

HEAD ON

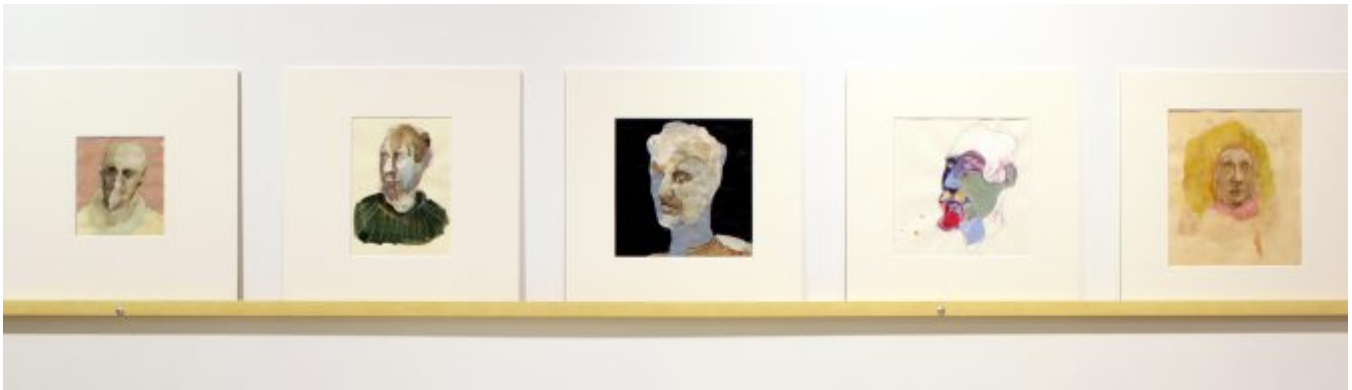
DRAWINGS BY MICHAEL BJORNSON



HEADBONES GALLERY

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Artist Catalogue: MICHAEL BJORNSON: HEAD-ON
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www.headbonesgallery.com

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Micro Publishing

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DRAWINGS BY MICHAEL BJORNSON



COMMENTARY BY JULIE OAKES



MICHAEL BJORNSON: *HEAD-ON*
Headbones Gallery, The Drawers - Vernon, British Columbia - 2021



Michael Bjornson HEAD-ON

Michael Bjornson draws. Out and about, pulling characters from his head, he then reworks in the studio, choosing from a plethora of drawings. He revisits spontaneity with a faint intention in mind, often imprinting upon the figure a slant that brings the orientation back to the materials, colors staining and collaged materials forcing patinas as they resist the applied. He may obfuscate with a milky wash, circle a neck with scarlet, paint a puce wash beside an eggplant purple which provokes the realization that this head exists only because of the mysterious urge to make. He brings creation concepts, the silent partners of every artist, into the room, forming a collaboration between life and art that is orchestrated by the artist.

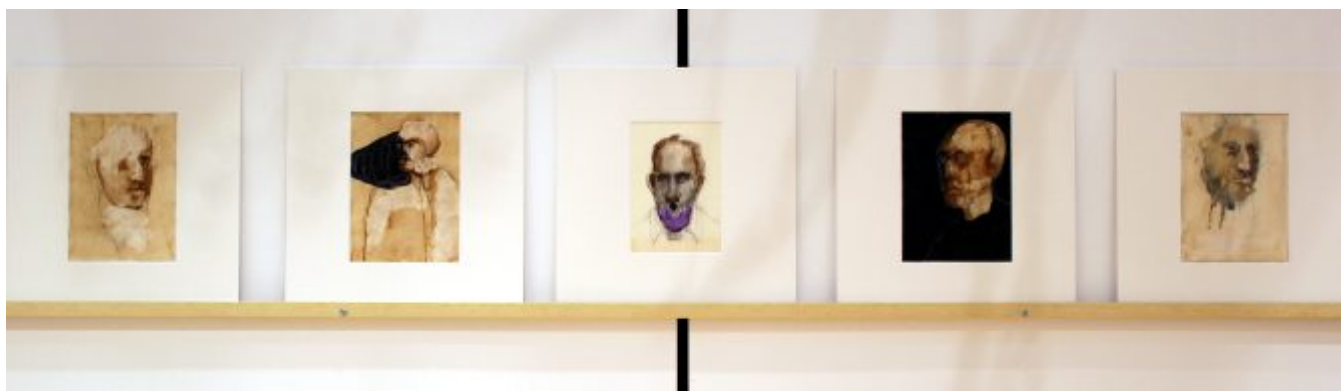
This selection is best termed 'heads' rather than 'portraits'. Not specified as particular people, these denizens of the page are unnamed; recorded or remembered from people seen in movies, on the internet and in passing. They seem more alive than even the great portraits managed. Infused with intrinsic breath, these works on paper are palpitating human *meaning*. As if they never sat still and still won't, his visages waver at the outlines as if unsure of where to settle. A nose leaps a notch off the face on second glance, a chin begins to sag, a mouth trembles to the extent that it raises concern, a pale stain seeps from a pate to bleed brighter at the tear duct. They are not scary, but dramatically odd, engaging curiosity as to who, why, where, what caused these presences to come into being. The subjects are not conducive to classifications - not sociologically, historically, by economic status, or occupation. Each is everyman (or woman) and yet there has never been this life before he laid his hand to paper. Although there is no indication as to context, each figure, perhaps because it possesses the quality of becoming, implies a narrative. Not as rooted though as a portrait, these persona appear to have simply turned up, born-again, changelings come back to earth still bearing semblance of a subjective presence but tangential to any principal inspiration.



