

# JILL EHLERT

## CURRICULUM VITAE

► **BORN** - 1952, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

### ► EDUCATION

Certificate of Fine Arts      Victoria College of Art, Victoria, BC, Canada 1992  
*Graduated "cum laude"*

Diploma of Fine Arts      Ottawa School of Art, Ottawa, ON, Canada 1988

Art History      University of Lethbridge, 1982-83

History in Art      University of Victoria      1986-87

### ► STUDIO RESIDENCY - VICTORIA COLLEGE OF ART GRANT

Advisor Xane St. Phillip      Victoria College of Art      June-August 1993

### ► RECENT STUDIES

- 2015      Vancouver Island School of Art [VISA] - Victoria, BC
  - The Language of Drawing with Jack Southern
- 2014
  - Advanced Drawing II
- 2013
  - Advanced Drawing I, Gouache Painting
  - Drawing: Science and Nature & Abstract Pencil Drawing
- Vancouver Island Workshops – Nanaimo, BC
  - Colour, Design and Value with Gwen Fox
- 2012      Vancouver Island School of Art [VISA] – Victoria, BC
  - Contemporary Art Discussion
  - Drawing: Making a Mark & Contemporary Botanical
  - Directed Study – Wendy Welch advisor
  - Critical Studies II
- 2011
  - Critical Studies I
  - Drawing: Memory and Nostalgia & Language of Mapping
  - Drawing: Ornamentation and Decoration
- 2010      Vancouver Island Workshops – Nanaimo, BC
  - Spiritual Language of Art – Expressive Drawing with Steven Aimone - two workshops in 2010

### ► PAST ART STUDIES

- Jim Gordaneer   ► Bill Porteous   ► Joseph Kyle   ► Ron Shuebrook   ► Kathy Gillis   ► Jeff Stellick
- Yves Larocque   ► Phyllis Serota   ► Kathleen Niwa   ► Glen Howarth   ► Judi Betts   ► Donna Baspaly
- Ann Zelinski   ► Jonathon Talbot   ► Gerald Brommer   ► Betsy Dillard Stroud   ► Carla O'Connor
- Carole Barnes   ► Caroline James   ► Will Julsing   ► Claudine Hellmuth   ► Juliana Coles   ► Nick Bantock
- Jean Pederson   ► Steven Aimone   ► Gwen Fox   ► Xane St. Phillip   ► Danielle Hogan
- Kate Scoones   ► Sara Robichaud   ► Wendy Welch   ► Dorothy Caldwell   ► Jack Southern

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## ► 2 & 3 PERSON EXHIBITIONS

- 2014 "Through the Strange" 2 Person exhibit curated by Katie Brennan, Lake Country Public Art Gallery, Lake Country, BC
- 2014 "Drawing Beneath the Surface" 3 Person exhibit curated by Wendy Welch, Slide Room Gallery, Victoria BC
- 2001 "Little Gems" 2 Person exhibit, Leapenhi Paper Design, Courtenay, BC

## ► SELECT GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2014 "VISA Turns 10" Slide Room Gallery, Victoria, BC
- 2012 "Art Incognito", Vancouver Island School of Art, Victoria, BC
- 2012 "Studio" – curated by Jo Dunlop  
CityScape Community Art Space, North Vancouver, BC
- 2012 Spring Show, Vancouver Island School of Art, Victoria, BC
- 2009 "Proof of identification" - curated by Kathy Guthrie,  
Slide Room Gallery, Victoria, BC
- 2009 "Oceans of Art" - Nanaimo Art Gallery, Nanaimo, BC
- 2008 "Sooke Fine Arts", Sooke, BC
- 2007 "Sooke Fine Arts", Sooke, BC
- 2007 Summer Show - Federation of Canadian Artists, Nanaimo, BC  
**\*Received the Award of Excellence**
- 2007 "Art Incognito", Vancouver Island School of Art, Victoria, BC
- 2006 "Art Incognito", Vancouver Island School of Art, Victoria, BC
- 2006 Fall Show, Federation of Canadian Artists, Victoria, BC  
**\*Received the Award of Excellence**
- 2005 Spring Show, Federation of Canadian Artists, Victoria, BC  
**\*Received the Award of Excellence**
- 2001 Spring Show, Cowichan Valley Arts Council, Duncan, BC  
**\*Received Best in Show**

