



BIMA Recognizing  
Achievement in  
the Visual Arts

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Images:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1RfuMkMAjS60G9geJB3kHmGVxU79auSTd?usp=sharing>

## Four Outstanding Artists Win BIMA's 2025 BRAVA Award—Congratulations to Sarah Bryant, Dan Friday, Yolanda Galery, and Nikki McClure

(Bainbridge Island, Wash.) — Bainbridge Island Museum of Art (BIMA) is proud to announce the **2025 BRAVA Award recipients: Sarah Bryant, Dan Friday, Yolanda Galery, and Nikki McClure**. BRAVA stands for “BIMA Recognizes Achievement in the Visual Arts” and celebrates contemporary artists, craftspeople, and makers whose work demonstrates artistic merit, technical mastery, and contribution to the field.

From hundreds of talented applicants in the four categories of **Artist's Book Artist, Indigenous and First Nations Artist, Emerging Artist, and Children's Book Illustration Artist**, jurors selected these four winners. Each of these extraordinary individuals will receive an **unrestricted award of \$15,000** in recognition of their artistic excellence and contribution to their field, as well as a video that captures their perspectives as contemporary artists and makers. The BRAVAs were made possible by a visionary cultural advocate and BIMA supporter who was inspired by the museum's commitment to finding ways to directly recognize and support working artists and craftspeople.

“In this time, when opportunities and foundational support for the arts are feeling fragile and imperiled, we are excited beyond measure to make this kind of direct and meaningful contribution to four game-changing artists,” said Sheila Hughes, BIMA Executive Director. “It's BIMA's honor and privilege to find a new way for a museum to support and spotlight not just these winners' work, but the artistic contributions of all working artists. We hope the BRAVA Award serves as a signpost of appreciation and encouragement — a heartfelt valentine that

conveys how essential artists are to the creation and vibrance of a healthy, beautiful community.”

For more information on the BIMA's BRAVA Awards, including artist videos, go to <https://www.biartmuseum.org/brava-award-winners-2025/> or visit each artist's BRAVA page at the links below.

BIMA's second class of BRAVA Award recipients is:

## **Sarah Bryant**

### **Artists' Books Artists Award** (United States)

Watch their video and read their Artist Statement here:

<https://www.biartmuseum.org/brava-award-winners-2025-sarah-bryant/>

This award supports the work of contemporary visual artists and craftspeople working in the genre of Artist's Books. Artist's Books are works of art that utilize the concept of the book in some fashion, in works that often reveal themselves to the user over time and through interpretation, manipulation, or storytelling. Artist's books can include small edition works or one-of-a-kind objects.

Sarah Bryant is a book artist whose work investigates the relationship between structure, language, and the communication of complex information. Originally from the United States, she received her MFA in Book Arts from the University of Alabama, where she developed a deep interest in the book as both a physical object and a conceptual framework. Her background in letterpress printing, design, and binding informs her interdisciplinary approach to bookmaking.

Bryant founded Big Jump Press in 2006, a platform through which she produces limited edition artist books, prints, and design projects. Her work frequently draws from data, archival materials, and found texts, reconfiguring them into tactile, carefully constructed objects. With a longstanding interest in diagrammatic and scientific imagery, she often explores topics such as human anatomy, demographics, and systems theory through visual and material experimentation.

Bryant's books have been collected and exhibited internationally, including in institutions such as the Library of Congress, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Yale Arts Library. She has taught book arts and design in a variety of academic settings across the U.S. and the U.K., and currently lives in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, where she is an associate professor of Book Arts at The University of Alabama. Through her work, Bryant continues to examine how books serve as spaces of inquiry, reflection, and shared meaning.

## **DAN FRIDAY**

### **Native American & First Nations Artist Award** (Salish Sea region)

Watch their video and read their Artist Statement here:

<https://www.biartmuseum.org/brava-award-winners-2025-dan-friday/>

This award supports the work of contemporary visual artists and craftspeople who self-identify as a Native American and/or First Nations Artist. The Award program is open to artists working in disciplines including but not limited to painting, sculpture, weaving,

textile, carving, printmaking, photography, video, performance art, beading, installation, pottery, and mixed media or collaborative projects. Artists and craftspeople may work in contemporary and/or traditional content and forms.

Dan Friday is a Seattle-based glass artist and an enrolled member of the Lummi Nation. Raised in a family that valued creativity and cultural tradition, Friday was immersed early in the making of objects and the stories behind them. Without television and with strong ties to his Coast Salish heritage, his formative years were shaped by hands-on learning and a deep connection to community.

After discovering glassblowing in his youth, Friday found an artistic medium that transformed his life. What began as an awakening soon became a lifelong pursuit. For over twenty-five years, he has developed a body of work that draws from ancestral imagery while pushing the boundaries of contemporary glass art. His practice blends traditional Coast Salish forms with modern techniques, often through totemic or narrative sculptures that reflect both personal and cultural memory.

