

A Letter to the Class of 2024

After nearly two years of navigating the unprecedented challenges of online art school, our journey was not in any way typical or easy. We proudly present this exhibition as a testament, a love letter, to our ability to adapt, persevere, and ultimately thrive.

We want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our exhibition team, which is made up of its core members as well as every artist presenting in Without These Walls. Thank you. Throughout the planning process, our committee has worked tirelessly to put on this exhibition that showcases the depth of artistic talent within our program. Our collective creativity inspires, challenges, and has deeply enriched life in Ontario Hall these past four years.

We extend this same thanks to our professors, whose invaluable guidance and care not only equipped us with practical tools to propel our practice forward, but shared with us new perspectives, teaching us to understand and appreciate life through the eyes of an artist.

Within these walls, we've built skills, lasting friendships, and a shared sense of resilience. While our physical space may change, the support from your community will remain. These experiences have prepared us to navigate any challenges ahead and find similar success Without These Walls.

Valerie and Amelia

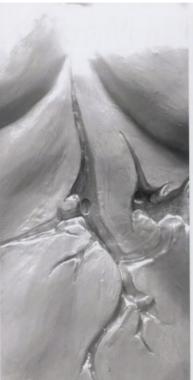


Samantha Andersen

(She/Her

As a dedicated Fine Art Honours student at Queen's University, she is deeply immersed in the intricate world of sculpture, with a particular focus on the medium of clay. Her artistic journey this semester is marked by an ambitious project: the creation of lifesize portraits. These aren't just any portraits; each one is infused with a secret concept that intertwines her technical skills with her creative vision. Andersen's academic pursuits extend beyond the realm of fine art. She also has a minor in Classical History, a discipline that has profoundly influenced her artistic approach. This study has sparked a fascination with organic materials and their historical significance, guiding her choice to work with clay. This natural, malleable material serves as a bridge connecting her passion for history and art, allowing her to explore and express timeless human experiences through her sculptures. In her work, she strives to blend the ancient with the contemporary, drawing inspiration from historical themes while infusing modern sensibilities. This unique fusion is evident in her life-size portraits, where the past and present converge, creating art that is not only visually captivating but also rich in historical context and personal expression.







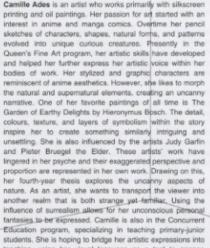




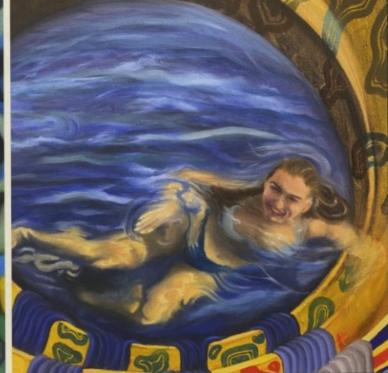
amille Adie

Camille Ades

Camille Ades is an artist who works primarily with silkscreen teaching, using her visual language as a tool to engage students on many levels.









Maddy Baird

(She/Her

Madeleine Baird is a 21-year-old artist from Pembroke, Ontario currently based in Kingston, Ontario. For as long as she can remember, Madeleine has had a love for creating, starting with an interest in drawing and acrylic painting in her childhood. Throughout her years in the Fine Arts program at Queen's, she has developed a passion for oil painting and silkscreen printing, and has shifted her focus to developing her skills in both mediums. She has an interest in portraiture and narrative pieces in her creative practice. She is inspired by the styles of Valeria Duca and Caroline Absher's portrait work and incorporates aspects of their style into her own techniques.

Her work aims to explore themes of self-reflection, vulnerability and personal growth. In her fourth year of the BFA program, Madeleine's work will tie together her skills in oil painting and silkscreen printing to tell a narrative of human change and growth in relation to the metamorphosis of insects.









