

Artistic Futures Artist Bios



Keifer Blight is 23 years old young and lives in Harrowsmith, Ontario. Keifer was diagnosed with autism when he was three years old. Although spoken language has always been challenging for him, he revels in the visual world exhibiting exciting talents and abilities. His art is an ongoing exploration of that world. In the two years that Keifer has worked with Artistic Futures his work has gained increasing levels of complexity as he develops ever richer sensitivity to colour. His subtly varying compositions- largely linear bands of overlapping transparent colour- combined with resonant colour relationships open windows into his mood and create simple, elegant and very atmospheric abstractions which are at once very unique and contemporary while conjuring elements of great modern abstract painters such as Barnett Newman and Mark Rothko. Recent works have incorporated spray techniques which are bringing new directions and possibilities to his paintings- breaking from his linear works, these abstractions are amorphous and introduce an openness to natural processes outside the controlled and methodical approaches that he gravitates towards.



Nicolas Steiner Bell is 32 years old and lives in Kingston, Ontario. Nicolas loves the natural world and has always responded to spatial configurations and colour. Nicolas' tendencies toward color field painting combined with his boisterous brush work has developed into complex compositions- at times featuring recurring motifs such as line and shape configurations, at other times more 'all over' compositional formats. These opposing approaches lead to work that falls somewhere between abstract expressionism and minimalism- a disjunct that gives his work an energy of back and forth, over and under and truly vibrates with his own personal character.

Recent works have incorporated spray techniques which are bringing new directions and possibilities to his paintings- offering a lightness that contrasts the heavy application of paint in his other works.

Nicolas has been working with Artistic Futures for one year.



Hayden Kaack is a 23 year old living with autism and Artistic Futures' newest artist! He is a keen observer of his natural environment and is most in his element when in the water- which finds its way into his work through his fluid and energetic mark making. Hayden's approach to painting swings between reflective restraint and exuberant, joyful outbursts with brushes, rollers and palate knives- leading to exuberant and dynamic abstract works that capture the spirit and energy of this very expressive individual. While Hayden struggles with speech he is rapidly finding his creative voice and gaining confidence as an artist. In the months since Hayden joined the program he has gained independence in his work and moved from frustration and appeals for direction to ecstatic engagement. This new artist has a world of potential and I think we can expect larger work in the future!