Michael is prolific and the quantity adds quality and potency like maturation. The urge from impetus to selection through execution to editing and the complications of alterations comes across as inspired, as if there isn't an impediment that could stop the flow. Although it is labor- it results in a 'work'- there is no evident tension of execution, as if quick and painless rather than lingering and struggling with birth, these personalities entered. There is a rightness surrounding certain pieces like the attraction of an enigmatic person, an immediate acceptance, a 'yes'. Others cause hesitation, perhaps because the image is outside the purview, a result of the othering, the transfer from the subject, through the process, to the reception. It enables a distancing moment as viewing involves judgement, referencing attendant criteria embedded in taste and informed perspectives. Then the imagination of the viewer is set in motion by these small personal drawings.

A lot could be said for his heads – as many storylines, essays, screenplays and ambitions as are part of each human's life. The works in this collection may be small in scale, but they are poignant, indicative of a larger committed art practice that touches upon the intellect and sensations in as many ways as there are differences and similarities among people.

Julie Oakes - 2021



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Untitled: SC 14
Gouache, pencil, acrylic, ink on paper, 7.5"x5.5" - 2021



Untitled: SC 12
Gouache, pencil, acrylic, ink on paper, 7.5"x5.5" - 2021



Untitled: SC 19
Gouache, pencil, acrylic, ink on paper, 7.5"x5.5" - 2021



Untitled: SC 9
Gouache, pencil, acrylic, ink on paper, 7.5"x5.5" - 2021



Untitled: SC 42
Gouache, pencil, acrylic, ink on paper, 7.5"x5.5" - 2021



Untitled: SC 30
Gouache, pencil, acrylic, ink on paper, 7.5"x5.5" - 2021



Untitled: SC 21
Gouache, pencil, acrylic, ink on paper, 7.5"x5.5" - 2021



Untitled: SC 15
Gouache, pencil, acrylic, ink on paper, 7.5"x5.5" - 2021



Untitled: SC 8
Gouache, pencil, acrylic, ink on paper, 7.5"x5.5" - 2021



Untitled: SC 63
Gouache, pencil, acrylic, ink on paper, 7.5"x5.5" - 2021



Untitled: SC 13
Gouache, pencil, acrylic, ink on paper, 7.5"x5.5" - 2021



Untitled: 7.5 SQ 32
Gouache, pencil, acrylic, ink on paper, 7"x7" - 2021



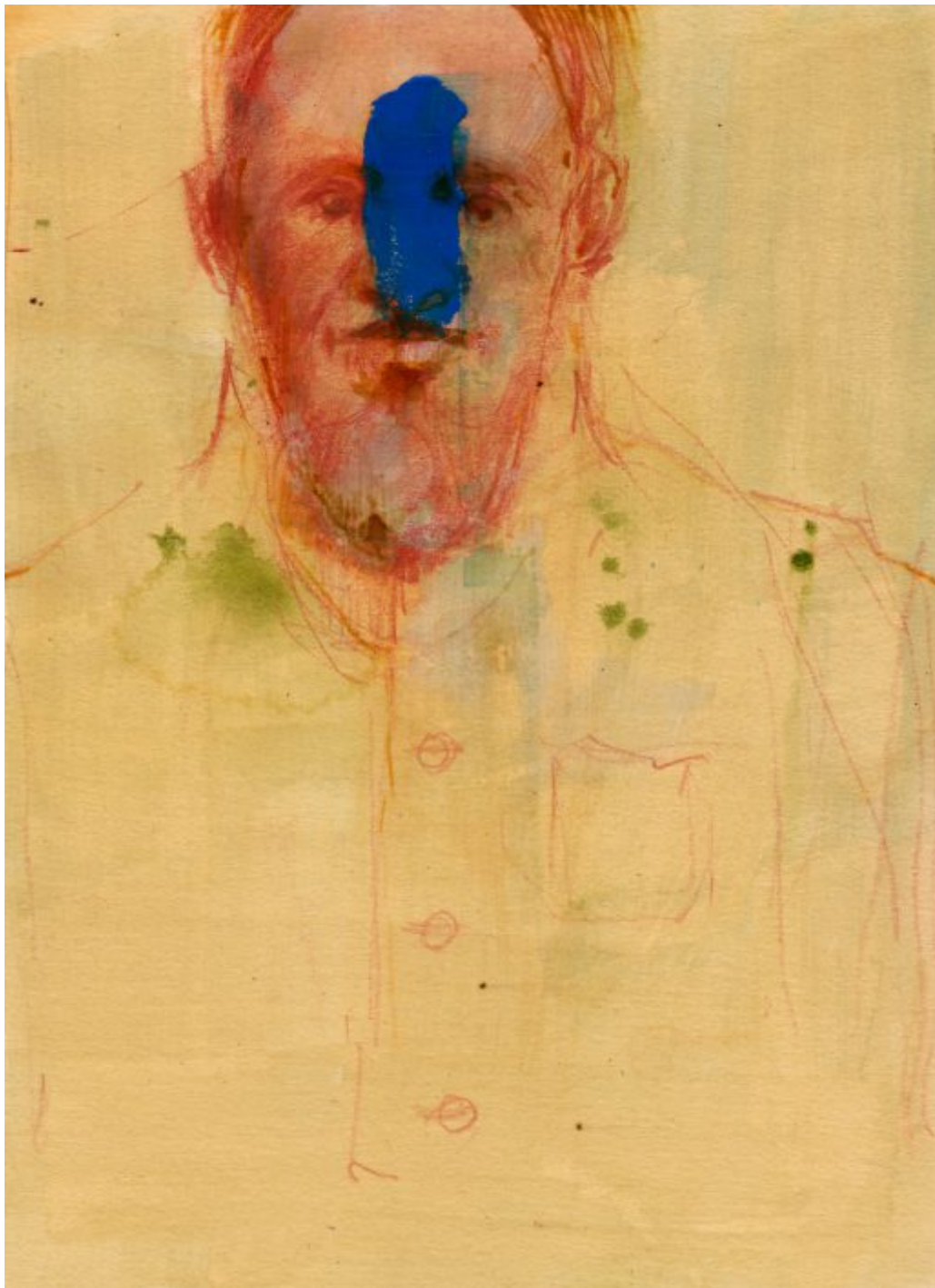
Untitled: SC 11
Gouache, pencil, acrylic, ink on paper, 7.5"x5.5" - 2021