Annie Bueler

(She/Her)

Annie Bueler is a representational artist based in the Greater Toronto Area and Kingston, Ontario, Canada. Her artistic practice is deeply rooted in a collage approach, where she explores the profound themes of longingness and wish fulfillment. Through her work, Bueler constructs compositions that meld imagery symbolizing longingness with depictions of herself, envisioning how she fits into these captivating fantasies. Her art serves as a visual journey into the complex world of human desires and the intricate interplay between self and the yearning for an alternate reality. Bueler's interest lies in the concept of yearning and wish fulfillment, examining how the human experience involves daydreaming about past and present selves without feeling entirely fulfilled. Inspired by artists such as Van Gogh, Yoshitomo Nara, and Margaux Williamson, Bueler volunteers at The Agnes Etherington Art Center and contributes as a digital illustrator for Muse Magazine, as well as being an active member of the Union Galleries' student-led committee. As she approaches graduation. Annie plans to take a year off to immerse herself in Toronto's art scene and gain practical experience in curation, galleries, and artist residencies before pursuing graduate, studies.





Valerie Camila

(She/Her)

Valerie Camilla (b. 2002) is an emerging contemporary figurative oil painter and student from Southern Alberta. Currently based in Kingston, Ontario, she is pursuing her Honours BFA at Queen's University.

Camila's practice hinges on establishing profound connections between the subjects of her paintings. Using light to inform a narrative, the subjects of her work are infused with vitality-uncovering their woven idiosyncrasies. As a young, queer Colombian-Canadian woman, Hispanic subjects take centre stage in her work. Capturing resiliency by exploring queer realities, femininity, infinancy, and self-realization. Through a unique blend of brushwork, surreal motifs, and personal experiences, Camila uncovers the intriducies of human connection, revealing diverse representations of self and celebrating the power of affection.

Camilla was the recipient of the Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation Grant in 2023.







Kai Fennell

She/Her

Kai is a realist artist who developed her fascination with the technical aspects of representational art through ink and graphite drawing. During her time as BFA student at Queen's University, she has experimented with many mediums, ultimately gravitating towards oil paint. Becoming a painter not only strengthened her desire to master technical skills, such as composition and colour theory, but has also given herself permission to explore her own life in greater detail.

Kailee's current series explores the intersection of her identities as an artist and a cyclist. Drawing from her time as a part of the Queen's Cycling Team, she combines themes of discipline, regimentation, and dedication into her artistic expression, which are traits essential within her athletic and artistic journeys. Kailee is also pursuing an education degree with the goal of inspiring future generations of artists as a high school art teacher. She was inspired to become a teacher by Queen's BFA alumni, Andrea Anfossi, who taught her that art is an essential element in the development, self expression, and confidence of a young student.











Laura Driscoll

(She/Her

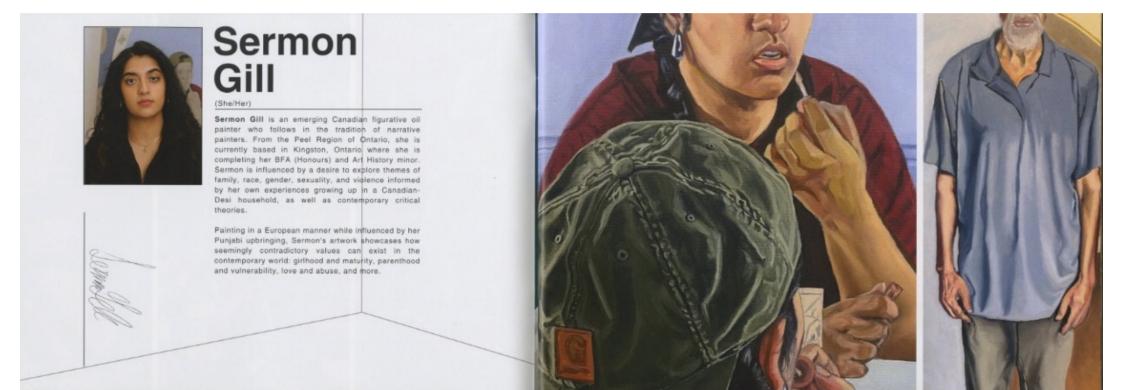
Laura Driscoll (b. 2002) is a visual artist born in Ajax, ON. Her current studio practice takes an interdisciplinary approach exploring paint, print, and textile works. She is drawn to the intentionality and methods of making.

Currently her work explores autobiographical themes and concepts of ferministy. After the completion of her BFAH at Queen's University Kingston, ON (2024), she hopes to continue her studio practice and eventually complete an MFA.











