

Jill Thomson *Visual Artist*

Jill Thomson received her B.F.A. from Concordia University in Montreal. In her celebrated neighbourhood paintings, depicting creative life in cities with thriving local community (bike lanes, gardens, local businesses, ravines and rivers) she has established her own visual language for grounding the figure in private space within the forum of cities and the natural world.

Her neighbourhood painting for Premier Rachel Notley depicts the Legislature from a Strathcona neighbourhood perspective, and hangs in the Premier's Office in the Alberta Legislature. "Edmonton Neighbourhood" was purchased by the Edmonton Arts Council as a gift for their capital campaign and hangs in Edmonton City Hall. Nine of her paintings are featured in a permanent alleyway mural for the Alberta Ave Alley Project, as part of the revitalization of Alberta Avenue. Her painting, "Heritage Quarter" was brought to life as the setting for three operas in a collaborative video projection project with Mercury Opera and Guru Digital and was recently screened in opera festivals in the UK and Ukraine.

Her artwork invokes her personal history of a small town/prairie childhood, an urban Montreal young adulthood and a settled life as artist and mother of three in Edmonton.

Education

1987 B.F.A - **Concordia University**, Montreal

Solo Exhibitions

2017 **Gibson Fine Art**, Feature Artist, Calgary

2016 **A Place for Prose Writers Salon**, Feature Visual Artist, Edmonton

2014 **Skirtsafire Arts Festival**, *Happenstance*, Edmonton

2011-2012 **Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts**, *Unfolding Neighbourhoods*, Feature artist instructor with Nina Collective, Edmonton

2007, 2002 **Rochester International Jazz Festival**, *Jazz Pieces*, Rochester, NY,

2002 **Pori Jazz Festival**, *Jazz Pieces*, Pori, Finland

Group Exhibitions

2016 **Gibson Fine Art**, *Summer Group Show*, Calgary

2014 **Stollery Gallery**, *Nest Tree Confidences*, Curator and Artist, Edmonton

2016 **AGA Art Rental**, Feature Artist, Edmonton

1996 **Alberta Gallery of Art**, *Les Graff Selects from the Alberta Foundation for the Arts*, Edmonton

1992 **Harcourt Gallery**, *Go Figure*, Edmonton

1989 **Concordia University – Visual Arts Gallery**, Montreal

Galleries and Collections

Gibson Fine Art Gallery, Calgary; Art Rental and Sales Gallery, Alberta Gallery of Art; Alberta Foundation for the Arts; Edmonton Arts Council; Alberta Gallery of Art; Edmonton City Hall; National and International private collections

Public Art Projects and Grants

Alberta Ave Alley Project, Alleyway Mural featuring nine artworks by Jill Thomson. A joint project of Arts on the Avenue, AABA, City of Edmonton Ave Initiative, Neighbourhood Empowerment Team, October, 2013

Heritage Quarter: A New Vision for an Urban Landscape Boyle Street Projections, Collaborative Public Art project with Jill Thomson, Mercury Opera, Guru Digital Arts and Wolf Willow Sound, grant from the Edmonton Heritage Council, November 2013

Dream City, Rivne International Film Festival, Screening and competition, Ukraine, 2016

Hinckley Opera Festival, Screening, London, 2016

Commissions and Awards

“Legislature from Strathcona Neighbourhood”, Alberta Legislature, commission for Premier Rachel Notley, 2016

Edmonton Arts Council and **Edmonton Transit** commission of artwork for retiring Transit employees, 2011

Edmonton Arts Council gift and presentation to **Edmonton City Hall** of “Edmonton Neighbourhood” painting for Capital Campaign, 2007

Medici Foundation, Award for Painting, Edmonton, 1994

Art Board and Volunteer Assignments

Skirtsafire (Multidisciplinary Arts) Festival

Board member

2013-2014

Vice President, 2015

Curator of Visual Arts Exhibit, 2014

Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts

Unfolding Neighbourhood project - Visiting Studio Artist and instructor