Untitled: SC 32
Gouache, pencil, acrylic, ink on paper, 7.5"x5.5" - 2021



Untitled: SC 6
Gouache, pencil, acrylic, ink on paper, 7.5"x5.5" - 2021



Untitled: SC 28
Gouache, pencil, acrylic, ink on paper, 5.5"x5.5" - 2021



Untitled: 8x8 20
Gouache, pencil, acrylic, ink on paper, 7"x7" - 2021



Untitled: 7.88
Gouache, pencil, acrylic, ink on paper, 6.5"x4.5" - 2021



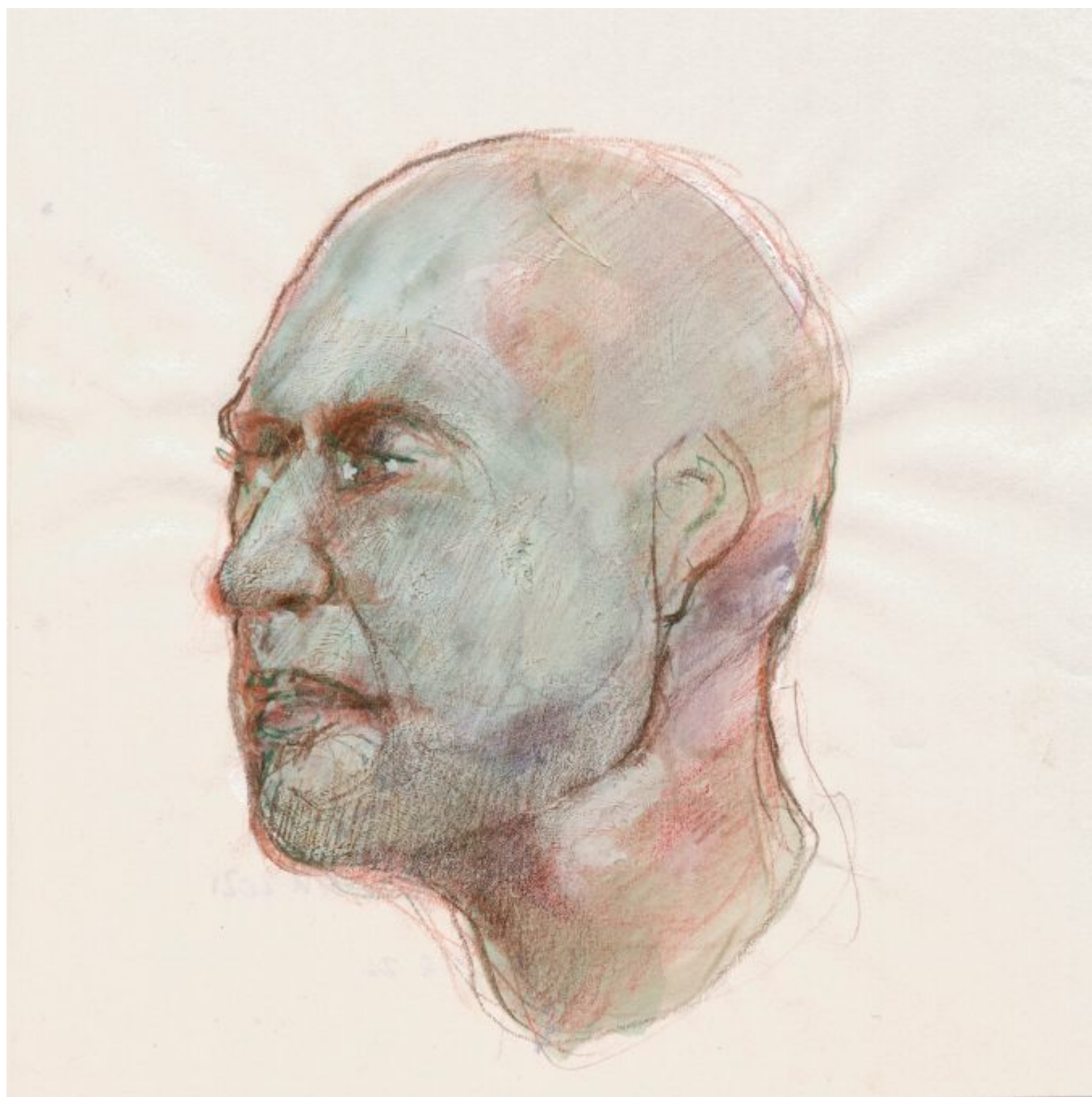
Untitled: 8x8 34
Gouache, pencil, acrylic, ink on paper, 7.5"x7.5" - 2021