Kennedy laboni

She/Her

Kennedy laboni (b. 2002) is an emerging artist from Etobicoke, Ontario, who has had a passion for art from a very young age. Currently based in Kingston, she is completing her BFA (Honours) at Queen's University. Her artistic skills and techniques have continued to develop as well as her interest in including a focus on light and colour in her large-scale oil paintings. Since starting her Fine Arts degree, she has steered away from abstraction and focused more on representational and minimalistic paintings styles throughout her body of work. Her work is often heavily influenced by the subject of lived experiences and self-reflection. Through her focus on colour, shape and form, she has gravitated to interior scenes which amplify the importance of structure and light, connecting metaphorically to the human spirit. The simplistic and sctructural compositions of painters David Hockney and Kenny Harris are artists who take inspiration from, as well as James Turrell who is known for his work within the light and space movement. Kennedy is also in the Concurrent Education Program, specializing in teaching primary-juniour students where she hopes to be able to later specialize in special education and art therapy where can can engage with children through her visual art.







Hanna Elizabeth Irish

(She/Her

Hanna Elizabeth Irish (b. 2002) is primarily a printmaker whose love for art began at a very young age. She was born in Zimbabwe and has lived in Malaysia, Oman, Kenya, and Canada since then. Her work is inspired by her experiences of living and traveling globally. Hanna was inspired to pursue printmaking in the International Baccalaureate program in Nairobi, Kenya where she began intaglio and linoleum. She further explored the intaglio process as well as studied drypoint, mono printing, serigraphy, and lithography in the Fine Arts program at Queen's University.

She has always enjoyed drawing with graphite pencils, so she was enthusiastic about lithography, drawing with grease pencils onto the flat surface of limestone. Hanna was also intrigued by the traditional printmaking techniques of lithography including the physicality of grinding, buffing, sponging, and inking one's stone. Additionally, Hanna is in the Concurrent Education program, aiming to become a visual arts or math teacher in the future. She looks forward—to exposing her students to all variations of printmaking as well as painting, drawing, sculpture, and mixed media.







Hama Drost



Kelby James

(He/Him

Kelby James (he/him) is an interdisciplinary artist born in Kingston, Ontario. His thesis work, The Garden of Forbidden Fruits and the Laws of Cosmic Consciousness presents a series of print media artworks that delve into the visual aesthetics and the modalities of altered states of consciousness, along with the political dimensions surrounding psychedelics and their users. Kelby utilizes printmaking methods including serigraphy, stone lithography, and digital media. Kelby's study examines the interplay between printmaking processes and the expansive nature of psychedelic experiences, shedding light on the tensions between control and surrender in both realms. His thesis explores the tensions and socio-political implications inherent in the psychedelic experience, utilizing the themes and theories of phantasmagoria, enantiodromia, syncretism, and poststructuralism to provide a distinct perspective. Kelby employs printmaking strategies to visualize the optics of tripping on psychedelics while critiquing societal stigmas associated with entheogenic use. The compositions function as a reflection of the self, the psyche, the substance, and the system of the natural world that the substance filters for the user's experience. The employment of silkscreen techniques is integral to conveying the synthesis of the mind and body with the natural world which can arise during psychedelic and poly-drug-induced states. Kelby recently presented his thesis at Queen's University's annual "Inquiry for Undergraduate Research". Upon graduation, Kelby wishes to further his studies at the Master's level, continuing his research on psychedelics and printmaking. He currently lives between Kingston and Toronto, working in the hospitality and film production sectors.





Sarah Jihae Kaye

(She/They)

Sarah Jihae Kaye is a Toronto-born emerging interdisiplinary artist. Currently Based in Katarokwi/Kingston, she is working towards her BFA (Honours), BEd, and minor in Geography at Queen's University. Kaye specializes in performance, printmaking, and sculpture to investigate the body's capabilities of storing memory, and it's physical limits.

She explores materiality as a tool for deconstructing and reimagining memory through an autobiographical lens. in her work, an egg is presented as a symbol of rebirth and stunted transition, where eggshells become a leftover house. Through introspection, she unravels narratives rooted in lived experiences, confronting the interplay between Oa host and it's home.

Kaye is a two-time-recipient of the Margaret Craig Award in Fine Arts (2023) and has exhibited in loval galleries including 1313 (Toronto) and Union Gallery (Kingston.)







