

rated

ART

**Winter 2023**

A McQueen Agency Publication

Dive into  
the Festive  
Season!

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Sleigh the  
Holidays  
with Great  
Gift Ideas

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Art Fairs,  
Exhibits &  
More!

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5 Tips for  
Gifting Art  
(including maybe don't!)

[MCQUEENAGENCY.com](http://MCQUEENAGENCY.com)

MEET  
**Meaghan  
Ogilvie**

AN ARTIST Q&A





AGENCY DIRECTOR'S NOTE

# Bring on the Brrr!

Winter. It's the longest and the coldest of the seasons.

But with the chill and the snowfall comes the holiday season and treasured moments as we retreat to the warmth of our homes. Spending more time indoors means creating spaces that bring us joy. For me, nothing brings more joy than curling up by the fire with a winter cocktail, indulging in good food, a favourite movie or book, and—of course—great art!

The long winter season also inspires us to look to the arts for gift ideas and entertainment, both of which you'll find in these pages. This winter issue also marks our



Jared Tabler, photo by Aaron Pedersen.

first full year of publishing *ratedART*, and we couldn't be more thankful for all your support! We have some exciting things planned for 2024 and can't wait to share them with you. Until then, on behalf of our entire McQueen family, we wish you the merriest of memories and a happy holiday season.

With much gratitude,

- Jared

ARTIST Q&A

# Meet Meaghan Ogilvie



Meaghan Ogilvie

As the saying goes, thousands have lived without love, not one without water. To photographer Meaghan Ogilvie, having both go hand in hand. As you'll soon discover, her practice is sensually influenced by the exploration of water, which she photographs in fragments and in whole. It's an underwater exploration that includes photographing people and landscapes, both representationally and abstractly—two aesthetics that she moves between with as much fluidity as her subject itself. To Meaghan, there's simply something in the water that she seeks to discover. And she believes she will find it through her art. Ready to dive in? Meet Meaghan Ogilvie.

**What is it about photography that resonates with you as a form of storytelling?**

I love that photography is a compact and portable tool for storytelling that allows me to be in diverse environments and situations while travelling. It also allows me to connect with a global audience of all ages, cultures, and literacy because photography is a universal language.

**Who was the first person to put a camera in your hands? Was it a natural fit or something you grew into?**

My mom bought me an old 35mm film camera for my 14th birthday. I took it with me everywhere, and it became a part of my identity. I was shy growing up, so the camera gave me purpose and the opportunity to talk to people. I hadn't found the best outlet for my creativity until I picked up a camera. I loved the instantaneous aspect of it and the many ways I could continue the creative process in the darkroom.

## ***“My style is art and documentary with themes of escapism and transformation.”***

### **For anyone just discovering your work, describe your style and influences.**

I photograph people and landscapes above and beneath the water, representationally and abstractly. My style is art and documentary with themes of escapism and transformation. My influences are Sebastião Salgado, Jerry Uelsmann, Sally Mann, Zena Holloway, and Brent Stirton, among many others!

### **What's one piece of advice someone gave you growing up that turned out to be true. And what's one piece that didn't hold up?**

The best advice I ever received was to practice patience and to slow down. My younger impulsive self didn't fully understand this concept. I needed to get from A to B immediately or else. With age this changed, and I appreciated what I could achieve by being patient. It's still an ongoing practice, but I've been able to make more rational and realistic decisions along with building persistence.

One piece of advice that didn't hold up was that people don't change. I find this thinking very limiting and untrue. Through persistence, I've seen people make small and big changes that positively impacted their lives.

### **You've said that there's something in the water that you're determined to discover and that you believe you'll find it through your art. What are 3 things that the water has taught you so far?**

Water has taught me interconnectedness, tranquility, and adaptability. Water connects everything on our planet through rivers, lakes, and the oceans. Understanding this has taught me that my actions can have far-reaching effects on the world. I now do research on the companies I buy from and try to be aware of how my actions here in Canada affect other areas of the world.

When I'm in, on, or around water, I automatically become more calm. I've suffered from generalized anxiety disorder,



*Kelp Forest in Catalina Island, photographic print, by Meaghan Ogilvie, 2022.*

and being in water resets my mind and body to a “normal” state of being. The tranquility of water reminds me to slow down, rest, and enjoy life.

