

Christopher Friesen

B. CHILLIWACK,
BRITISH COLUMBIA
LIVES & WORKS IN
LANGLEY

ABOUT

Born in Chilliwack, British Columbia, Christopher Friesen is a painter, educator, and community advocate whose work explores the intersection of contemporary visual culture, technology, and the traditions of landscape painting. Living and working in Langley, British Columbia, Friesen has developed a distinctive practice that blends careful observation with conceptual inquiry, inviting viewers to reconsider how images shape our understanding of the natural world.

Working primarily in acrylic, Friesen layers vibrant colour, optical pattern, and fragmented imagery to create compositions that exist between representation and abstraction. Drawing inspiration from both historical painting traditions and the visual language of the digital age, his work examines perception, memory, and the evolving relationship between humanity and the environment. Richly textured surfaces and intricate mark-making encourage prolonged looking, revealing subtle shifts in light, space, and form that unfold over time.

Alongside his studio practice, Friesen is an Associate Professor in the School of Creative Arts at the University of the Fraser Valley, where he teaches painting and drawing while fostering dialogue around contemporary art and community engagement. His work has been exhibited extensively throughout Western Canada and is held in numerous public, private, and corporate collections, reflecting a practice that continues to bridge technical mastery with thoughtful exploration of the landscapes and visual experiences that surround us.

EXHIBITIONS

2025

You Can Never Go Home Again, Mennonite Heritage Museum

Abbotsford, SOLO

Christopher Friesen: New Collection, Gibson Fine Art, Calgary,

SOLO

Artist Spotlight: Christopher Friesen, Ian Tan Gallery, Vancouver,

SOLO

2025

Group Christmas Show, Gibson Fine Art, Calgary, GROUP

Noctalgia: Guided by the Stars We Can No Longer See, Elevation
Gallery, Canmore, GROUP

EXHIBITIONS

(CONT.)

- 2024** *Winter Group Show*, Ian Tan Gallery, Vancouver, GROUP
- 2023–2024** *Group Christmas Show*, Gibson Fine Art, Calgary, GROUP
- 2023** *Winter Show*, Ian Tan Gallery, Vancouver, GROUP
- 2023** *As Above, So Below*, Ian Tan Gallery, Vancouver, SOLO
- 2023** *Meditative Dialogue*, Gibson Fine Art, Calgary, SOLO
- 2022** *Summer Group*, Ian Tan Gallery, Vancouver, SOLO
- 2022** *Winter Show*, Ian Tan Gallery, Vancouver, GROUP
- 2022** *Pushing the Genre (with Charlie Easton)*, Gibson Fine Art, Calgary, GROUP
- 2022** *Winter Show*, Ian Tan Gallery, Vancouver, GROUP
- 2021** *The Scales Project*,
<https://thescalesproject.com/conversations/conversation49/>,
GROUP
- Summer Group Show*, Blue Crow Gallery, Toronto, GROUP
- Side Hustle*, Mission Arts Centre, Mission, SOLO
- 2020** *Summer Group Show*, Blue Crow Gallery, Toronto, GROUP
- Winter Salon Part Two*, Elissa Cristall Gallery, Vancouver, GROUP
- 2019** *Winter Salon*, Elissa Cristall Gallery, Vancouver, GROUP
- Made in Canada*, Elissa Cristall Gallery, Vancouver, GROUP
- Winter Exhibitions*, Elissa Cristall Gallery, Vancouver, GROUP
- Fraser Valley Regional Biennale*, The Reach Gallery Museum, Abbotsford, SOLO
- Kariton Art Gallery, Abbotsford, GROUP
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EXHIBITIONS

(CONT.)

2018

it's all about Painting, Elissa Cristall Gallery, Vancouver, GROUP

Graffiti Flags and Money Games, Kariton Art Gallery, Abbotsford,
SOLO

Edges of Light, S'eliyemetaxwtexw Art Gallery, Abbotsford, SOLO

Scroll Through History, Mennonite Heritage Museum, Abbotsford,
SOLO

Search by Image, The Reach Gallery Museum, Abbotsford, SOLO

2017

Pictures at an Exhibition 1, Elissa Cristall Gallery, Vancouver,
GROUP

Fraser Valley Regional Biennale, The Reach Gallery Museum,
Abbotsford, SOLO

Summer Exhibition, Elissa Cristall Gallery, Vancouver, GROUP

Out of the Office, S'eliyemetaxwtexw Art Gallery, Abbotsford,
GROUP

2016

The New Contemporaries, Elissa Cristall Gallery, Vancouver,
GROUP

Silvery Tones, Elissa Cristall Gallery, Vancouver, SOLO

2015

Fraser Valley Regional Biennale, The Reach Gallery Museum,
Abbotsford, GROUP

2014

Winter Group Show, Elissa Cristall Gallery, Vancouver, GROUP

2013

Made In Canada, Elissa Cristall Gallery, Vancouver, SOLO

Faculty Show, S'eliyemetaxwtexw Art Gallery, Abbotsford, SOLO

Contiguity, S'eliyemetaxwtexw Art Gallery, Abbotsford, SOLO

EXHIBITIONS

(CONT.)

2012

View, Elissa Cristall Gallery, Vancouver, SOLO

Faculty Show, S'eliyemetaxwtexw Art Gallery, Abbotsford, SOLO

Digital Artifacts, Elissa Cristall Gallery, Vancouver, SOLO

Duplicity, ACT Gallery, Maple Ridge, SOLO

2011

Toronto International Art Fair, Elissa Cristall Gallery, Toronto, SOLO

2010

Virtual Light, The Reach Auxiliary Gallery (City Hall), Abbotsford,
SOLO

In Medias Res, Elissa Cristall Gallery, Vancouver, SOLO

Essential Information, The Reach Gallery Museum, Abbotsford,
SOLO

2008

Pulse, Elissa Cristall Gallery, Vancouver, SOLO

2007

From a Distance, Elissa Cristall Gallery, Vancouver, SOLO

2006

New and Recent Work, Elissa Cristall Gallery, Vancouver, SOLO

2005

Opticality, Elissa Cristall Gallery, Vancouver, SOLO

2004

21st Century Pointillism, Elissa Cristall Gallery, Vancouver, SOLO

2003

Screens, Elissa Cristall Gallery, Vancouver, SOLO

COLLECTIONS

Collection Abbotsford Hospice

Collection City of Abbotsford

Colart collection

Collection of University of Regina

Collection of University of the Fraser Valley

AWARDS

2001

Graduate Student Scholarly Research Award Winter

Doris and W.A. Riddell Scholarship for 2001

2000

Graduate Studies Scholarship Winter 2000

Graduate Teaching Fellowship Fall 2000

1999

Graduate Studies Scholarship Fall 1999

Faculty Award 1999 –University of Lethbridge

1998

Agnes Turcotte Memorial Scholarship 1998

1997

UCFV Purchase 1997