Kenna McKee

She/Her

Kenna McKee is a visual artist born and raised in Owen Sound, Ontario. Growing up in a rural area heavily influenced her early artistic interests in landscape drawing and watercolour painting by fostering a love of the countryside. Since starting her Fine Art degree and being introduced to figurative painting, her style evolved to an interest in the human figure and the medium of oil paint. Inspired by a multisport background and her experience playing lacrosse at the varsity level; she is currently exploring discrimination in sports within her work, particularly between genders and the sexual exploitation that many female athletes face throughout their careers.

After completion of the BFAH and Concurrent Education programs at Queen's, Kenna plans to further her art career by teaching the subject at the high school level to students of her own.







Julia Novakovic

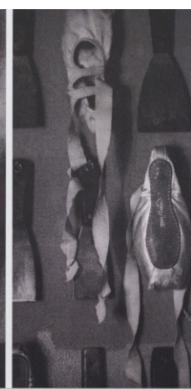
(She/Her)

Julia Novakovic (b. 2002) is an emerging printmaking artist based in Toronto and Kingston Ontario, completing her fourth year Fine Arts Bachelor at Queen's University. Her work analyzes the converging art forms of printmaking and dance, exploring the physicality and sacrifices inherent in both artistic pursuits. As a competitive dancer of 17 years and printmaker of 5 years, she explores the shared demands for precision, control and perfection possessed in both creative processes.

Working with digital long exposure photography as the base of her practice, Novakovic transforms her digital images through the process of photopolymer intaglic printing. This method of printing requires an innate attention to detail, precision and patience, paralleling the characteristics present in the art of dancing. La Révérence (The Curtsey) collectively aims to highlight the thin line between pleasure and pain that artists navigate, reflecting the emotional depth carried within their innately vulnerable emdeavours.









Dana Nikiforuk

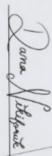
She/Her

Dana Nikiforuk is a realism artist whose journey began with a love for pencil and graphite, capturing the world in black and white. Her artistic perspective transformed during her time in the Fine Arts Program, where she developed a passion for the vibrancy of oil paints. Influenced by the styles of William Rochfort and Norman Rockwell, she has spent the past year integrating aspects of their work into her own, particularly in her fourth year, where she shifted focus from hyper-realism to exploring colour and composition, giving her paintings a more 'painterly feel.'

Portraiture, especially of celebrities, is her forte, and she has been thrilled to receive shoutouts from some of them on social media. Parallel to her life in art, she works as a corporate legal assistant at a law firm, a role that intriguingly balances her creative and professional worlds. As she approaches graduation from the Fine Arts Program, her aspirations are set towards attending Law School at Queen's University, aliming to specialize in corporate and intellectual property law. This next chapter is an excitog blend of her passions, where the realms of art and law intersect.









Mackenzie Pearce

(She/Her)

Mackenzie Pearce is a realism artist with a background in oil painting, printmaking and drawing. With a profound passion for portraiture, her creative journey is fuelled by the intimate and tender narratives found within tamily photographs and her own camera roll. Influenced by the works of Mark Tennant and Lity-Rose Burgess and the emotive strokes of impressionist art, she marries meticulous attention to detail with evocative storytelling. She strives to external features of the subjects in her work, exploring both the intricate human experience of love and the personal connections in her own life. In this nuanced approach, her art becomes a bridge between personal history and visual expression, inviting viewers into the emotional landscapes of her subjects.

As Mackenzle approaches graduation from the Fine Art program at Queen's University, she looks forward to the transformative impact of new experiences on her evolving artistic voice.











Maddie Rossetti

(She/Her

Maddie Rossetti is an emerging artist based in both Ottawa and Kingston, Ontario. She is currently in her fourth year at Queen's University, studying for her Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours). Maddie works primarily in oil paint and has recently experimented with various print media. Her work is largely autobiographical, pulling from her own life experiences and point of view. Recently, Maddie has been in the practice of incorporating unsettling imagery into her work to explore themes of girlhood, mental health, dreams, nightmares, memory, and relationships with herself and others.







Sarah Spencer

Sarah Spencer is an acrylic and oil-based painter creating still lives and sonogram recreations reflecting her everyday life, family, and the journey to motherhood. In her present work she uses vibrant colours and loose layering to create loose forms illustrating the best moments in pregnancy and mixed media illustrations to depict the hardships faced throughout the journey. In the future, Sarah hopes to continue painting the key moments in early motherhood and everyday life through her passion for still lives and vibrancy. After completing her BFA, Sarah hopes to pursue teaching the primary division to drive creativity and passion in future generations.