Photographing in water has many challenges, including fluctuating weather, bad visibility, and strong currents. Shooting in this type of environment has taught me to adapt to any situation and use it as a creative advantage. For example, poor visibility can be used to create a more dream-like image, and fluctuating weather can provide the most unusual light to work with.

### **What does community mean to you, and where do you find it?**

To me, community is a sense of belonging and connection. It's a supportive network where I can collaborate and grow. I've found community within my profession and my interests both online and in person. I share a love for travel, the ocean, nature, adventure, and conservation with my scuba and freediving community. I also find community within the creative industry and collaborate with many types of artists, such as dancers, cinematographers, and photographers. When we work together, we help each other grow by being exposed to each other's viewpoints, which can be much different than our own.



ROW 5 (from series *Requiem of Water*, commissioned for the Toronto 2015 Pan-Am Games), photographic print, 20 x 30, by Meaghan Ogilvie, 2015.



*Nettika*, photographic print, 20 x 30, by Meaghan Ogilvie, 2019.

***“Photographing in water has many challenges, including fluctuating weather, bad visibility, and strong currents. Shooting in this type of environment has taught me to adapt to any situation and use it as a creative advantage.”***

**What do you hope people will take away from your work?**

A curiosity for water and inspiration to explore and protect it.

**What are you currently working on or hoping to explore next?**

I'm currently working on new concepts of work. I have new technical skills in cinematography and animation, which I'd like to experiment with for new projects. I've also become obsessed with kelp forests and would like to explore them more.

***“I share a love for travel, the ocean, nature, adventure, and conservation with my scuba and freediving community.”***



*ROW 1* (from series *Requiem of Water*, commissioned for the Toronto 2015 Pan-Am Games), photographic print, 20 x 30, by Meaghan Ogilvie, 2015.

**It's a perfect day. How do you spend it?**

A perfect day would be diving in a remote location with friends and seeing rare sightings of hammerhead sharks, followed by a big celebratory dinner and then dancing all night on the beach.

**What makes you hopeful these days?**

I think society is understanding the importance of working together collectively rather than as individuals. I'm hopeful that with this collective strength we can work together to vote for competent leaders and to support better solutions for our environment, animal welfare, and social issues.

Discover more of Meaghan Ogilvie's work [here](#), and give her a follow on [Instagram!](#)



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

# Indigenous Artist Market Collective (I.A.M)



INDIGENOUS  
ARTIST MARKET COLLECTIVE

**A VERY INDIGENOUS  
HOLIDAY MARKET  
LAST MINUTE SHOP  
TILL YOU DROP**

**DEC 16 9AM TO 3 PM**  
**DEC 17 11AM TO 3 PM**

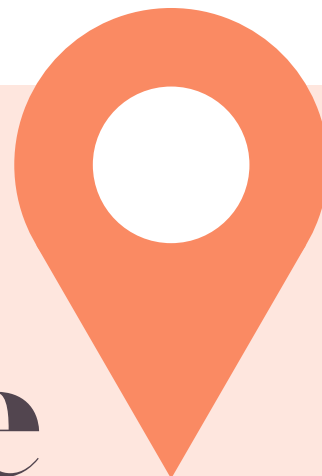
[iamcollective.ca](https://iamcollective.ca)

Know what's best about the Indigenous Artist Market Collective? Everything! Founded in 2018, I.A.M is more than an artist collective. It's an inclusive space of creativity for more than 100 Indigenous artists, creatives, and knowledge holders. Created as a way to break down barriers that previously kept Indigenous art out of the mainstream marketplace, I.A.M makes it possible for artists to share costs and for emerging artists to learn about pricing and marketing. In addition to creating a much-needed community, I.A.M promotes authenticity over appropriation by providing a place where market-goers can purchase authentic Indigenous art.

If you're already an I.A.M fan but missed this year's Annual Holiday Market, fear not! You can still catch their Last-Minute Shop-Till-You-Drop Event, December 16 and 17, at the Edmonton Downtown Farmers Market. During this two-day miyitowin ᐱᑕᑕᑦᐅ (Exchange of Gifts), you'll find an all-Indigenous lineup of vendors, artists, live entertainment, and an amazing showcase of handmade traditional and contemporary crafts. It's everything you need to support I.A.M's impassioned call to action: Appreciate, don't appropriate.

