in a variety of burlesque and drag shows in B.C. including the Kootenay Burlesque Festival, The Itty Bitty Burlesque Festival and What a Drag! - A Dancing Legs Production.



# Community Partners



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"**Tiny Lights** is proud to partner with Bent on Art to provide bursaries for participants of the **Queer & Trans Life Drawing Classes** as a part of our commitment to building spaces for reflection, deep listening, connection, and belonging. Accessibility for all folks is a core value of ours and we do as much as possible to reduce barriers for participation. We are thrilled to align with Bent on Art for such an amazing program."





# Friends Of The Festival



# Festival Funders

Funded by the  
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