Martha Steele

(She/They)

Martha Steele is a Toronto and Kingston-based crossdisciplinary artist/maker. She is completing her final year in the Fine Art (Visual Art) Program at Queen's University, specializing in sculpture. Currently working on her honours thesis, she is researching modes of sustainable artproduction and ways of rethinking classical artmaking. She is interested in how 3-dimensional work can be innately understood through the body. Her work also engages themes of community agriculture, kinship, Queer identity, and understandings of the gendered body.

In 2023, she completed "Chime / Renew," an ambitious interactive glass and metalwork sound sculpture commissioned for the Rose Event Commods by the Dunin-Deshpande Queen's Innovation Centre (DDQIC) at Queen's University. Based on the DDQIC logo, the sculpture was a deconstructed stained-glass window reminiscent of the emblematic window at Douglas Library.









Cassia Smith

(She/Her)

Cassia Smith is a figurative artist whose focus is mainly on oil painting but also enjoys mixed media work and drawing using charcoal and pastels. Before discovering her love for oil painting, in high school she focused mainly on charcoal and content drawing before delving into oil paint which she continued to learn and progress in her technique during her time in the Fine Arts program. Within her work she enjoys focusing mainly on portraits and the figure as well as incorporating surrealist and symbolic her pieces. During her fourth year Cassia has taken inspiration from classic art and art history and has been experimenting with her brush echnique and working with a focus on colour pallete.

Outside of her time in the Fine Arts program Cassia enjoys film media and photography which she hopes to experiment with and incorporate into her work. Her future endeavours in her work after finishing her time in the Fine Arts program at Queens is to continue to perfect her individual art style while experimenting with mere friediums and techniques.











Abbey Skopelianos

Abbey Skopelianos is a Deaf artist, who mainly specializes in semi-realistic oil-painting. During her time at Queen's University BFAH Program, she was introduced to different mediums and styles, but ultimately, she fell in love with oil painting.

In her artworks, she has begun to explore the nature of her disability, within the context of expressive body language, storytelling, and hidden symbolism through different aspects of nature. In the future, she hopes to pursue a career in the arts, as both a professional artist and art conservator.











Jocelyn Noel Tweedle

(She/Hei

Jocelyn Noel Tweedle began creating at a very young age inspired and encouraged by both parents. During her time as a BFA student, learning and experimenting with different mediums she has settled into working with a combination of oil painting and print media.

Her works combine references to pop culture and visual callbacks to the greats of art history with an interest in ecology. Drawing from her passion for "nuisance" or "weird" animals, she aims to make people consider interactions between human and animal habitats with her art. Moving forward she intends to pursue additional art history education and continue her studio practice post-graduation.









Amelia Tran

(She/Her)

Amelia Tran (b. 2002) from Ottawa, Ontario, is an emerging contemporary painter based in Kingston, Ontario, completing her Honours BFA at Queen's University. Through surrealist depictions of familial portraiture, Tran's work analyses these relationships through a lens of innocence and understanding. Her work explores the complex and cyclical intersection of time and compassion. Drawing from a curated collection of photos from her family's past, she creates surreal, blurred realities that transcend physical boundaries. Tran represents loved ones with soft edges, symbolic items and negative space in her compositions, strategically implying a ripple or diffusion within the depicted reality.

Inspired by the uncomfortable yet compelling compositions by painters such as Rae Klein, Ben Walker and Francis Bacon, Tran balances distorted light, colour and form in her careful depictions of innocence, shedding light on the inherent complexities of tamilial relationships. She hopes to pursue an MFA in the upcoming years to expand her practice and continue her exploration of these











Della Vaz

(She/Her)

Della Vaz is a 21-year-old emerging artist from Mississauga, Ontario, who started her artistic journey at five. Her artistic pursuits involve blending surrealism, realism, and abstraction under influences like Andy Warhol and Jean-Michel Basquiat. Her high school and university years were pivotal, refining her talents through deep artistic engagement. Initially focusing on portraits of famous artists, Vaz's work evolved at Queen's University's Fine Arts program to address socio-economic and political themes, aiming to reflect societal issues through her art as a call to action. Beyond painting, Vaz is drawn to education, aspiring to teach kindergarten. Now in her fourth year at Queen's, working towards her OCT certification, Vaz is integrating her passion for art, societal awareness, and education, aiming to evolve as both an artist and an educator committed to social change.









