

# Kwantlen Polytechnic University partner with the City of Surrey

Kwantlen Polytechnic University's Fine Arts Department partner with the City of Surrey to bring this public art mural project to life! Students and faculty of a summer course called "Artistic Practice in the Community" participated in creating these vibrant and engaging public art murals for the Newton Arena and Community Center. Listed below are each group's artist statement reflecting the ideas behind their murals.



Untitled, 2014 Acrylic on panel  
By Pauline Tiongson, Alison MacDonald,  
Steven Lee, Robert Kovacic

Our mural embodies the multiculturalism of Surrey through the use of patterns found in traditional and contemporary fabrics. Surrey is a culturally diverse city with its inhabitants originating from all over the world, and we want to celebrate its diversity in an abstract manner. Our mural uses vibrant colours and patterns coming together as one image, much like Surrey's diverse population living together in one community.



King George & 72nd, 2014 Vinyl Print on panel  
By Kira Wu, Paulo Majano (KPU faculty)

"King George & 72nd" illustrates an aerial view of landscape that have transformed from rural farmland to one of the busiest, and thriving community and business areas of Surrey. The red-toned archival image taken between 1962-1966 make reference to the large areas of dense forest and land that once existed in the Surrey landscape, the vibrant blue, graphic line drawing, loosely represent architecture and development in the area. The pin-drop icon is not a direct representation of where the Newton Arena is located. The key elements highlighted are the patterns and how spectators might understand location. The question one might come to ask is how do we locate ourselves in a world mediated by technology?



Untitled, 2014 Acrylic on panel  
By Cayley Carlson, Jess Orrin, Hailey Logan  
Shandis Harrison, Andres Salaz

In this group collaboration, the art mural brings together ideas of inclusiveness, multiculturalism and storytelling from an abstract and Surrealist standpoint. The foreground features three figures in various poses, surrounded by indigenous plants. While the foreground has very traditional figurative elements, the background is an abstract rush of colour inspired by the flattened landscapes of Gustav Klimt and the Art Nouveau movement. The composition encompasses an other-worldly state in a space where patterns of sharp, geometric shapes juxtapose against swirls of boldly-coloured contours, ensnaring the painting as a whole in vines of dreamlike plant-life inspired by the local flora of the sword fern and the Oregon grape.



Suburbia's Original Inhabitants, 2014 Acrylic on panel  
By Tessa Nickel, Natalie Mussell, Harpreet Mandher  
Alyx Essers, Angell Wu

In "Suburbia's Original Inhabitants" -this group showcased one squirrel in an effort to allow the image to pop, and for the mural to have a single strong vision. The graphic quality of the painting allowed different styles of the individual artists to come together and create a unified piece. Bringing attention to one of the animals that we see every day, and may take for granted in a suburban area, the squirrel becomes a strong symbol of how animals adapt to their surrounding environment. People still coexist with little critters that have learned to live with us and in some cases, become dependant on us. It's a fun and unique way to bring nature to a place where we are not necessarily surrounded by nature and are instead surrounded by the city walls made of concrete and metal.