Learn more about the Last-Minute Shop-Till-You-Drop Event [here](#), and be sure to give I.A.M a follow on [Instagram](#)!

# Wish We Were There



Since it's the season of wish lists, we thought we'd share ours, just in case the jolly guy is listening. Now where to leave the milk and cookie.

**The Met Fifth Avenue presents: *Manet/Degas***, until January 7, 2024. New York. Learn more [here](#).

**Amsterdam Light Festival**, until Jan 21, 2024. Learn more [here](#).

**London Art Fair 2024**, January 17 – 21, 2024. Learn more [here](#).

**Cooper Cole presents: Geoff McFetridge: *Nature Mart***, until January 20, 2024. Toronto. Learn more [here](#).

**Art3f International Contemporary Art Fair**, February 2 – 4, 2024. Strasbourg. Learn more [here](#).

**Art Institute of Chicago presents: Dan Friedman: *Stay Radical***, until February 4, 2024. Learn more [here](#).

**Art Gallery of Ontario presents: *KAWS: Family***, until March 31, 2024. Learn more [here](#).

**Vancouver Art Gallery presents: *Emily Carr: A Room of Her Own***, until September 8, 2024. Learn more [here](#).



# What's On

## McQueen Artists Take Centre Stage

'Tis the season for mixing and mingling. But, sometimes, a little quiet time is the best present of all. For us, that means a stroll through a gallery (or four!). If you're looking for a little of the same, here are some shows we're excited to tell you about.

- ▶ **DUNCE** will have a show on display at **Art Commons** in collaboration with **Theatre Calgary**, February 27 – March 24, 2024. The work will be exhibited throughout the theatre during the company's presentation of *As You Like It*.
- ▶ **Michael McLean** will be in Edmonton participating in a group exhibit titled *Dimensions*, at the **Miller Art Gallery** at the Roxy, January 25 – March 9, 2024.
- ▶ **Trevor Schmidt** will be participating in an exhibition titled *Rituals*, presented by **Gallery 881** and **Broad** magazine, in Vancouver, December 9 – January 12, 2024.

## THE GIFT OF INSPIRATION

# McQueen Reads

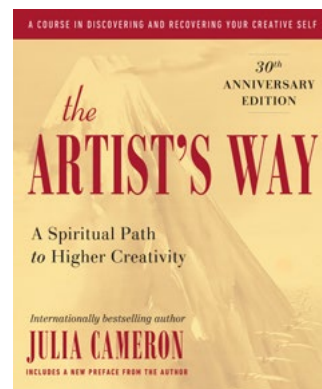
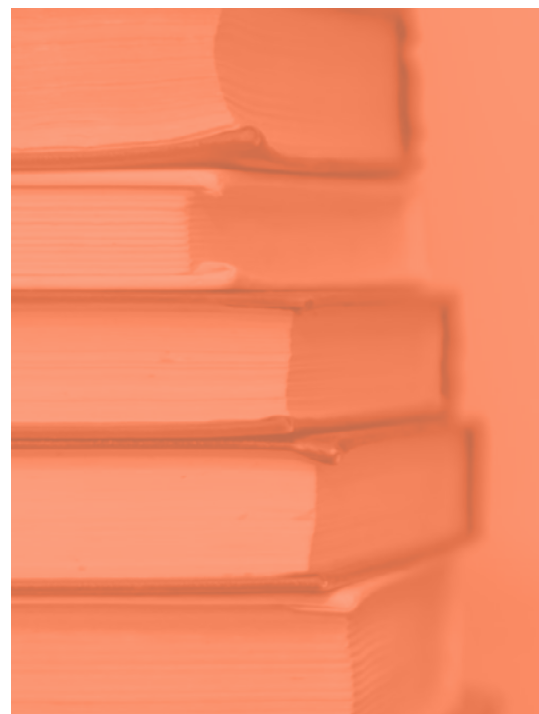
Few things are better than tucking into a good read on a lazy winter's day. A close second, however, is giving someone else the perfect book to read. And if your someone happens to be an artist, have we got a book list for you! Naturally, we went straight to our experts and asked a few McQueen artists to recommend books that inspired their art and/or creativity. Here's what they had to say...