## ► SOLO SHOWS

- 1999 "Everlasting" Ulla's Bookshop, Duncan, BC
- 1993 "Angel Fire" Nievaart Gallery, Sydney, BC
- 1990 "Reimagining the Goddess" Swan's Gold Room, Victoria, BC

## ► PUBLICATIONS/REVIEWS

- 2014 Lake Country Art Gallery. *Jill Ehlert & Stephanie Jonsson: Through the Strange.* Exhibition Catalogue, 2014
- 2014 Lake Country Art Gallery. *Jill Ehlert & Stephanie Jonsson: Artist Interviews, Through the Strange.* Exhibition interview pamphlet, 2014
- 2014 Glenn, Lucas, "Bizarre Formations at the Lake Country Art Gallery", Okanagan Art Review, November 16, 2014  
<http://www.okanaganartreview.com/review-bizarre-formations-at-the-lake-country-art-gallery/>

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## ARTIST STATEMENT

### ► “LANDFORMS SERIES I & II”

*“I distress and alter each support to metaphorically suggest those natural processes that shape the earth”*

This work is inspired by the physical nature of land; the manifestation of time revealed in strata and landforms, layered with topographical changes. This series references: geology, geography, and maps. The geological land formations of Lethbridge, Alberta inform my methodology. This new ongoing body of work alludes to crystalline patterns, sedimentary deposits, rivers, roadways and bridges.

I work on a variety of substrates: drawing papers, found surfaces such as plastic, cardboard boxes and books. I distress and alter a support to visually and metaphorically suggest those natural processes that shape the earth. Deep earth tones contrasted with areas of bright colour correspond to man-made colour legends from geological time-scales. Ink-drawn lines and marks reference rivers and roadways. I construct a conglomerate of small pieces, which I overlap and layer to echo natural physical features of the earth's surface.

The language of cartography and geomorphology - the study of landforms and the processes that shape them - influence my ideas, inform my choice of materials and the techniques that I employ in the creation of these works.

### ► “TRANSFORMATION SERIES”

*“These drawings emerge through a layering process of the natural and manufactured world. “*

In the Transformations series, I draw from objects that exist in the natural and manufactured world to direct the animated forms of my imagination. I combine dissimilar objects such as pomegranates, plankton, decorative curtain tassels, the inner ear and the mechanical structure of a potato masher.

I break these forms into smaller components through a process of drawing, editing and refining. I amalgamate these unlikely combinations creating an invented language of hybrid shapes and patterns. I primarily work on paper employing drawing and painting techniques that incorporate pencil, graphite, pencil crayon, inks, pen, watercolour, gouache and fluid acrylics.

I animate space by creating an ambiguity between figure and ground; spatial tension through contact and overlap of each tangled cluster. Movement is at times contrasted against a shallow or flat space by obscuring objects through a multi-layering of white washes. In other works, movement is fully animated in a full and empty space. I choreograph the movement of networks of shapes, which are either confined or free to move - be it still, slow, flowing, swinging, staccato-like or explosive.

I employ mark making to populate the space and to create an environment; line and incidental marks enliven these characters of my imagination.

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## BIOGRAPHY

I am a mixed-media artist with a studio practice in Cobble Hill, BC. Originally, from Alberta, I owned and operated my own gallery and framing store in Lethbridge. I graduated with honours from the Victoria College of Art [1992] and the Ottawa School of Art [1988]. Over the past four years, I completed a “Directed Study” along with numerous contemporary drawing courses at the Vancouver Island School of Art in Victoria, BC.

My career spans 30 years with specific emphasis on the creation of experimental water-media, drawing and collage. Organic forms in nature inspire my layered drawings and collages. I am interested in "[bisociation](#)", the idea of connecting unrelated elements, discovering similar patterns between objects and their relationship to each other. I consider myself a process artist: research, gathering, sorting, editing and experimentation support and inform my art practice. This behind the scenes work frees me to perform my painting and drawing intuitively and with spontaneity.

In addition to my formal education, I have built a solid base in design, developed a broad and well-respected knowledge of materials, mark-making and creative application techniques. I have taught for various arts organizations on Vancouver Island, the mainland and in private and group classes in my Cobble Hill studio. I have exhibited my work throughout BC.

[Click here for "Bisociation" explanation](#) and [click here to read about "Why Connections are the key to Creativity"](#)