Untitled: 7.86
Gouache, pencil, acrylic, ink on paper, 6.5"x4.5" - 2021



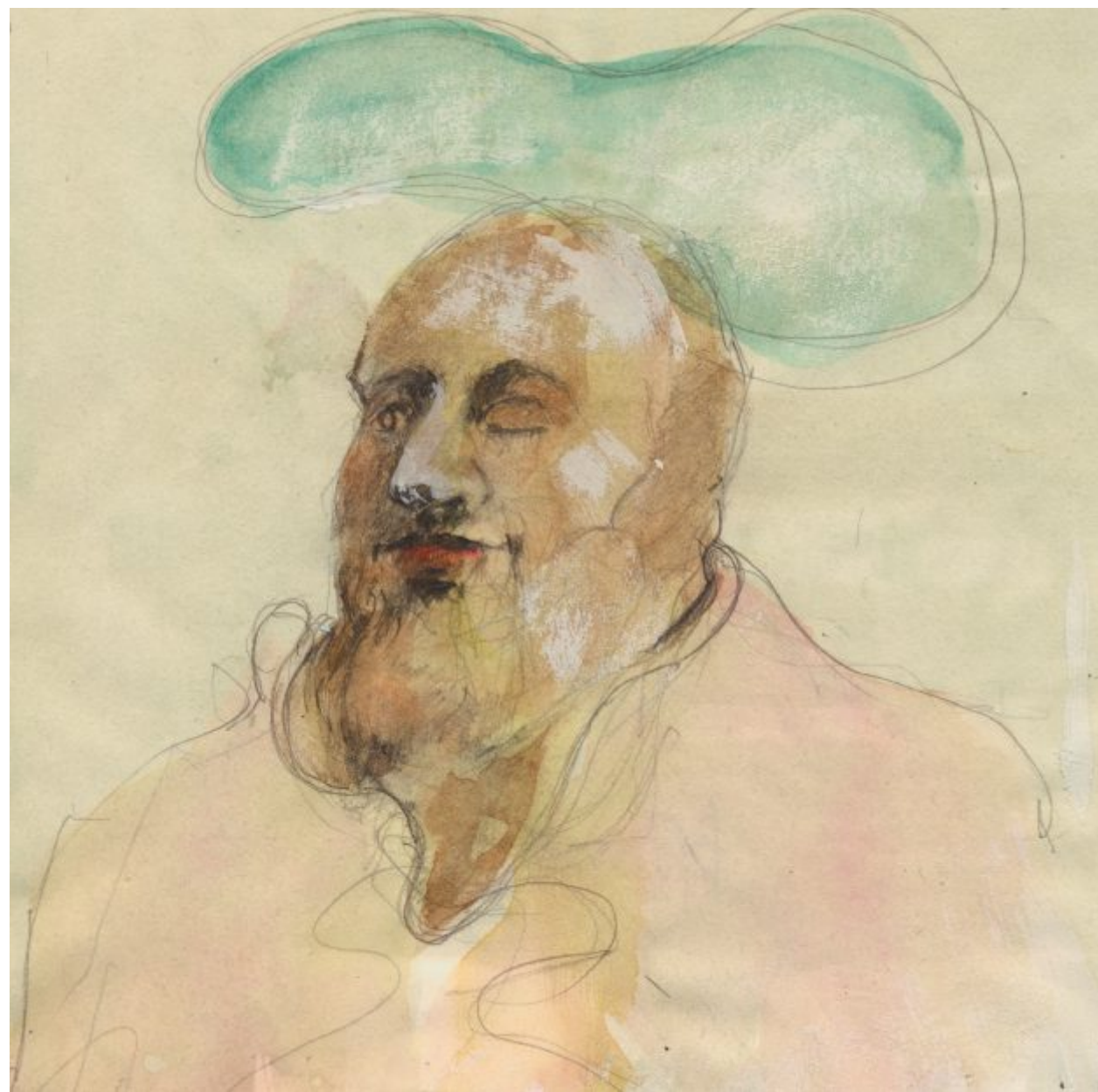
Untitled: 7.5 SQ 26
Gouache, pencil, acrylic, ink on paper, 7"x7" - 2021