### ALICE'S PICK

***The Artist's Way: A Spiritual Path to Higher Creativity*, by Julia Cameron**  
(TarcherPerigee)

I have recently revisited this book after being very motivated by it 20 years ago. Having lost the practice of writing my morning pages, I needed to gain that inspiration again to clear my mind and open it to a creative day. Cameron's book guides artists to develop a discipline and time for themselves, while the writing practice helps clear the brain of regurgitating thoughts.

—Alice Rich



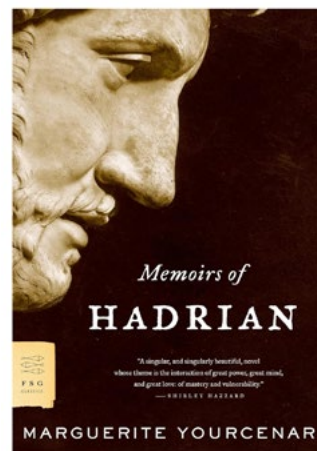
### ANTONIO'S PICK

***Memoirs of Hadrian*, by Marguerite Yourcenar** (Ploin)

This book came into my life because I studied the life of the Roman emperor and saw his marble portraits in the museums of Rome. What it has taught me, undoubtedly, is the search for the depth of the soul and feelings in human beings.

Hadrian was a great lover of the arts and literature, and he himself composed beautiful poetry. The fact is that even though he was the most powerful man in the ancient world, he tenderly loved the young Antinous and suffered terribly at his death.

—Antonio Garullo

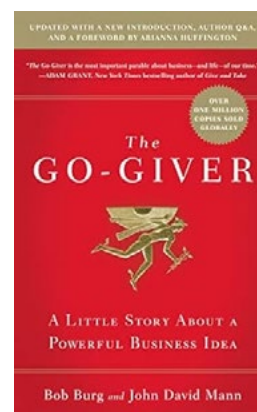


## CHARLENE'S PICK

***The Go-Giver: A Little Story About a Powerful Business Idea,***  
by Bob Burg and John David Mann (Penguin Books)

This book about the power of giving has recently inspired my artistic journey and compelled me to create truly from my heart. As an artist and social worker by profession, it really hit home with who I am and inspired me to create from a deeper place. It reinforced my belief that as long as I am creating with the intention to add value to the lives of the people I serve, it will lead to unexpected returns and overall success. I really believe that to be true!

–Charlene Johnson



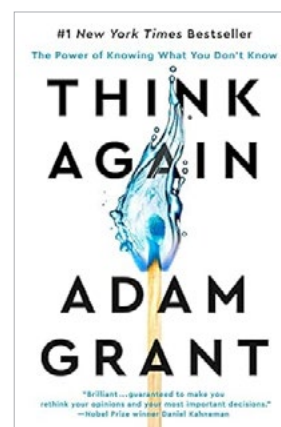
## JARED'S PICK

***Think Again: The Power Of Knowing What You Don't Know,***  
by Adam Grant (Viking)

A friend of mine introduced me to Adam Grant's work several years ago. "If knowledge is power, then knowing what we don't know is wisdom." That quote stuck with me as I have always been a naturally curious person, and looking at things from varying perspectives has always helped me gain a greater understanding of whatever I have been exploring.

We are living in a time where critical thinking and the ability to rethink and unlearn closely held beliefs is more crucial than ever. It can be uncomfortable to challenge ourselves and far easier to choose the comfort of our convictions. This book is a poignant reminder to look at things that challenge us as an opportunity to learn, rather than as a threat to our belief systems.

–Jared Tabler



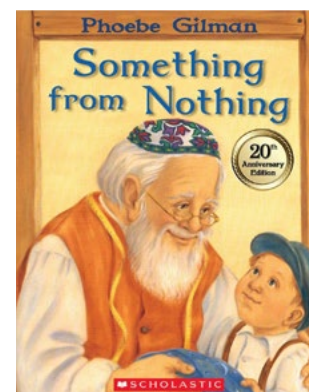
## LORI'S PICK

***Something from Nothing, by Phoebe Gilman*** (Scholastic Canada)

This book is a wonderful children's story that provides a creative analogy for the concept of reusing and repurposing materials, much like my workshops, where I engage the public in creating wearable art with single-use plastic packaging.

