

# + ZANDRA STRATFORD +

contemporary abstract painter

## ARTIST BIO:

**Zandra Stratford** is a Canadian West Coast abstract painter known for bold, semiotic works. Her pieces lay a foundation of elemental earth tones; clay and cement greys and soil blacks, laying strata after strata of contrasting and ambitious colour as a counterpoint to industrial textures, and this overlaid with confident horizontal structures.

Preferring large canvases and panoramic birch panels, her work stands as an exploration of urban forms and our experience with the material of cities. Each interaction, point of surface contact or scuff, whether by design or by circumstance, is at once something removed, something revealed, and something left behind.

Stratford is an autodidact, briefly studied printmaking at the Victoria College of Art, after more than a decade's experience as an advertising Art Director. This informs her work's cadence, graphic sensibility and declarative confidence.

Her piece "Gorgeous Filth #01" (2017) was selected for the prestigious Royal Academy Summer Exhibition in London, the only Canadian to be selected for that show's 249th year. Her proposal for a 40ft installation was recently 1 of 5 finalists for consideration by the Victoria International Airport.

Her studio, in Victoria, British Columbia, off the coast of Vancouver, is filled with the debris of signal - swatches and typographical elements, vintage textbooks and advertisements, spray- bombs and stencils and the ghosts of what someone, at some point, was trying to convey, like decades-old stray radio signals bouncing off the ionosphere to be captured serendipitously by a car radio at night.

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**ARTIST STATEMENT:**

I'm an urban person who, until quite recently, lived on a rural tiny artist-colony island, and yet what snags my attention as an artist is the crunch and grit of urban spaces – rust and concrete and all the structures which support human stories, and in a way end up telling them. So as I travel I collect references that speak to that accumulation of layers; graffiti painted over and showing through, flyers, the abrasion and interaction that always reveals as it removes and contributes. Slowly a narrative arises out of friction and contact, and I try to do that in my work.

As a modernist I juxtapose pastel colours combined with the gorgeous filth of texture, and old found collage materials, so the result is something that is aged yet contemporary.

Increasingly I've been working on larger pieces needing large spaces, and space to back up and observe them. That implies a prescience about display space and architecture which has a lot to do with managing negative space in 3 dimensions. Again it's part of the discussion of how systems like buildings or streetscapes tell stories about people and fleeting interactions, and lets me stay with those stories for a while.

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**SOLO EXHIBITIONS:**

ART VENTURES GALLERY 'NEW WAVE' February 2020 San Francisco, CA  
AFTER NYNE GALLERY 'NEON MIGRAINE' September 2019 London, UK  
SOUTH MAIN GALLERY July 2017 Vancouver, BC

**GROUP EXHIBITIONS:**

ART MARKET SF 2020 San Francisco, CA  
LONDON ART FAIR 2020 London, UK  
AFFORDABLE ART FAIR 2019 London, UK  
LONDON ART FAIR 2019 London, UK  
AFTER NYNE PRESENTS 2018 After Nyne Gallery London, UK  
EIGHT FROM NYNE: ONES TO WATCH 2018 45 Parklane London, UK  
THE OTHER ART FAIR 2018 Brooklyn, NYC  
ROYAL ACADEMY SUMMER EXHIBITION 2017 Royal Academy of Arts London, UK  
WINTER SMALL WORKS SHOW 2016 Art Gallery of Greater Victoria Victoria, BC  
INTEGRATE ARTS FESTIVAL 2016 Victoria, BC  
EASTER ART TOUR 2016 Salt Spring Island, BC  
ARTCRAFT 2014 Salt Spring Island, BC  
ART BARN INTERNATIONAL 2014 Salt Spring Island, BC  
ART BARN INTERNATIONAL 2013 Salt Spring Island, BC  
ARTCRAFT 2013 Salt Spring Island, BC  
ARTCRAFT 2012 Salt Spring Island, BC  
EASTER ART TOUR 2012 Salt Spring Island, BC  
ARTCRAFT 2011 Salt Spring Island, BC  
EXCHANGES GALLERY 2000 Victoria, BC

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## **EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:**

2016-2019      Nicholas Wilton Art2Life Academy  
2017             Abstraction by Design with Michael Semchuk  
2016             Mentorship program with Nicholas Wilton  
2006             Printmaking, Victoria College of Art

19+ years as a professional Art Director with various international advertising agencies.

## **RESIDENCIES:**

ART VENTURES RESIDENCY Half Moon Bay, California November 2019

## **GALLERIES:**

AFTER NYNE GALLERY London, UK  
ART VENTURES GALLERY San Francisco, CA

## **PRESS:**

BBC SUMMER EXHIBITION ANNUAL DOCUMENTARY  
BBC NEWS  
BBC CULTURE  
AFTER NYNE MAGAZINE  
CREATE MAGAZINE  
LONDON POST  
LONDON ART NEWS  
EVENING STANDARD  
EP NEWS  
GULF ISLAND'S DRIFTWOOD