

## **2015-2016 Slate for Election to the Board of Directors**

Visual Arts Nova Scotia (VANS) is managed by an elected volunteer Board of Directors comprised of 8 – 11 members, one-third must live outside of HRM. Most Directors are also working artists.

The Board of Directors is comprised of VANS members who are officially elected by the membership at the Annual General Meeting to serve a minimum of 1-term (2-years) to a maximum of 2-terms (4-years).

The Board of Directors believe in the importance and value of VANS to the community and are able to endorse the mandate and objectives of VANS without reservation. Acknowledging their legal and fiscal responsibility to VANS, the board of directors are familiar with the organizations by-laws and policies, and prepare and meet for board meetings.

### **Nominees**

#### **Arlene Dozay Christmas (Membertou)**

Arlene Christmas (Dozay) has spent much of her life cultivating her passion for art. Growing up in Western New Brunswick on the Tobique First Nations, Dozay is the middle child of a large family. At eighteen, she left the banks of the Tobique to pursue a formal education at Nova Scotia College of Art and Design and although she had always displayed an interest in art, her intention had initially been to pursue a career in education. It wasn't until her third year at Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, with encouragement from several individuals, Dozay decided to switch to the fine arts program and pursue a full-time career as an artist.

She has constructed her creative career around traditional native artwork, capturing First Nations culture and heritage. Dozay has created and displayed her artwork at galleries and exhibits across the Maritimes, Ontario and the United States.

#### **Eryn Foster (Dartmouth)**

Eryn Foster is an interdisciplinary artist who lives and works in Halifax. Born and raised in small-town Ontario, Foster has also lived in eastern Quebec, Tunisia, Montreal, Toronto, Algonquin Park, New England, Vancouver, the Yukon and most recently Sackville, New Brunswick.

Foster studied at Concordia University (Montreal) where she received her BFA in 1997 and the University of Guelph, where she received her Master of Fine Arts in 2004. For over 15 years she has been actively exhibiting her work and also participating in various creative projects as artist, event organizer, curator and most recently filmmaker.

Eryn Foster has been the recipient of several grants and awards from the Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council and Arts Nova Scotia (formerly NS Department of Tourism Culture and Heritage). Since the 90's she has participated in artist residencies at the Vermont Studio Centre, the Macdowell Arts Colony (US), the Banff Centre for the Arts, the Centre for Arts Tapes (Halifax), Point Pleasant Park (Halifax), and Struts Artist Run Centre in Sackville, New Brunswick. Foster is currently in Paris attending a residency at La Cité internationale des Arts through the Canada Council's International Residency Program.

From 2005-2009 she worked as the Director of the artist-run centre EYELEVEL GALLERY and has also taught at NSCAD in the Departments of Foundation and Fine Arts. From 2010-2012 she worked as the

Administrator/Program Director of the Yukon School of Visual Arts while also living off-grid in a cabin on the "other side of the river" in Dawson City. Other jobs not listed on her CV include: casting director, (background performers), barista, waitress, personal care worker, mascot, fruit picker, tree-planter, landscaper, flower-planter, ditch-digger, house-painter, house-keeper, old-time photographer, and many other short lived occupations.

**Kelly Markovich (Dartmouth)**

Originally from Ontario, Kelly Markovich and her family moved to Halifax in 2009 in order to pursue a Masters degree at NSCAD University. They are now happy to call Dartmouth, NS their home.

Kelly is a practicing artist and entrepreneur whose work encompasses photography, painting, screen-printing, letterpress, and upholstery. Her work has been exhibited in cities across Canada and in the USA. Kelly occasionally instructs courses at NSCAD University and NSCAD University School of Extended Studies. She is an active member of the NSCAD University Alumni Association Board of Directors and the Letterpress Gang at the Dawson Print Shop.

Kelly is excited to be the curator for the 2015 NSCAD University Alumni Association Exhibition "I AM NSCAD" in September.

**Carl Snyder (Wolfville)**

I've been involved with photography most of my life and began working professionally in Montreal just after completing a B.A. and M.L.S. at McGill. After 25 years of commercial/advertising work in Montreal and (mostly) Toronto I decided to slow the pace to occasional freelance work for a small local graphics house in Aurora, Ont. This allowed for involvement in the local arts community in Newmarket, Ontario and the development of my studio/landscape work which regards the near abstraction of form (geometry) and color we encounter every day. A move to Wolfville in the fall of 2011 has given me the opportunity to become involved with other artists, communities and landscapes.

In Ontario I've exhibited in Toronto, Newmarket, Aurora, and Elora. I served on the board of the Newmarket Group of Artists 2009 - 2011.

In Nova Scotia I've exhibited in Wolfville, Pictou, Halls Harbor and Halifax. I'm currently serving on the board of ViewPoint Gallery as director of communications.

**Returning Directors** (bios can be found online <http://www.visualarts.ns.ca/about-vans/board-of-directors/>)

**Pamela Swainson (Tatamagouche)**

*President*

**Nora Macnee (Ketch Harbour)**

*Treasurer*

**Natasha Krzyzewski (Halifax)**

*Secretary*

**Fenn Martin (Antigonish Co.)**

**Hannah Minzloff (Dartmouth)**

**Susan Wood (Halifax)**