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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

I am an interdisciplinary artist, community care practitioner, and emerging researcher working at the intersection of mental health, storytelling, and social healing. With a background in Fine Art, Psychology, and a Master's in Health Administration (Community Care), my practice explores how creative expression can foster connection, resilience, and collective empowerment. I lead Tender Worlds, a community arts collective focused on belonging through collaborative workshops, storytelling, and mutual care. My current research, anchored by the webcomic Raison D'Être, investigates visual storytelling as a tool for healing in community mental health contexts. Through art, public scholarship, and grassroots care, I aim to bridge care systems and collective imagination to ask: how do we heal together in uncertain times?

AREAS OF PRACTICE/FIELDS

- Visual & Media Arts
- Community Care & Advocacy
- Academic & Creative Research

EDUCATION

2023-2024 Ted Rogers School of Management, M.H.A., Health Administration (Community Care) – **Toronto Metropolitan University**, Toronto, ON, Canada

2015-2021 School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design, B.F.A., Hons. Dbl. Maj. Studio Visual Arts & Psychology – **York University**, Toronto, ON, Canada

2022-2023 Health Records Clerk Certificate – **George Brown College**, Toronto, ON, Canada

KEY PROJECTS

RAISON D'ÊTRE

2025-present

An autobiographical webcomic that explores themes of survival vs. meaning, loss and grief, identity and community, and social equity and systemic injustice.

TENDER WORLDS

2025-present

An artist collective with a wellness/community mission- building social bonds through art and care.

COMMUNITY CARE AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2022-2025

Client Care Coordinator, Toronto Counselling Centre for Teens, Toronto, ON, Canada.

- Managed 20+ practitioners and ensured effective service delivery; played a key role in expansion efforts.
- Onboarded and trained new staff, developed administrative policies, and ensured quality of services.
- Oversaw payroll, contracts, and direct billing services; improved accessibility of services.
- Tracked client engagement data and managed the center's online presence.

2024-2024

Capstone Project (MHA Program), VHA Home HealthCare, Toronto, ON, Canada.

- Identified inefficiencies through stakeholder engagement, conducted an environmental scan of rehab technologies, and developed an implementation strategy for VHA's home healthcare.

2020-2022

Active Screener and Payroll Administrator, Women's College Hospital, Toronto, ON, Canada.

2019-2019

Administrative Assistant, Peter Gilgan Centre for Women's Cancers, Toronto, ON, Canada.

Clerical Support, The Toronto Academic Pain Medicine Institute, Toronto, ON, Canada.

2019-2020

Peer Mentor Coordinator, Undergraduate Psychology Student Association, York University, Toronto, ON, Canada.

2018-2019

Peer Tutor, Undergraduate Psychology Student Association, York University, Toronto, ON, Canada.

CERTIFICATIONS

2024

Power of Excel- Business Fundamentals: Level 1- **Ted Rogers School of Management-** Toronto Metropolitan University, Toronto, ON, Canada.

2023

Naloxone and Overdose Response- **Toronto Public Health-** Toronto, ON, Canada.

Mental Health First Aid- **Mental Health Commission of Canada-** Toronto, ON, Canada.

2022

ASSIST: Applies Suicide Intervention Skills Training- **LivingWorks-** Oshawa, ON, Canada.

Harm Reduction in Substance Use- **Relias-** online.

Working Together: The Ontario Human Rights Code and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act- **Ontario Human Rights Commission-** online.

Human Rights 101- **Ontario Human Rights Commission-** online.

2019

Advanced Peer Leadership Training- **York University**, Toronto, ON, Canada.

Foundational Peer Leadership Training- **York University**, Toronto, ON, Canada.

SafeTALK Training- **LivingWorks-** Toronto, ON, Canada.

ART AND CREATIVE PRACTICE

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2018-2019

Programs Director and Drawing Representative, Visual Arts Student Association, Toronto, ON, Canada.

2016-2018

Gallery Monitor, Art Gallery of York University, Toronto, ON, Canada.

2017-2018

Performance Art Set Designer, PlayGround Festival York University, Toronto, ON, Canada.

PlayGround Festival Visual Art Team Member (Program Design), York University, Toronto, ON, Canada.

WRITING WORKSHOPS ATTENDED

2025

Begin Here- **Firefly Creative Writing** (5 sessions, 2 hours each)- St. Matthew's Clubhouse, Toronto, ON, Canada

EXHIBITION WORK

SOLO

2021

"Modes of Being". Online at **VAAH Artspaces**.

GROUP

2021

"VisualEars Rooms: An Immersive Experience". Online at **visualearsproject.com**.

"Painting Area Show". Online at **VAAH Artspaces**.