Friday has taught at institutions including the University of Washington, Pilchuck Glass School, and Haystack Mountain School of Crafts. He has held residencies at the Museum of Glass, Corning Museum of Glass, and Dream Community in Taiwan. His work is held in public and private collections worldwide. Through his glass practice, Friday continues a lineage of storytelling, honoring the past while forging new ground in the present.

## **YOLANDA GALERY**

### **Emerging Artist Award** (Puget Sound region)

Watch their video and read their Artist Statement here:

<https://www.biartmuseum.org/brava-award-winners-2025-yolanda-galery/>

This award supports the work of contemporary visual artists and craftspeople from the Puget Sound region who are at an early stage of their professional careers. The BRAVA Award for Emerging Artist is focused on artists who have seen early recognition of their visual arts practice, are serious about their pursuit of a career in visual arts, and whose work is deemed promising by a jury.

Yolanda Galery is a contemporary painter based in Seattle, Washington, whose work explores themes of cultural identity, natural beauty, and self-acceptance through vibrant portraiture. Born in Denver and raised in Yakima, Washington, Galery showed early interest in the arts, drawing, writing, and making music throughout her childhood. Though she has long been creatively inclined, she began developing a focused painting practice in 2020, turning to color and portraiture as tools for self-expression and cultural affirmation.

Galery's work is rooted in her African-American heritage and often centers Black women, natural hairstyles, and emotive expressions. Her bold use of color challenges societal beauty standards and uplifts representations of melanated people with strength, joy, and nuance. Her portraits are both deeply personal and socially resonant, offering a counter-narrative to mainstream depictions of Black identity.

Currently practicing full-time while balancing motherhood, Galery is in the early stages of her career and embraces her path as an emerging artist. She continues to refine her voice through acrylic and digital media, and is building her presence through local exhibitions, collaborations, and community-based projects. Her art is a celebration of resilience, grace, and the beauty of being unapologetically seen.

## NIKKI McCLURE

2025 SPECIAL CHOICE CATEGORY:

### Children's Book Illustrator Award (Puget Sound region)

Watch their video and read their Artist Statement here:

<https://www.biartmuseum.org/brava-award-winners-2023-nikki-mcclure/>

This award supports the work of contemporary visual artists from the Puget Sound region who work in the field of Children's Book Illustration. Work may include original illustration included and published within the book format, and designed for a readership of 16 years or under. Work can include book cover, inside illustrations, and whole book design.

Nikki McClure is a children's book illustrator and author based in Olympia, Washington, best known for her intricate paper cuts and evocative portrayals of life in the Pacific Northwest. Raised in Kirkland, McClure developed a deep connection to the Salish Sea through ferry rides, forest walks, and explorations of the shoreline. Her early curiosity about the natural world led her to study marine biology and natural history at The Evergreen State College, where she began combining art and science as a way to understand and celebrate home.

In 1996, while creating her first children's book, *Apple*, she began cutting paper with an X-Acto knife, developing her signature style: bold, hand-cut images that reflect a sense of place, community, and seasonal rhythms.

Since then, McClure has authored and illustrated sixteen children's books and illustrated eight others, receiving national recognition, including New York Times honors and a Washington State Book Award. Her work has been exhibited in museums and bookstores across the U.S. Through her books and artwork, McClure crafts a vivid and tender connection between young readers and the natural world of their home.

### Images for all artists:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1RfuMkMAjS60G9geJB3kHmGVxU79auSTd?usp=sharing>

*For more information on the BIMA's BRAVA Awards, go to*

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### About Bainbridge Island Museum of Art:

Bainbridge Island Museum of Art inspires curiosity, wonder, and understanding by connecting people with the contemporary art and craft of the Puget Sound region. The art museum exhibits,

interprets, preserves, collects, and promotes works of proven cultural value as well as new works by emerging artists and craftspeople.

The art museum is open daily, year-round, from 10am-5pm, and admission is always free. BIMA is located in beautiful downtown Bainbridge Island, at the corner of Hwy 305 and Winslow Way, just steps away from the ferry terminal, and with easy access via public transportation or by car from the Kitsap Peninsula.

BIMA is supported through contributions by members and donors like you, with ongoing support from the Laird Norton Wetherby, Cogwheel Construction, The Klorfine Foundation, Leslie & Michael Lebeau, Chap & Eve Alvord, John & Ann Underwood, Norcliffe, Kathy Alvord Gerlich, Gnarly Tree Foundation, Ames Family Foundation, Stoel Rives LLP, M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, Capital Group Private Client Services, TEW Foundation, BIMA PRISM, ArtsFund, CascadePBS, ArtsWA, Public Display Art, Bainbridge Community Foundation.

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