Untitled: SC 25
Gouache, pencil, acrylic, ink on paper, 6"x5" - 2019



Untitled: SC 66
Gouache, pencil, acrylic, ink on paper, 6.5"x6.5" - 2021



Untitled: 7.5 SQ 60
Gouache, pencil, acrylic, ink on paper, 7"x7" - 2021



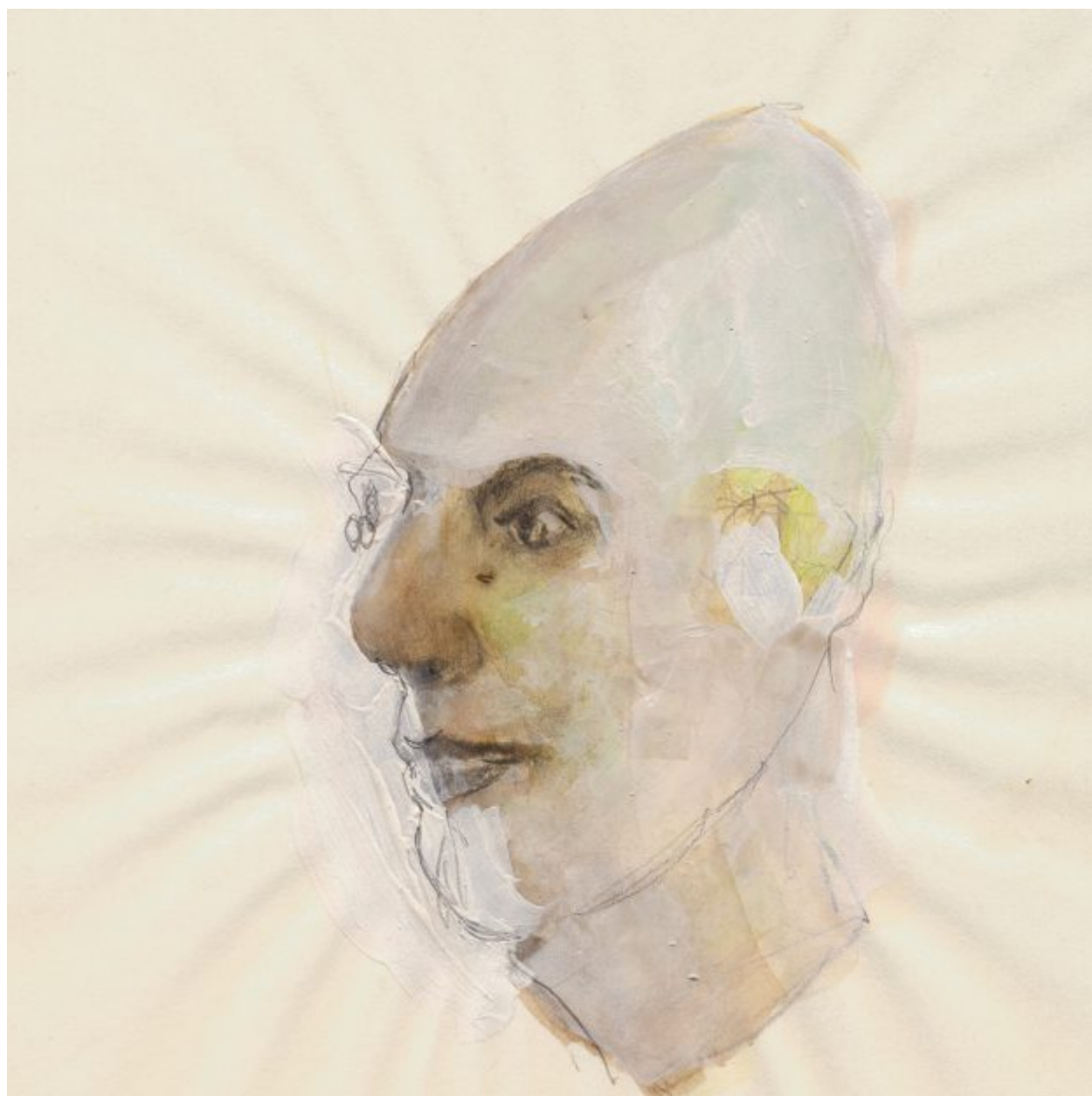
Untitled: SC 1
Gouache, pencil, acrylic, ink on paper, 7"x5" - 2021



