

FRANCE BENOIT: 2023 EMERGING ARTIST GRANT RECIPIENT

France Benoit is a mixed media encaustic painter and sculptor who lives in Quebec, Canada. Inspired by houses in Europe, her distinctive work takes the form of little houses with vibrant colors and recycled parts incorporated in them.

France began her artistic career 18 years ago working with gourds and then discovering encaustic in 2017. She writes: "It was love at first sight" and she has never looked back. France is largely self-taught as well as attending workshops from renowned encaustic artists like Alicia Tormey, Shary Bartlett, and Leah McDonald. She also joined ***Painting with Fire*** and learned from many of the participating artists. She has participated in numerous exhibitions and won First Prize in 2022 in a local exhibition.

France plans on buying either a Roland HOTbox to lower her electrical consumption or more supplies to complete her series of sculptures called "Happiness Is Elsewhere." This project is very dear to France. Its' focus is on the verbal abuse of children by their parents. This abuse is not seen, and she writes: "Even if this violence is not imprinted on their body for others to see, it is printed in their head." France has interviewed people who experienced this kind of ordeal, and heard of their childhood experiences, their eventual escape, and their subsequent healing process. For each of these testimonials, she is building a house that encapsulates some of the emotions they experienced.



To see more of France's work, go to: www.FranceBenoit.art
Instagram: france_benoit_encaustique
Facebook: francebenoitencaustique

