



**TwoRivers  
Gallery**

July 30 to October 11 . 2015

# Unapologetic

–Romantic Notions of a Modern Woman

SARA  
ROBICHAUD



Sara Robichaud, *Diamond Dust*, 2014. Acrylic on canvas.

## Self Guided Experience

People visiting art galleries like to connect with the art they see and better understand what the exhibiting artist has in mind. We have created this Self-Guided Experience to help you do just that. This informal guide gives you insight into how the exhibition has been curated. It will walk you through the gallery, asking you to respond to the art and to make your own interpretations around the display. Enjoy the experience.

Two Rivers Gallery  
725 Canada Games Way  
Prince George BC  
[www.tworiversgallery.ca](http://www.tworiversgallery.ca)



A GOLDEN RAVEN EXPERIENCE

# About the Artist



Sara Robichaud and *Ossein*. Photo credit: Cakes.

Growing up in North Bay, Ontario, Sara Robichaud was more into sports than art. While she always doodled, it wasn't until her final year of high school that she participated in art classes. Sara went on to study science at Queen's University in Kingston, transferring to fine arts at her parents' suggestion after a difficult first year. On entering the art department Sara was ignited by the large abstract paintings she saw and knew she wanted to create "big paintings that make people feel." She graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in 1995 and went on to complete a Masters of Fine Arts at the University of Victoria in 2009.

The Prince George Regional Art Gallery Association gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Regional District of Fraser Fort George, the Canada Council for the Arts, the City of Prince George, the Province of British Columbia through the British Columbia Arts Council, our members and private and corporate sponsors.

We acknowledge the financial assistance of the Province of British Columbia.

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch



Canada Council  
for the Arts

Conseil des Arts  
du Canada



BRITISH COLUMBIA  
ARTS COUNCIL  
supported by the Province of British Columbia



# Moving Across the Surface

*Enter the second Gallery and look around at the entire exhibition. What are your first impressions?*

*Go to the painting "Ossein 3" on the far wall.*

*Take a moment to look at the painting and let the shapes lead your vision around the canvas. How does your eye move across the composition? Where does it rest? What colour attracts you?*

Sara uses hard-edged curvilinear shapes in her paintings. Always working on raw unprimed canvas, she starts with one catalyst shape, in this case, the shadow cast by a found bone hung from her studio ceiling. Each painting evolves gradually as she responds to one form with a new colour, shape or surface. The process is like playing a game, where one move informs the next and one form interacts with another.



Sara Robichaud, *Ossein 3*, 2012. Acrylic on canvas.

# Surface Treatments

*Find "Delicate Matters" on the Gallery's west wall. Look at the painting from across the room and then approach the canvas. Study the surface as you move your head and body. Don't be shy... crouch down and look up. Notice the variety of painted surfaces and the interaction of light on the paint.*

Since 2006, Sara has been working for Golden Paints as a Golden Working Artist. In this role she delivers lectures on acrylic paints and teaches workshops for which she is partially paid in paint. Through this relationship Sara has been able to experiment with a wide variety of paints, playing with contrasting surfaces. An iridescent shape may lie alongside a chalky form or a thin glaze might be paired with a thick area where the artist has scraped paint across a stencil. Sometimes translucent areas overlap other shapes, fluorescent paints are contrasted against opaque, neutral forms and smooth areas stand out against textured areas. She refers to her paintings as "feminine in content but masculine in scale".



Sara Robichaud, *Delicate Matters*, 2015. Acrylic on canvas.

*Examine the lace on the canvas. How has Sara created this effect? What ideas does "lace" bring to mind?*

Lace is used in many of Sara's *Unapologetic* paintings as a contrast to the smooth forms.

In *Delicate Matters*, the artist has laid down an area of lace and then scraped iridescent paint over the surface pressing it into the open areas of the fabric. The result is a beautifully thick layer, almost resembling fish scales. The process is a physical one and technically challenging just as the process of making lace would have been many years ago. Sara often reflects back on another time when women made things by hand.

# Beneath the Surface

*Look around the room for shapes that refer to the feminine realm or images that remind you of another time.*

*Check out "Heirloom". What do you see in this painting?*

*Heirloom* is like a portrait of Sara's family. In fact each painting is a narrative, telling a very private story of what was happening in the artist's life at the time she was painting it. The series was created over a period marked with life-changing events in her life: buying her first house, renovating that 100 year old



Sara Robichaud, *Heirloom*, 2015. Acrylic on canvas.

heritage home, having her first child, family illness, loss. The paintings are inseparable from her personal journey and at the same time they are also about the imagined lives of generations of women who have come before. Like Sara, these women created with their hands, balanced working with raising children, had struggles and celebrated victories. Sara sees each painting as a "heroine's story" with each heroine a complex character.

*What do you feel when you look at this painting?  
Pain? Joy? Love? Frustration?*

# make Art make Sense

## Roll up Your Sleeves

Now that you understand more about Sara's use of contrasting surface treatments and curvilinear shapes to tell a narrative, head over to *make Art make Sense* and create a picture of your own.

Follow Sara's process and start with a simple shape. Cut out a form from one of the fancy papers and glue it on to the manilla paper. Now create another shape responding to the first. Continue to play, while using contrasting materials: opaque versus translucent, iridescent versus matte, textured versus smooth. Overlap shapes. Use the stencils provided or create from your imagination.

Hang up your artwork to share with others or take it home.