Untitled: SC 96
Gouache, pencil, acrylic, ink on paper, 8"x7" - 2021



Untitled: SC 65
Gouache, pencil, acrylic, ink on paper, 6.5"x6.5" - 2021



Untitled: SC 40
Gouache, pencil, acrylic, ink on paper, 7.5"x5.5" - 2021



Untitled: 7.5 8
Gouache, pencil, acrylic, ink on paper, 6.5"x4.5" - 2021



Untitled: SC 39
Gouache, pencil, acrylic, ink on paper, 7.5"x5.5" - 2021



Untitled: 7.5 92
Gouache, pencil, acrylic, ink on paper, 6.5"x4.5" - 2020



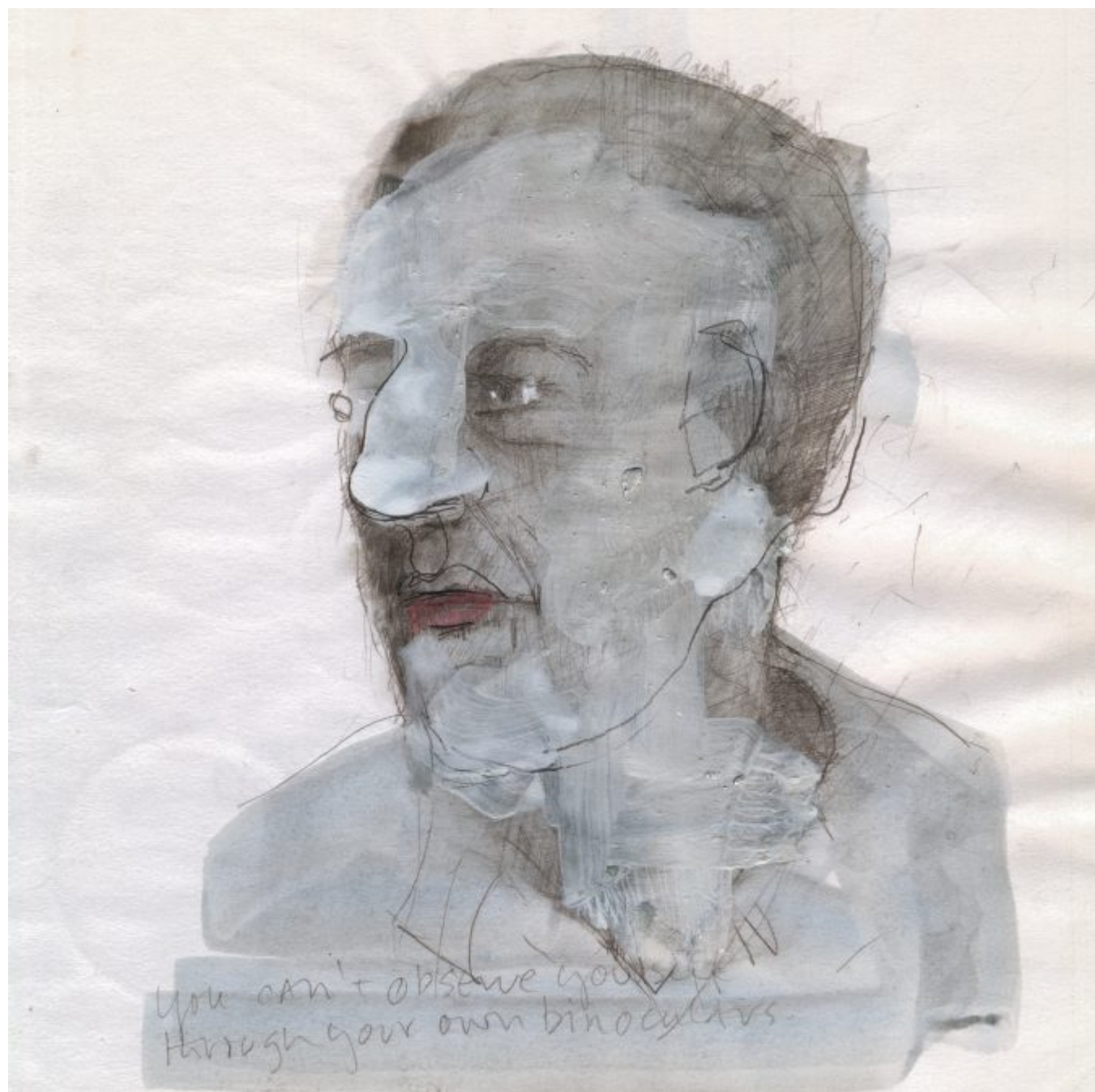
Untitled: 7.5 SQ 39
Gouache, pencil, acrylic, ink on paper, 7"x7" - 2021



Untitled: 7.5 SQ 51
Gouache, pencil, acrylic, ink on paper, 7"x7" - 2021



Untitled: 8x8 12
Gouache, pencil, acrylic, ink on paper, 7.5"x7.5" - 2019



You can't observe yourself
through your own binoculars.

Untitled: 7.5 95
Gouache, pencil, acrylic, ink on paper, 6.5"x4.5" - 2021



Untitled: 7.75
Gouache, pencil, acrylic, ink on paper, 6.5"x4.5" - 2021



Untitled: SC 2
Gouache, pencil, acrylic, ink on paper, 8"x5.5" - 2019



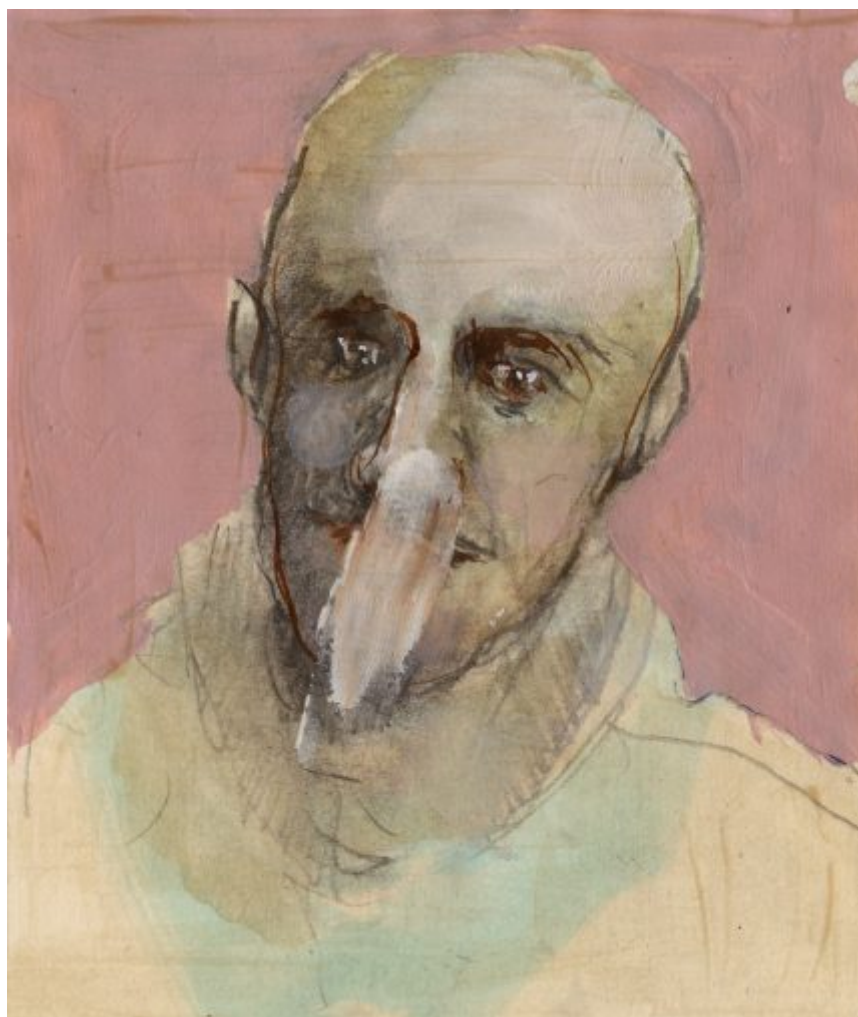
Untitled: SC 4
Gouache, pencil, acrylic, ink on paper, 7.5"x5.5" - 2021



