



blank spaces

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FILLING THE GAP WITH STORY & COLOUR

**FEATURING
CANADIAN**

Kimberlee ASHBY, Dessa BAYROCK, Milena DONCHEVA,
Doley HENDERSON, Kees KAPTEYN, Vlad KRAKOV, Margo MC CALL,
Gail M. MURRAY, David PERLMUTTER, Joanne PROBYN, Eric PROST,
Irene REILLY, Sherrn ROHOVICH, Andrew RUHL, Colin THORNTON

ARTISTS, AUTHORS, POETS, AND PHOTOGRAPHERS



Sewn Open | artist Joanne Probyn

“ I am passionate about wellness and hope to positively impact people’s lives with my work. ”

Joanne Probyn is a contemporary Canadian artist best known for her acrylic-based abstract paintings using mixed media and textured mediums. Her creative pursuits have been exhibited and published widely serving corporate, government, educational, and First Nations initiatives. While Probyn has travelled extensively and lived abroad in Paris, New York, and San Francisco, she is glad to call Vancouver her home. Her career heights include local and international awards such as North Vancouver Arts Council Award for Excellence in Painting, BCAMA Marketer of the Year with Vancity, Magellan’s Top 50 Publicity Campaigns with Chandler Chicco Agency [CCA], and Communicator Award of Distinction with CCA. Probyn completed her education in design and illustration at Capilano University and holds a certificate in marketing management from University of British Columbia (UBC) Sauder. Her professional activities include teaching therapeutic art. She has studied with teachers including renowned painter, Kiff Holland, and Governor General Award recipient, Eric Metcalfe. Probyn is an active Federation of Canadian Artists (FCA) and THRIVE Art Studio member.

JOANNE PROBYN

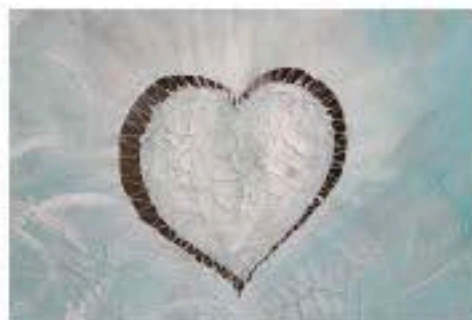
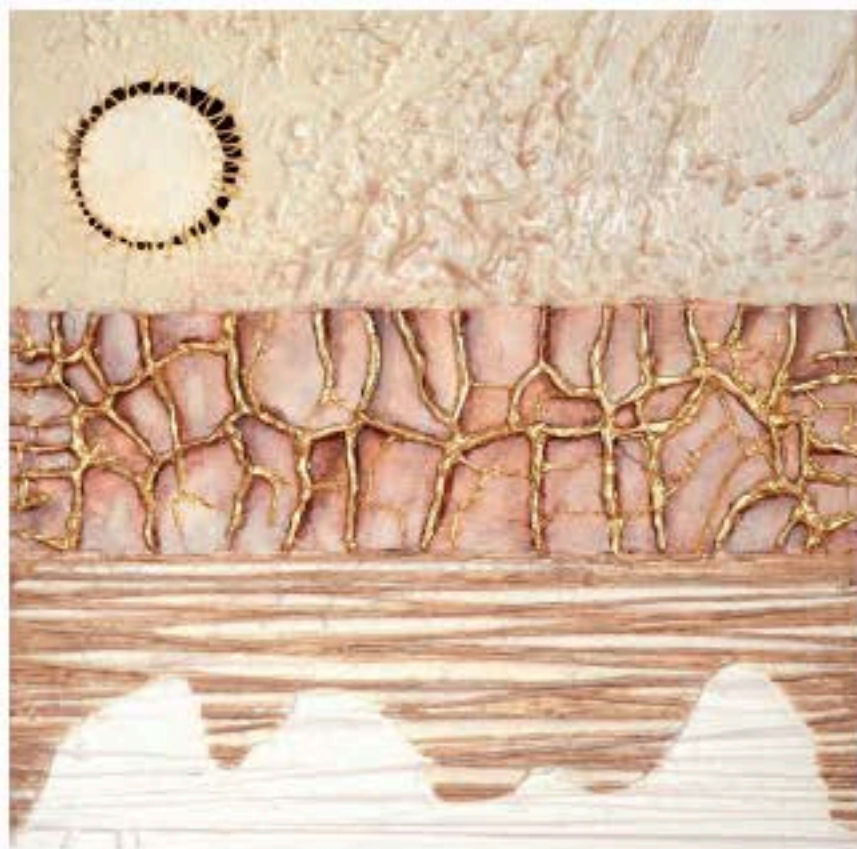
Artist Statement

I am a contemporary abstract painter. My Sewn Open Series communicates with the intimacy of a personal journal. I garner influence from abstraction to post-impressionism as well as *kintsugi*, the Japanese art of repairing ceramic breaks with gold, highlighting flaws while breathing new life into a broken object.

I am passionate about wellness and hope to positively impact people's lives with my work. My experiences of overcoming cancer and teaching therapeutic art have shaped my practice. Unpacking the lessons learned during these times deepened my values, intuition, and compassion, and led my practice towards messages of unity, love, and resilience.

I often develop studies then begin painting directly on a blank canvas. I create with paint, mediums, thread, string and gold leaf—building, deconstructing and rebuilding. I strive to take spontaneous risks that align with my goals; this supports a sense of adventure and authenticity that augments my creativity. Textured media produces cracks that speak to imperfection, history and impermanence.

I have identified with the canvas — slicing open the support to convey a sense of transformation, vulnerability and power. This idea originated from a life-changing surgery. Heirloom handmade lace embellishments invite reflection on contemporary ideas of art history, gender, and craft. My passion for design coupled with my identification of resilience and hope for social unity lies behind the sense of fragmentation and balance in my work.



Clockwise from top: Sewn Open, Transcend, Living From the Heart (detail)



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Clockwise from top left: *Tracing Time*, *I'll Meet You There*, *Surfacing the Future*

Joanne's recent collaborations include Vancouver Mural Festival with
THRIVE Art Studio (2018) and Carmen Chan (2019).

You can learn more about her and her art at www.probynart.com