Alexander Vachon

(He/Him

Alexander D. Vachon is a Cornwall, Ontario-based artist who began his art journey by drawing cartoons and manga for fun. During his educational pursuit at Queen's, he has developed into a sculptor and painter, discovering the artistic impacts of discarded plastic waste through his street-based pilgrimages. Alexander also found interest in oil paint, strengthening his love for the medium through the chemistry involved in the process, fuelling his urge to take chemistry classes. Alexander has taken inspiration from artists such as Pope L from his gritty endurance-based performances, Rebecca Jane Houston from her creative readymade sculptures, and Daniel Hughes for his brilliant use of colour and composition in his paintings. From his love of drawing silly and dynamic sketches, Alexander believes his work should include a combination of comedy and alluring components. Due to this ideology, Alexander has been acknowledged for his work via people's choice reward and is on foot to submit his works to his local art galleries and exhibitions for display. Alexander will continue for another year at Queen's University to complete his bachelor of teaching degree to spread his love for fine arts and chemistry to the next generation.





Alexander Vachen



Caryn Wei Ya Xie

(She/Her

Caryn Wei Ya Xie (b. 2002) is a realism artist based in Toronto/Tkaronto and Kingston/Katarowki. Her oil paintings depict everyday moments of Chinese life, joy, and community in a contemporary Canadian context, resonating with the visual language of the Chinese Neo-Realists. Xie's current practise involves satirizing techno-Orentalist rhetoric by appropriating digital aesthetics to re-imagine family photographs. These digital interventions translate a personal history of immigration into a broader conversation on the diasporic experience of fragmented identify and memory. The contrast between the analogue and digital, the 'East and the 'West', and the past and present explore the grief of displacement and the reinvention of self that follows. Through these explorations, she aims to change the typical narrative of assimilation into a celebration of how histories meld together and ultimately transform into a life of their own.

She has shown work at the Bevy gallery space in Toronto, as well as locally at the Window Art Gallery and the Union Gallery, where her duo exhibition "Love edits, but what if it doesn't?" is currently on displey. Her work will also be featured in the Undergraduate Review and Collective Beffection's upcoming publications.







Thinking about what to write for this catalogue, I remembered an amazing statement by artist, Annie Jacobsen from her essay, on colour:

Making a painting is so hard, it makes you crazy. Before even the vicissitudes of colour, you have to negotiate tone, silhouette, line, space, zone, area, layer, scale, speed, and mass while interacting with a meta-surface of meaning, thought, text, sign, language, intention, concept, and history; you have to go your own way, to cut away from your heroes and influences, and still be utterly conscious and literate about the discourse. You have to simultaneously diagnose, predict and ignore the past, present and future, all at once; you have to remember and to forget at the same time. You have to both deny and embrace all your impulses toward romanticism and irony; you have to both love and hate your objects and your subjects, to believe every shred of romantic and passionate mythos about painting and at the same time to cast a gimlet eye upon it.

The fourth year BFA Exhibition titled Without these Walls, showcases our amazing students engagement with broad cultural themes, emphasizing environmental issues, politics, gender, mental health, love, loss and physiological well-being. Through their art, our graduates explored sculpture, print, painting, mixed media, digital media, drawing and more. Asking important questions about our existence, language, culture and family. The exhibition captures moments that uplift, pierce the heart, and resonate poetically, appealing to our lived experiences, memories and desires.

The creation of any art form is hard period. It takes so much out of us and yet with hard work, the end result can be sublime. We have watched this amazing group of artists mature as people and creators, observed them make incredible connections, build life long friendships, find their confidence and push through the hard times.

On behalf of the BFA faculty and staff we congratulate the class of 2024 on this amazing exhibition and catalogue.

Please make sure you keep in touch with us.

-Dan Hughes

Rebecca Anweiler
Alejandro Arauz
Sylvat Aziz
Brian Hoad
Daniel Hughes
Ella Dawn McGeough
Morgan Wedderspoon

Without These Walls thanks our sponsors for their generous donations that have helped make our Opening Reception possible.

A special shoutout to this year's Koemer Resident, Sarindar Dhallwal, who graciously donated a print to our Auction Gala.

Thank you!





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AT QUEEN'S























