

## ALLEN EGAN

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### **Biography**

Allen was born and raised in Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) and started painting in oils at the age of 16.

After high school, he completed a 3-year graphic design diploma at college and worked in the print and graphic design industry. He then immigrated to South Africa.

Eventually Allen began painting and exhibiting fulltime in 1999. At that time, the artist began to document and paint African people in their rural environments.

Year 2000, Allen Emigrates yet again to Canada, settling in Gatineau, Quebec. He continued to create his portrait art, travelling back and forth between South Africa and Canada for exhibitions and referential photographs for his work. Gradually Allen has seen his work change, delving into the genres of landscape and surrealist art.

### **Artist Statement**

Allen is a figurative painter and cannot imagine a painting without a figure in it. However, the figure to his mind must occupy or be part of a space or an environment. The completed painting needs to be a short story or part of a story in which something imminent is about to happen or has happened. It is this sense of unpredictability that Allen tries to capture in all his works. He finds or takes photos and combines them in unusual environments to set the stage and set the figure at odds within this space.

The final summary of the contents of the painting is up to the viewer. Allen's paintings are impulsive and spontaneous. Once the images are gathered and combined as a painting, they become like a single frame in a movie. One does not know what came before and likewise one does not know what the outcome may be. They are short stories. There is no intent to manufacture a recognisable story, rather an opportunity for the viewer to decide for themselves what it all means. They impose their own stories, and all opinions are many and varied.

### **Artist's CV**

- 2022** Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition Online Art Show - Toronto.
- 2022** Ottawa New Art Festival – Ottawa
- 2021** Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition Online Art Show - Toronto
- 2020** Solo Exhibition – Galerie Blanche – Montreal
- 2019** Ottawa New Art Festival – Ottawa
- 2018** Toronto Outdoor Art Festival – Toronto
- 2018** Ottawa New Art Festival – Ottawa
- 2017** Ottawa New Art Festival – Ottawa
- 2017** Toronto Outdoor Art Festival – Toronto



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- 2017** Strathcona Park Art Show - Ottawa
- 2017** Cabbage town Art and Craft Festival - Toronto
- 2016** Ottawa New Art Festival – Ottawa
- 2016** Toronto Outdoor Art Festival – Toronto
- 2016** Rendezvous of Colours – Gatineau
- 2016** Epic Stories and Tails – Earls Court Gallery - Hamilton, Ontario – Surreal
- 2015** Orange Art Gallery – Ottawa - The Abstract Show
- 2015** Ottawa New Art Festival – Ottawa
- 2015** Toronto Outdoor Art Festival – Toronto
- 2015** Winter Design Festival – Ottawa
- 2014** Toronto Outdoor Art Festival – Nathan Philips Square
- 2014** Spaza Art Gallery – Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2014** Ottawa New Art Festival
- 2013** Ottawa New Art Festival
- 2013** Studio Sixtysix – Ottawa - November 2013 - Group Exhibition
- 2012** Ottawa New Art Festival - Landscape Works
- 2012** Ottawa Art Festival - October – Group Exhibition - Figurative and representational works
- 2011** Espace Odysee – Gatineau City Public Gallery, Gatineau, Quebec – Solo Exhibition
- 2011** Kitchener – Selected SALSA Conference - September - Group Exhibition
- 2011** University of Waterloo - October - Students Gallery – Invitation to present Figurative works
- 2010** Ottawa Art Festival - October – Group Exhibition
- 2010** Patrick John Mills Gallery
- 2009** Toronto Art Expo – Toronto, Canada - March - Group Exhibition
- 2009** Blink Gallery – Ottawa, Canada - Sept/Oct. – Solo Exhibition
- 2009** Ottawa Art Festival - October – Group Exhibition
- 2008** Toronto Art Expo – Toronto, Canada - March - Group Exhibition
- 2007** Ottawa Fine Arts Festival – Ottawa, Canada - May – Group Exhibition
- 2007** Savacou Gallery - New York, USA - October - Group exhibition “Art Off The Main”



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- 2007** Savacou Gallery – New York USA November – Group exhibition “The Others”
- 2007** Carriage House Gallery – Midland, Ontario - December – Solo exhibition “The New Normal”
- 2006** Savacou Gallery - New York, USA - Group exhibition “Art Off The Main”
- 2005** Savacou Gallery - National Black Fine Art Show, New York
- 2005** Galerie Montcalm – Gatineau, Quebec - Lotto Quebec Group exhibition
- 2005** Savacou Gallery – New York, USA - September - The Africa America Institute art auction.
- 2005** Savacou Gallery - New York, USA - October - Group exhibition at art fair “Art Off The Main”
- 2004** Everard Read Gallery - Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2004** Savacou Gallery - New York, USA - October - Group exhibition at art fair “Art Off The Main”
- 2003** Cuyler Street Gallery - Port Elizabeth, South Africa Solo exhibition
- 2001** Knysna Fine Arts - Knysna, South Africa - Group exhibition in October entitled “The Dry Land”. Figurative
- 2000** Cuyler Street Gallery - Port Elizabeth, South Africa - Group exhibition. Realism.
- 2000** Oliewenhuis Group Show (Provincial Public Gallery) – Bloemfontein - South Africa.

#### **GALLERIES**

Galerie Blanche - Montreal

Orange Art Gallery – Ottawa

#### **COLLECTIONS**

LOTO – Quebec

Colart Collection

Giant Tiger Collection

Private collections in Canada, South Africa and Worldwide.

#### **AWARDS**

Artist Residency – Ivvavik – Parks Canada

Best in Show – Ottawa Art Festival 2009

Best in 2D - (Painting and Drawing) Ottawa New Art Festival 2014

Best in Show – Rendezvous of Colours – Gatineau 2016

Most Innovative Artist – Toronto Outdoor Art Show - 2018