



Joanna Johnston

B. CALGARY, ALBERTA
LIVES & WORKS IN
CALGARY

ABOUT

Born in Calgary, Alberta, Joanna Johnston is a contemporary Canadian photographer whose work explores the emotional relationship between architecture, nature, and memory. After a decade-long career as an architect, Johnston turned to photography, bringing with her a deep understanding of how built environments shape human experience. Through her distinctive in-camera double exposures, she creates poetic images that blur the boundaries between interior and exterior, structure and landscape, inviting viewers to experience place as layered, intuitive, and deeply felt.

Working exclusively with in-camera techniques and without digital compositing, Johnston merges two exposures captured moments apart into a single photograph. The resulting works balance precision with spontaneity, allowing architecture to dissolve into forests, gardens, and shifting light. Printed as large-scale archival pigment prints, her photographs reveal subtle textures and luminous colour that encourage quiet contemplation while exploring themes of belonging, perception, and the enduring connection between people and the spaces they inhabit.

Johnston has exhibited throughout Canada and internationally, with work held in corporate and private collections across North America, Europe, and Asia. Living and working between Calgary and Europe, she continues to create photographs that transform the familiar into immersive visual experiences, celebrating the powerful dialogue between the built world, the natural environment, and the inner landscape of memory.

EXHIBITIONS

2025

where we surrender, Gibson Fine Art, Calgary, S

Yearbook 2025, Shutter Hub, United Kingdom, GROUP

2024

Flora, SE Centre for Photography Greenville, South Carolina,
GROUP

2016

Urban Rising, Shangri-La Hotel, Toronto, GROUP

There is no there there, Arta Gallery, Toronto, GROUP

La Rue, La Porte Toronto Artist Project, Toronto, GROUP

2015

the Suspended Garden, Toronto Artist Project, Toronto, GROUP

Here. This is what I feel., The Gladstone Hotel, Toronto, GROUP

AWARDS

2025	Third Prize – Fine Art (Collage), International Photography Awards Awarded – Yearbook 2025 Shutter Hub, Cambridge, UK
2024	Top 50 – Fresh 2024 Klompching Gallery, New York Finalist – Single Image Open Call Lenzburg Fotofestival, Switzerland
2015	Award of Merit Toronto Artist Project
2007	Research Grant (\$10,000) Cohos Evamy Architects
2001	Thompson Berwick Pratt & Partners Scholarship University of British Columbia
1997	Silver Medal (History) University of Calgary

MEDIA COVERAGE

2024	Top 40 Under 40 Avenue Calgary Magazine People's Choice Award Time Out Montréal – Dazzle My Heart mural
2023	Gold Winner – Public Art (Mural) Grand Prix du Design (for Dazzle My Heart) Public Art Excellence Recognition City of Montréal (for Dazzle My Heart)
2022	Gold Winner – Public Art Installation, Grands Prix du Design (for Confluence) Bronze Winner – Public Art Installation, International Design Awards (IDA) (for Confluence)



COLLECTIONS

Pathways Alliance, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Navigatr Group, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Clearview Institute, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Private Collections, Canada, United States, Sweden, Germany,
and Hong Kong