

KARINE BASSAL

Karine Bassal is a Montreal-based artist. Always creative, her love of art led her to complete the Fine Arts program at John Abbott College where she discovered the virtues of contemporary art. To deepen her understanding of the art world, she completed her Bachelor's degree in Art History at McGill University while working as a representative in galleries around Montreal. Following a year of Master's level classes in Art History at Concordia University, she chose to devote herself to her art production full-time.

Always attracted to eyes, Bassal is drawn to their distinctiveness and seemingly limitless potential for communicability. Her oil paintings, representing the closely cropped and magnified eyes of her exclusively female subjects, are a unique and fresh departure from traditional portraiture. Bassal's figurative style, executed with photorealistic precision on large-scale canvases, heightens the impact of the gazes depicted. Her meticulous application of colors, sometimes layered in rich monochrome tones on textured surfaces, seeks to captivate the stares of onlookers and awaken their senses.

In the tradition of Édouard Manet's *Olympia* (1863), Bassal's works destabilize the relationship between subject and object. The spectator is not the only one doing the looking; the direct stares of the anonymous sitters follow the viewers. The artist unveils very little about the models and their stories, often sharing only the first letter of their name through the title.

EDUCATION

2004-05 Masters in Art History (Ed. Credits), Concordia University, Montreal, Quebec
2000-02 Bachelors in Art History, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec
1995-97 Fine Art DEC, John Abbot College, Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, Québec

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2008 *Attitudes*, MosaikART Gallery, Montreal, Quebec

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2011; 2009 *Trunk Show*, Village Gallery, Mississauga
2008 *Provocation – ARTundressed*, Just for Laughs Museum, Montreal, Quebec,
 presented by the Quebec Arts Council
2007 *Le Chrystal*, Montreal, Quebec
 Perceptions, Galerie Le 1040, Montreal, Quebec
 I.D. Export, Montreal, Quebec

MÉDIA

2010 Jacques Bélanger, *Collisions frontales*, *Parcours Art & Art de Vivre* (no. 71),
 November 2010 to February 2011, Vol. 15, No. 3, Pages 82-83
2009 Robert Bernier, *Éros, l'artiste et son modèle*, *Parcours Art & Art de Vivre*, Automn
 2009 (no. 67), page 99

KARINE BASSAL (cont'd)

- 2009 "*Port Credit Gallery Hosts Trunk Show*" (www.mississauga.com) by Chris Clay, The
Mississauga News
- 2008 Sarah Deshaies, *All eyes are on you: Capturing the female gaze in Karine Bassal's
Attitudes*, The Concordian Online

CATALOGUES

- 2008 "*Attitudes*" Galerie MosaikART Gallery, Montreal, Canada

BOURSARIES & COMISSIONS

- 2004 Scholarship from the Social Sciences and Research Council of Canada (SSHRC)
- 2001 Triptych for McGill University, Montreal, Quebec