2020

"Coalition". **Goldfarb Centre for Fine Arts**, Toronto, ON, Canada

"Noise". **Gallery 1313**, Toronto, ON, Canada.

"Wavelengths". **Gales Gallery**, Toronto, ON, Canada.

2019

"The State of Not Knowing" (two person exhibition). **Special Projects Gallery**, Toronto, ON, Canada.

"Painting Area Show". **Gales Gallery**, Toronto, ON, Canada.

"Super Mega Ultra". **Goldfarb Centre for Fine Arts**, Toronto, ON, Canada

"Thrive". **Gallery 1313**, Toronto, ON, Canada.

2018

"VASA Year End Show". **Gallery 1313**, Toronto, ON, Canada.

"Limitless Art Collective Exhibition". **Goldfarb Centre for Fine Arts**, Toronto, ON, Canada

"Strength in Diversity". **Goldfarb Centre for Fine Arts**, Toronto, ON, Canada

2017

"Dirty Talk Art Party 006". **268 Augusta Ave**, Toronto, ON, Canada.

2016

"VASA Open Gallery". **Eleanor Winter's Art Gallery**, Toronto, ON, Canada.

2015

"VISA 1010, Art Fundamentals Student Exhibition". **Gales Gallery**, Toronto, ON, Canada.

"Ubiquitous". **Eleanor Winter's Art Gallery**, Toronto, ON, Canada.

ONLINE ACTIVITIES

2021

VAAH Artspaces Online Instagram Takeover.

BIBLIOGRAPHY & MEDIA

Wagner, Margie.

“Deanna Gisborne, WGA’s Scholarship Winner”. **Willowdale Group of Artists** October, 2020: Pg. 5. Newsletter.

El Abbassi, Miriam.

“An Artistic Interpretation of Identity” (review). **Excalibur** October 30th, 2019: Pg. 8. Newspaper.

CURATORIAL

2020

“Noise”. **Gallery 1313**, Toronto, ON, Canada. A large group exhibition.

2016

“Ubiquitous”. **Eleanor Winter’s Art Gallery**, Toronto, ON, Canada. A three-person exhibition.

RESEARCH AND WRITING

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2019-2020

Contributing Writer, The Trauma and Mental Health Report, Toronto, ON, Canada.

SELECTED WORKS

2024

The Effect of the Expansion of Mental Health Service Provision into Telehealth in North America (Qualitative analysis research project)- **Toronto Metropolitan University**

Optimizing Emergency Department Performance- A Comprehensive Measurement Approach (report and presentation)- **Toronto Metropolitan University**

Regulation Defining Models and Standards for the Development of Primary Care in National Health Service- A 2022 Italian Policy Reform (report and presentation)- **Toronto Metropolitan University**

2021

When Stigma Gets in the Way of Kink (article)- **The Trauma and Mental Health Report**

2020

Living With Cystic Fibrosis (podcast)- **The Trauma and Mental Health Report**

Women's Mental Health on Campus: Spotlight on Women's Mental Health Talks (article)- **The Trauma and Mental Health Report**

Health Repercussions Seen in Gaming Addiction (article)- **The Trauma and Mental Health Report**

Online Mental Health Sharing Brings Benefits and Risks (article)- **The Trauma and Mental Health Report**

LECTURES AND/OR TEACHING

2024

"Operations Management- Toronto Counselling Centre for Teens". Operations Management class presentation. **Humber College**, Toronto, ON, Canada. Guest speaker.

2022

"Quality Management- Toronto Counselling Centre for Teens". Quality Management class presentation. **Humber College**, Toronto, ON, Canada. Guest speaker.

2020

"Artist Talk." **Willowdale Group of Artists** presentation. Online, Toronto, ON, Canada. Guest speaker.

2019

"Artists Discussion" with co-artist, Ernesto Hidalgo. For the duo exhibition "The State of Not Knowing". **The Special Projects Gallery**, York University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Guided Tour.

2018

"Life Drawing Workshop." **Visual Arts Student Association** workshop. York University, Toronto,

ON, Canada. Art workshop.

SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS AND AWARDS

2023

Ted Rogers School of Management Graduate Entrance Scholarship, **Toronto Metropolitan University**

2020

Willowdale Group of Artists Painting Award, **York University**, April 21st, \$1250

2019

Painting Honorarium, **York University**, April 30th, \$125

2018

Art History Honorarium, **York University**, May 15th, \$125

2016

Carl Dair Memorial Scholarship, **York University**, December 22nd, \$500

2015

Talent Entrance Scholarship, **York University**, June 12th, \$1000

SKILLS AND TOOLS

Google Suite, Microsoft Office, JaneApp, NVivo, Ceridian, Plooto, Wordpress, Mailchimp, Canva