



# Daniel May & Amber Harriman

## Changemakers – A SPARK Festival Solo Artist Series

September 9 — December 8, 2019

ARTIST RECEPTION: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2019 — ARTS COMMONS, 5:30–8:30 PM

### DANIEL MAY

#### Artist Biography

Daniel is a Calgary artist who has had seizures and related disabilities since he was one year old. He grew up in an artistic environment, and has been encouraged to participate in all kinds of artmaking by his parents, who are both artists, and through various school and vocational programs. Daniel has exhibited work in several group exhibitions including *Art from the Unknown* at the McDougal Centre, Calgary and *Hidden Truths – Artists with Epilepsy*, at the Grey Matters Museum of Art in Costa Mesa, California (2015). Daniel's subject matter is based on stories, movies and fairy tales, and is mostly focused on the gentle, non-violent aspects of these stories. He employs a number of repetitive symbolic motifs, which he developed in early childhood, and still finds satisfying today. Stars, moons, suns, flowers, houses, faces and figures are some examples that are often placed in rich dense colorful fields. Although Daniel has worked in a variety of two and three dimensional media, he prefers the immediacy of drawing, and most often uses coloured pencils, pastels or collage materials to create vibrant works on paper. Daniel says that he is trying to tell stories with his drawings which he describes as a bit like dreams in which there can be a mixture of characters and places and symbols. He also feels that the quietness of making art helps him stay calm and “makes me think about the happy things that are going on in my life.”

### AMBER HARRIMAN

#### Artist Statement

Art is my life; it's everything to me. When I do art, nothing else matters. It's what I do, it's who I am. While making art at Indefinite Arts, I've learned how to put textures and colors together, and how to do stuff in clay. I like to make multi-media, and 3D effects. I'm also learning to love fibre. When I make my art, I want it to make people happy. I want to inspire them, and leave an impression. I like to draw people in with different colours, so they can see the excitement that art brings me. I have a dream of having my own studio, having a nice show and selling my work.

#### Artist Biography

Amber is a Calgary artist who is skillful in a variety of art forms including painting, pottery, and multimedia. Her productivity has flourished since attending studio programs at the Indefinite Arts Centre in Calgary (2008 to present). With the support of IAC, Amber has exhibited in numerous group shows locally, nationally, and internationally (including group exhibitions in Scotland, Ireland, Hong Kong and South Korea). In 2013, she curated her own solo exhibit “POP!” at the IAC project space.

Amber has twice been the recipient of the IAC Jane Cameron Award for Artistic Excellence (2013, 2015) and has also received a Community Impact Award for her Contribution to the Arts (2013 - juried and presented by Calgary's IDPD Committee). Notably in 2015, Amber traveled to Glasgow to represent Canada at an international summit for artists with developmental disabilities. Through her artwork she continues to advocate for the rights and representation of artists with disabilities from around the world.

