

## **'Sabrina'**

2023

Oil on aluminum panel

30 x 40 in

\$5200.00

'My name is Sabrina Ishimwe, and I work as a part-time model and interior designer. I have had the privilege of growing up in multiple places with different cultures and traditions, such as: Rwanda, India, Kenya, and Rome. Now my home is Canada.

No matter what culture you come from, what religion you follow, or country you reside in; a woman is identified and treated differently. As someone who comes from a culture where women are still treated as if they were part of the older generation, women empowerment is very important to me. Gender identity and culture are strongly intertwined because they influence daily life not only at home and in the family, but also in the workplace and in the community.

Being both black and a woman doubles the discrimination against me. Being put in these tiny little boxes comes with unconscious prejudice, racism, sexism, and all the other restrictions. Unfortunately, this also means being frequently dismissed or undervalued, and told to wait your turn, as well as a lack of education, support, or community to go to. I decided to donate to the organization, 'Black Women Connect', because it aims to build a community where black women can come together, feel heard, and support one another.

It was a delight to be part of 'Women of the West Coast: Celebrating Diversity' Exhibition as it brought beautiful women from many cultures to create something all together.' – Sabrina Ishimwe

*Charity Organization: Black Women Connect | [www.blackwomenconnectvancouver.com](http://www.blackwomenconnectvancouver.com)*

## **'Faith**

2023

Oil on aluminum panel

18 x 24 in

\$3015.00

'My name is Faith Mutoni from Rwanda-Kigali, and I am part of the 'Women of the West Coast: Celebrating Diversity' Exhibition. I've always loved art, dance, and having a strong female voice through my hobbies and scars. I chose The Oladele Foundation charity to donate to because of a difficult time in my life six years ago. I was diagnosed with cancer in Canada, where I had no family, was still adjusting to moving to and was experiencing culture shock. It was the most difficult time of my life, not because I had cancer, but because I was an international student with no loved ones nearby. As a result, this charity drew my attention as I can empathize and identify with patients who are experiencing similar difficulties and challenges as I did. I would adore the opportunity to meet these patients in person and spend time with each of them in a hospital or clinic setting. That is one of my dreams and goals and I encourage others to do the same.' – Faith Mutoni

*Charity Organization: The Oladele Foundation | [www.oladele.ca](http://www.oladele.ca)*

**'Allison'**

2023

Oil on aluminum panel

18 x 24 in

\$3015.00

'My name is Allison Thompson, and I am the curator behind this exhibition 'Women of the West Coast: Celebrating Diversity', as well as an interior designer in Canada. I felt a strong connection to the theme of this exhibition as I wanted to depict female empowerment, to show others to have confidence in your own skin and to encourage more individuals to do the same. I feel most empowered when I can help people find their voice, and elevate their story. Unfortunately, today we still see oppression towards females and for me it is extremely important to amplify voices of other women that still face these struggles today. I have decided to partner with the Women Moving Millions charity to foster stronger female empowerment connections globally.' – Allison Thompson

*Charity Organization:* Women Moving Millions | [www.womenmovingmillions.org](http://www.womenmovingmillions.org)

**'Liza'**

2023

Oil on aluminum panel

24 x 36 in

\$4285.00

'My name is Liza Eslava. I was born and raised in a loving family in Colombia. I moved out of my country at 17 years old, seeking better opportunities in Canada. That would not have been possible without my mom's hard work, trust, and support. I always say that I became the woman I am today, because of her. She is the image of what I believe a strong female figure looks like. She has shown me what a woman can do and has always encouraged me to be a better person. My mom is an example of determination, courage, and unconditional love.

I chose the Mom2Mom charity to donate to because we can improve the lives of children by supporting their mothers, giving them the tools, resources, and opportunities they need to have control over their lives, and reach their full potential, not only as mothers, but also as women.

Being part of the 'Women of the West Coast: Celebrating Diversity' Exhibition has been an amazing and fun experience. Being surrounded by smart, talented, and empowering women, while also contributing, has been a pleasure.' – Liza Eslava

*Charity Organization: Mom2Mom | [www.m2mcharity.ca](http://www.m2mcharity.ca)*

## **'Eleina'**

2023

Oil on aluminum panel

16 x 24 in

\$2690.00

'I'm Eleina Lucas. I'm a neuroscience student, a part-time model, Inuk and very excited to be a part of this exhibition. This was the first project I did that featured my hand *kakiniit* (traditional Inuit tattoos). I was initially nervous about how they might be perceived. Now I am immensely honored to represent my culture and increase the representation of Inuit women in art.

Being an Indigenous woman studying in a male-dominated field has increased my awareness of the necessity of female empowerment. It is so easy to start doubting your abilities when most people around you don't have to face the same obstacles. I am lucky to have found a community of friends and family to remind me of how powerful and talented I am, and I think every woman deserves this same support.

Inuit women are among the strongest and most resilient women I know. This is why I decided to donate to ᐃᓂᐃᑦ ᑕᐱᓃᑦ ᑲᓗᑕᑦᑦ (Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, ITK). This organization protects and advances the rights and interests of Inuit in Canada, which are constantly being ignored. Increasing the visibility and amplifying the voices of Inuit is vitally important to preserve my culture and pass down the traditions for years to come.' – Eleina Lucas

*Charity Organization: Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ᐃᓂᐃᑦ ᑕᐱᓃᑦ ᑲᓗᑕᑦᑦ) | [www.itk.ca](http://www.itk.ca)*

**'Chai**

2023

Oil on aluminum panel

24 x 36 in

\$4285.00

'Hi my name is Shu Wen Chai, I am also an artist. As a young Asian woman living in North America, I have experienced the complexities and challenges of navigating multiple cultures. Born and raised in Malaysia, I moved to Canada as a teenager, and the transition has been both exhilarating and daunting. While I have been fortunate to meet many opened-minded and welcoming individuals, I have had experiences that are unpleasant as a woman and as a minority.

News on hate crimes against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) has only amplified these challenges. Like many others, I was horrified and saddened by the news of Asian elders being attacked and harassed in public spaces. It is heartbreaking to think that members of my community are being targeted simply because of their ethnicity.

That's why I strongly support the Stop AAPI Hate movement and will be donating to this charity. This organization seeks to raise awareness of anti-Asian racism and advocate for policies that address it. As a minority myself, I understand the importance of standing up for those who are vulnerable and advocating for change. I believe that by sharing our stories and raising our voices, we can make a difference and create a more inclusive and equitable society.' – Shu Wen Chai

*Charity Organization: Stop AAPI Hate | [www.stopaapihate.org](http://www.stopaapihate.org)*

## **'Melissa'**

2023

Oil on aluminum panel

24 x 36 in

\$4285.00

'My name is Melissa Cotton from Chile, and I am 31 years old. I work full-time in the hospitality industry in Vancouver, and I enjoy being part of modeling projects as a creative outlet and for causes I feel a strong connection to, such as this project 'Women of the West Coast: Celebrating Diversity'. I moved to Canada seven years ago to find better opportunities and personal growth.

My mom raised me along with three siblings, all by herself. It was nothing new for her since all of the women in her family had also raised their children completely on their own. Watching her as a hard-working woman, with two different jobs and no emotional support, made me and my siblings stronger and more independent - very important qualities to have as a woman and as an immigrant.

I chose MOMSCanada as my charity to donate to, as I believe that as important as it is to have financial aid, single moms also need emotional care and spiritual guidance so they feel a purpose in life and have extra support that they can provide to their children.' – Melissa Cotton

*Charity Organization: MOMSCanada | [www.momscanada.ca](http://www.momscanada.ca)*