Untitled: 7.43
Gouache, pencil, acrylic, ink on paper, 6.5"x4.5" - 2021



Untitled: 7.5 119
Gouache, pencil, acrylic, ink on paper, 5"x4.5" - 2020



Untitled: SC 33
Gouache, pencil, acrylic, ink on paper, 7.5"x5.5" - 2020



Untitled: 8x8 19
Gouache, pencil, acrylic, ink on paper, 7"x5" - 2021



Untitled: 7.5 98
Gouache, pencil, acrylic, ink on paper, 6.5"x4.5" - 2020



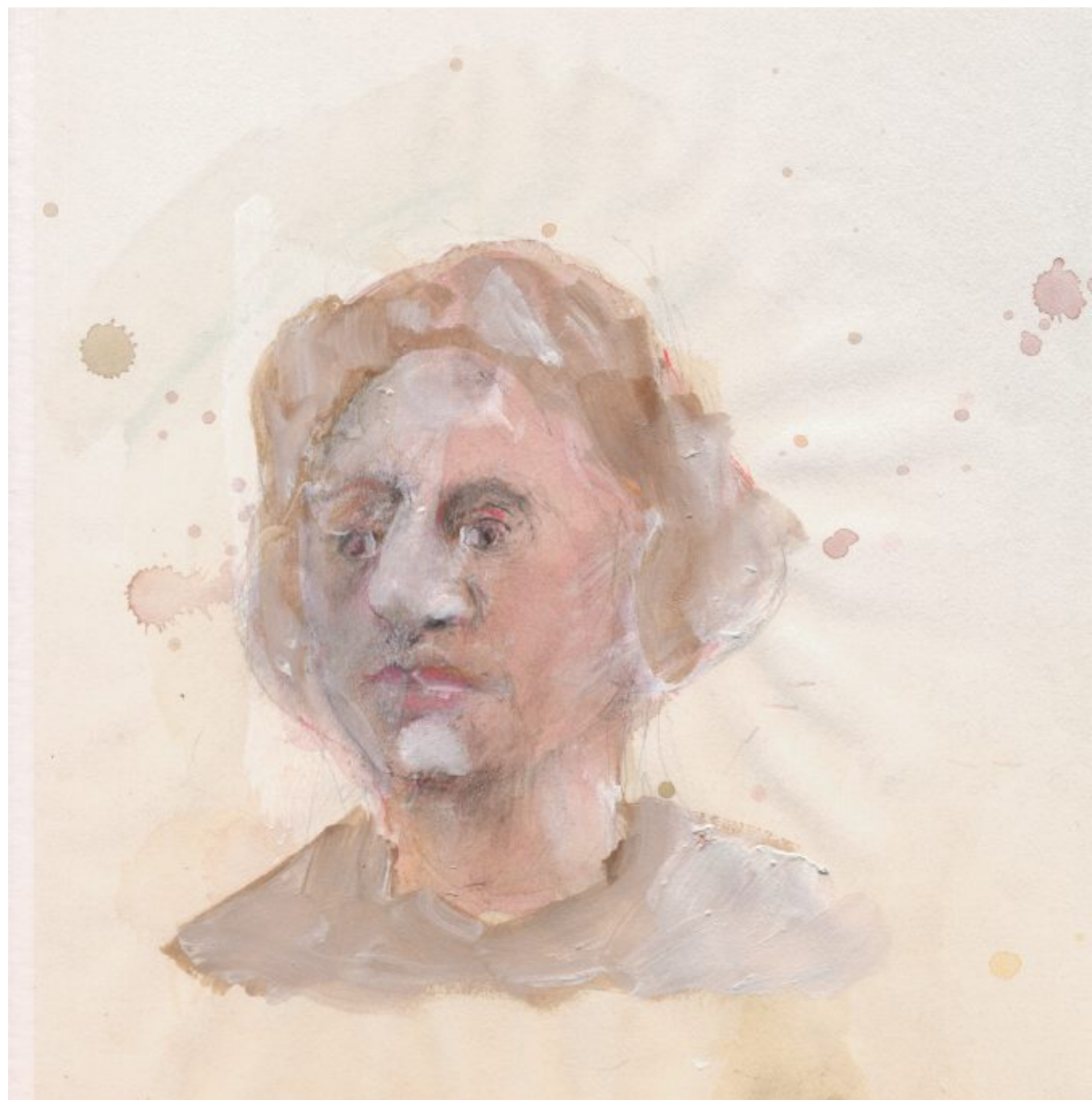
Untitled: 7.48
Gouache, pencil, acrylic, ink on paper, 6.5"x4.5" - 2021