In the story, the grandfather starts with a blanket for his grandson. As the grandson grows, he reconstructs the blanket and transforms it into various items like a jacket, vest, tie, handkerchief, and eventually a button. This narrative beautifully mirrors the idea of the life cycle of materials and the potential for continuous transformation. It's a metaphor for taking something seemingly disposable, like single-use plastic packaging, and reimagining it into new and useful forms before it ends up in landfills. It helps convey the message that, just like the grandfather in the story, we can continuously create "something from nothing" by being resourceful and inventive with the materials at hand, ultimately reducing the environmental impact of disposable items.

–Lori Goldberg



## PAT'S PICK

***The Sun Also Rises*, by Ernest Hemingway** (Charles Scribner's Sons)

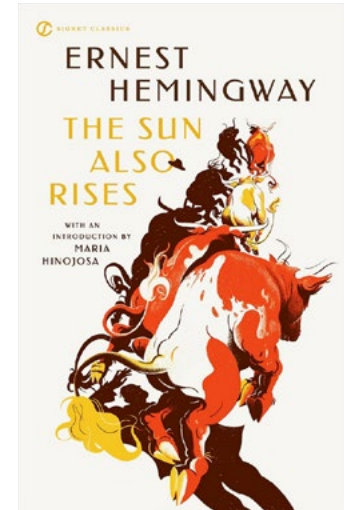
This book came recommended to me by several people in my early life, namely my mother and a few schoolteachers who recognized my unbeknownst-to-me interest in select themes in Hemingway's works, chiefly the adventurist and multicultural life.

While I'm sure I enjoyed the book upon initial readings, it wasn't until college (a course on Modernism) that I was able to fully absorb and appreciate the work for its closeness to my then-known and now-forever interests: Expat life, Intellectualism in Art, the Inner Lives of Working Artists, Stoicism, and Existentialism.

The novel was not only a blueprint for the life I wanted to lead (which fortunately came to fruition), but also a gateway to several real-life artists and an overall immersion in Modernism, my favorite Artistic and Socio-cultural period, linking me to Ezra Pound, TS Eliot, Monet, Picasso, and Gertrude Stein.

*The Sun Also Rises* prompted me to live a life of discovery and experience that is foundational in my own work. I simply do not believe I would be the artist I am today, or the person I am today, without it.

–Pat Marino

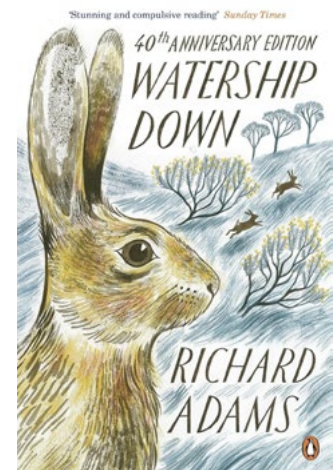


## RIKI'S PICK

***Watership Down*, by Richard Adams** (Viking)

I read this book in junior high, and it made a huge impression on me, coupled with the animated film that I saw many times after reading the book. All the characters are anthropomorphic rabbits, and each one is unforgettable. The story tells of a lot of war and strife, as well as beautiful friendship and resilience. I used anthropomorphic animals in my art for many years, which were likely influenced by *Watership Down*, alongside Bugs Bunny.

–Riki Kuropatwa



# A Spark\* OF INSPIRATION

## A Shopping Guide to Help Sleigh the Holidays

Just because it's better to give than receive doesn't mean you won't run out of gift ideas. To help you out, here are a few of our favourite places to shop, while also supporting small businesses, independent makers, and dynamic communities.

### Edmonton Arts Council Shop & Services (formerly TIX on the Square), Edmonton, AB

The Edmonton Arts Council Shop & Services is your ticket to all things Edmonton arts. Run by the Edmonton Arts Council, this box office/gift shop is where you'll find everything from books, pottery, jewellery, and apparel to tickets for concerts and plays. With a selection of works from more than 200 emerging and established Edmonton artists, there's something for everyone on your list.