Untitled: 7.5 91
Gouache, pencil, acrylic, ink on paper, 7"x5" - 2021



Untitled: 8x8 27
Gouache, pencil, acrylic, ink on paper, 7"x7" - 2021



Untitled: 8x8 2
Gouache, pencil, acrylic, ink on paper, 7.5"x7.5" - 2021



Untitled: 7.28
Gouache, pencil, acrylic, ink on paper, 7.5"x5.5" - 2021



Untitled: 7.5 171
Gouache, pencil, acrylic, ink on paper, 8"x6" - 2021



Untitled: 7.49
Gouache, pencil, acrylic, ink on paper, 6.5"x4.5" - 2021



Untitled: 8x10 25
Gouache, pencil, acrylic, ink on paper, 8"x6" - 2021



Untitled: 7.5 3
Gouache, pencil, acrylic, ink on paper, 7"x5" - 2021



Untitled: 7.5 247
Gouache, pencil, acrylic, ink on paper, 7"x5" - 2021



Untitled: 8x10 20
Gouache, pencil, acrylic, ink on paper, 9"x7" - 2021



MICHAEL BJORNSON

ACADEMIC 1985 Honours Diploma (Interdisciplinary Studies & Printmaking)
Emily Carr College of Art & Design
1970 Bachelor of Architecture (Honours)
University of British Columbia
1967 Bachelor of Arts (Art History)
University of British Columbia

EXPERIENCE

VISUAL ARTIST----- EXHIBITIONS

SOLO	2012	HEAD-ON Headbones Gallery, The Drawers, Vernon
	2015	<i>Verses</i> (Bjornson Blandy Carter Collective) Initial Gallery, Vancouver
	2014	<i>Beyond Narrative</i> Headbones Gallery, Vernon
	2014	<i>Commune</i> Initial Gallery, Vancouver
	2007	Installation Toronto International Art Fair
	2006	Installation Toronto International Art Fair
	2001	<i>You Are What You Eat</i> (Collaborative Installation with Mina Shum) Centre for Contemporary Asian Art, Vancouver, BC
GROUP	2009	<i>Drawn</i> , (Collaborative Drawings with Kitty Blandy)
	2009	Two Rivers Gallery, Prince George
	1986	Biennial of Graphic Arts
	1986	Ljubljana, Slovenia
	1986	Richmond Art Gallery
	1986	Malaspina Printmakers Gallery
	1986	<i>In Print: 10 Artists from the RAG Permanent Collection</i> (on-line) Richmond Art Gallery

PERMANENT COLLECTIONS:

Richmond Art Gallery,
Burnaby Art Gallery,
Simon Fraser University,
Air Canada, BC Tel (now Telus)

ARCHITECTURE

Private Practice (1976 – present)
Special interest: Residential and Cultural Spaces Design

GALLERIST

Owner, Director, Curator (1996 – 2008)
Third Avenue Gallery; Bjornson Kajiwarra Gallery [contemporary Canadian art]
Vancouver

FILM PRODUCTION DESIGN (Selected Credits)

2001 *Long Life, Prosperity and Happiness*

Theatrical Feature

Mina Shum: Director

Screenings: TIFF, VIFF, various festivals

Mon Amour Mon Parapluie

Theatrical Short

Gaëlle Dobrzenska: Director

Leo Award for Production Design

Golden Sheaf Award for Production Design

Screenings: Rendez-Vous du Cinema Quebecois Vancouver

2000 *Lunch with Charles*

Theatrical Feature

Michael Parker: Director

Leo Award Nominee (Design)

Screenings: Shanghai International Film Festival, various festivals

- 1997 Drive She Said
Theatrical Feature
Mina Shum: Director
Steve Hegyes: Producer
Screenings: TIFF, VIFF, various festivals
- 1994 Double Happiness
Theatrical Feature
Mina Shum: Director
Screenings: TIFF, VIFF, Berlin, various festivals
- 1991 Stroke
Theatrical Short
Mark Sawers: Director
Genie Nominee Best Short Drama
Screenings: Cannes Film Festival, TIFF, VIFF, various festivals

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Architectural Amenity Award
Pacific Cine Centre Complex, City of Vancouver

Air Canada Purchase Award
Malaspina Printmakers Annual Juried Exhibit

Award of Merit for Student Excellence
Graduation Exhibit, Emily Carr College of Art & Design

Koerner Foundation Scholarship
Emily Carr College of Art & Design

BC Cultural Fund Scholarship
Emily Carr College of Art & Design

RELATED EXPERIENCE

JURIES

Wood Co-op, Granville Island
North Vancouver Public Art Competition
City of Vancouver Public Art Competition
Richmond Public Art Competition
Leo Film Awards
Gemini Television Awards

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Chair, Burnaby Art Gallery Board
Malaspina Printmakers Board
Richmond Public Art Commission
Kitsilano Local Area Planning Commission

OTHER

Consultant & Guest Lecturer: Langara College Film Arts Program
Guest Critic & Lecturer: Emily Carr University Art and Design
Guest Critic: UBC School of Architecture & Landscape Architecture
Guest Curator: Courtenay Public Art Gallery; Gallery Atsui (Vancouver)
Robert Lynds Gallery (Vancouver)
Thesis Advisor: UBC School of Architecture & Landscape Architecture
Mentor: Architectural Institute of British Columbia Interns

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Architectural Institute of British Columbia (registered architect)
Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television (voting member)



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