**9930 102 Avenue (Churchill Square).**

### parcel + prose Edmonton, AB

We love giving and receiving cards, so parcel + prose is a must-stop shop here in Edmonton. As they say on their website, "putting pen to paper and letting feelings flow is an art in itself and an expression we intend to promote." If heartfelt cards are your love language too, be sure to give them visit.

**10524 - 124 Street.**

### Heartprint Threads Calgary, AB

Heartprint Threads doesn't just sell beautiful artisan blankets, they believe in the power of comfort, compassion, and community. It's why for every blanket you purchase, they donate a blanket to a local community organization in need. Check them out in-store and online!

**4034 - 4 Street.**

### Granville Island Vancouver, BC

Vancouver's Granville Island is always a magical escape within the city. Thanks to a 40-acre display of twinkling lights, that magic comes alive under the stars, November 12 to January 3, nightly. But before you take that holiday stroll, be sure to visit the Public Market, Net Loft Shops, and Artisan District, where many of Canada's best artists and designers can be found.

**Here's how to get there.**



## Old Faithful Shop

Vancouver, BC

Offering housewares, personal items, and plants, Old Faithful Shop draws unique products from brands around the world. Heavily featuring a Japanese craft collection, their items are made by artisans whose skills have been honed and passed down through multiple generations.

**1985 West 4th Avenue (Kitsilano location), 320 West Cordova Street (Gastown location).**

## Scout

Toronto, ON

Scout is an independent gift shop full of thoughtfully curated housewares, jewellery, stationary, and more. Best of all, everything you'll find is created by makers and small brands that align with Scout's belief in community care, inclusivity, and eco-conscious practices. They've even curated an entire collection of goods that support waste-free living!

**405 Roncesvalles Avenue (Roncesvalles location), 1140 Queen Street East (Leslieville location).**

## St. Lawrence Farmers Market

Toronto, ON

If you're looking for the perfect hostess gift or artisanal culinary treat, the St. Lawrence Farmers Market has you covered. It's been the community's culinary focal point since 1803 and remains the anchor of the neighbourhood for locals and visitors alike. The perfect place to connect, get inspired and, of course, discover great food.

**92 - 95 Front Street East.**

## Woozles

Halifax, NS

If you have little readers, be sure to check out Woozles, Canada's oldest children's bookstore. You'll find books, games, puzzles, and toys on every subject imaginable. Be sure to also check out their staff pick, reading programs, and gift cards, which are redeemable in-store, online, and never expire.

**6013 Shirley Street.**





# Quick Tips >>

## 5 Tips for Buying Someone Art

To gift art or not to gift art? It's a complicated question. The short answer is a very unhelpful *we can't say for sure*. The long answer is *you can*. But don't throw coal at us just yet! We do have five great tips to help you make your decision. Starting with... lingerie?

**1. Ask yourself if the gift is actually for you.** Kind of like when you're buying nice underwear for someone, make sure that you're picking out your loved-one's present with them in mind, not you. That's right: put your own tastes aside. Art is highly personal, so if the person you're shopping for hasn't made eyes at the piece or dropped hints that they love it, it just might end up at the back of a closet.

**2. Don't make it a surprise.** Sure, in the very-best-case scenarios, a surprise is an amazing thing. Art, however, isn't a pair of concert tickets or anything else with a shelf-life of a banana. Art lasts and will be seen on the daily, so consider including the person in the selection process. With a little planning (a.k.a. dinners with wine), the experience of going to shows and galleries together could become as big a gift as the art itself.

**3. Have their friend help you pick.** And by friend we mean best friend—the kind that will TOTALLY break their promise to you about keeping it a secret and run straight to their bestie to make sure it's a gift they will love.

**4. Don't rush.** Finding the perfect gift takes time—and you can quadruple that timeline when the gift is art. You'll want to take as many considerations into account as possible. Things like knowing what colour palettes they like, what room or wall it's destined for, what style they lean toward (contemporary, mid-century, vintage), etc. Besides the search and research, shipping will likely also need to be factored into your timeline. During the holidays, that usually means at least two weeks.

**5. Maybe forgo the idea all together.** If there's even the tiniest voice in your head that says, "Maybe this isn't the right gift idea," listen to it. Collecting art is all about instincts, and you'll be right more times than you're wrong.

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