



Edmonton artist selected for second mural on Peterborough's Hunter Street bridge

Jamie Steel

Peterborough This Week | Aug 08, 2016

PETERBOROUGH — An artist from Edmonton is excited to start painting a mural on the underside of Peterborough's Hunter Street bridge.

On Monday (Aug. 8), Artspace and the City of Peterborough announced Jill Stanton, a mural artist from Canada's west coast, had been chosen to complete the second mural for the Hunter Street Bridge Mural Project. The decision came after an extensive call for proposals and a juried review process.

Stanton says much of her work plays with the sense of scale and for this project in particular, she wanted to draw attention to some of the region's lesser-known biodiversity. Her plan is to paint bloodroot, a native plant that attracts ants, across her concrete canvas. The size of the art will give pedestrians passing by an ant's-eye-view.

"I'm really excited to be working on this mural and to be in Peterborough for a few weeks, at least," says Stanton, who arrived in Peterborough for the first time late Sunday (Aug. 7) afternoon.

Artspace describes Stanton as an artist who uses the language of comics and graphic narrative to examine themes of dreams, nature, technology and the future. While her work spans various sizes, from smaller drawings in graphic novels and comic books to large-scale public pieces, Stanton considers herself a mural artist by trade.

To date, Stanton has completed about a dozen murals before but never on a curved surface; the challenge is part of what made the call from Artspace so intriguing.



Jill Stanton, an artist from Edmonton, was chosen to paint the second mural on the Hunter Street bridge in Peterborough.



“The surface of the mural was really attractive to me,” she says.

The new mural, tentatively set to be unveiled Sept. 1, will add to the ongoing bridge project, funded through the City’s Public Art Program and coordinated by Artspace.

Jon Lockyer, director of Artspace, says he’s excited to work with the City to bring more art to Peterborough as well as to collaborate with Flavour, a downtown clothing store, once again.

Mike Watt, owner of Flavour, shares that excitement.

“We really like doing anything that has any impact on downtown and Peterborough in general,” he says, noting the store will work with Stanton to design, manufacture and print a t-shirt to complement and coincide with the unveiling of the mural.

“Hopefully, in the end, we sell it out,” says Watt, whose company embarked on a similar partnership last year with the artist responsible for the first mural on the bridge.

“In the end, we get to make a donation to the artist and a donation to Artspace,” he adds.

After selling out the t-shirts designed by Kirsten McCrea, Watt says Flavour was able to give \$500 back to McCrea and \$500 to Artspace.

Stanton expects to get started on the mural as early as Tuesday (Aug. 9) and will spend the next few weeks bringing her idea to life.

In addition to completing various private mural commissions, Stanton has also seen her work featured in Manning Hall at the Art Gallery of Alberta, the 2015 Alberta Biennial of Contemporary Art and the 2015 Sled Island Music Festival in Calgary. Furthermore, she was shortlisted for the 2015 Eldon & Anne Foote Visual Arts Prize.

The Edmonton artist is currently working on a long-form graphic novel while pursuing research for upcoming solo exhibitions.

To view more of Stanton’s work, visit jstanton.ca or follow her on Instagram at [@Jil_Pickle](https://www.instagram.com/Jil_Pickle) for updates about the Peterborough mural.

Jamie Steel is a reporter with Metroland's Kawartha division. She can be reached at jsteel@mykawartha.com. Follow her on Twitter at [@jamiecsteel](https://twitter.com/jamiecsteel) and Peterborough This Week on Facebook

Jon Lockyer of Artspace, artist Jill Stanton, Bec Groves of Artspace, Bruce Stonehouse of the City's Public Art Committee and Mike Watt of Flavour have some fun Monday (Aug. 8) as Stanton is announced as the artist for the second mural on the Hunter Street bridge.



NEWS LOCAL

Artist Jill Stanton creating new mural for archway under Hunter Street Bridge in Peterborough



By Jessica Nyznik, The Peterborough Examiner
Wednesday, August 24, 2016 12:36:50 EDT AM





Artist Jill Stanton used a Sky Jack while painting her mural under an archway of the Hunter Street Bridge on Tuesday. Jessica Nyznik/Peterborough Examiner/Postmedia Network

Artist Jill Stanton used a Sky Jack while painting her mural under an archway of the Hunter Street Bridge on Tuesday.

Stanton's bloodroot design was selected from 36 artist submissions.

It's the second mural to go under the bridge.

The city funds the project and it's co-ordinated by Artspace, a local artist-run gallery.

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Edmonton artist Jill Stanton to paint next Hunter Street Bridge Mural in Peterborough

kawarthanow.com/kawarthanowguide/2016/06/22/jill-stanton-hunter-st-bridge-mural/

June 22, 2016

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Juried review process selects artist's proposal for mural inspired by native wildflower

By [kawarthaNOW](#) -
Published



Jill Stanton's mockup for her "Bloodroot" mural; inspired by a lesser-known native wildflower, this will be the second mural to be painted under the Hunter Street Bridge in Peterborough (image: Jill Stanton)

Artspace and the City of Peterborough have announced that Jill Stanton, an artist from Edmonton in Alberta, will complete the second mural for the Hunter Street Bridge Mural Project in Peterborough.

Stanton's proposal for "Bloodroot", selected following a juried review process, was inspired by a lesser-known native wildflower.

"I wanted to use a motif that would inject a feeling of nature into the concrete structure of the underpass as well as something that has a connection to the Peterborough area," Stanton says. "This sparked the idea of using the humble Bloodroot [*Sanguinaria canadensis*], a wildflower native to the Peterborough area, as the main focal point of

the mural.”

“The Bloodroot is a small but beautiful plant with small white flowers, distinctive green foliage, and beautiful roots which ‘bleed’ red juice when cut open,” she adds. “The plant has an interesting history of being used as traditional dyestuff and medicine in Indigenous cultures.”

“Likely, many Peterborough residents have seen Bloodroot several times on nature walks or hikes, perhaps not giving the plant too much consideration.”



Stanton is an visual artist with a history of large-scale mural and public art projects. She uses the language of comics and graphic narrative to examine themes of dreams, nature, technology and the future. Her work spans various scales — from smaller drawings in graphic novels and comic books — to exploring pattern and environment in large-scale murals and transitory public pieces.

“I am interested in how murals can change scales within environments that people are used to seeing on a daily basis,” Stanton explains. “Seeing the flower on such a grand scale may lead to viewers noticing Bloodroot in real life on their next walk and perhaps, in turn, giving a little more attention to the small natural wonders around them.”

Stanton’s mural will be installed adjacent to the inaugural Hunter Street Bridge Mural, Kirsten McCrea’s popular “Electric City”.

For examples of Stanton’s other work, visit her website at www.jstanton.ca.



Jill Stanton's work has as been featured in Manning Hall at the Art Gallery of Alberta, the 2015 Alberta Biennial of Contemporary Art, the 2015 Sled Island Music Festival in Calgary, and various private mural commissions (photo: Jill Stanton)

Edmonton artist Jill Stanton painting second Hunter St. bridge mural in Peterborough

kawarthanow.com/2016/08/11/jill-stanton-hunter-st-bridge-mural-2/

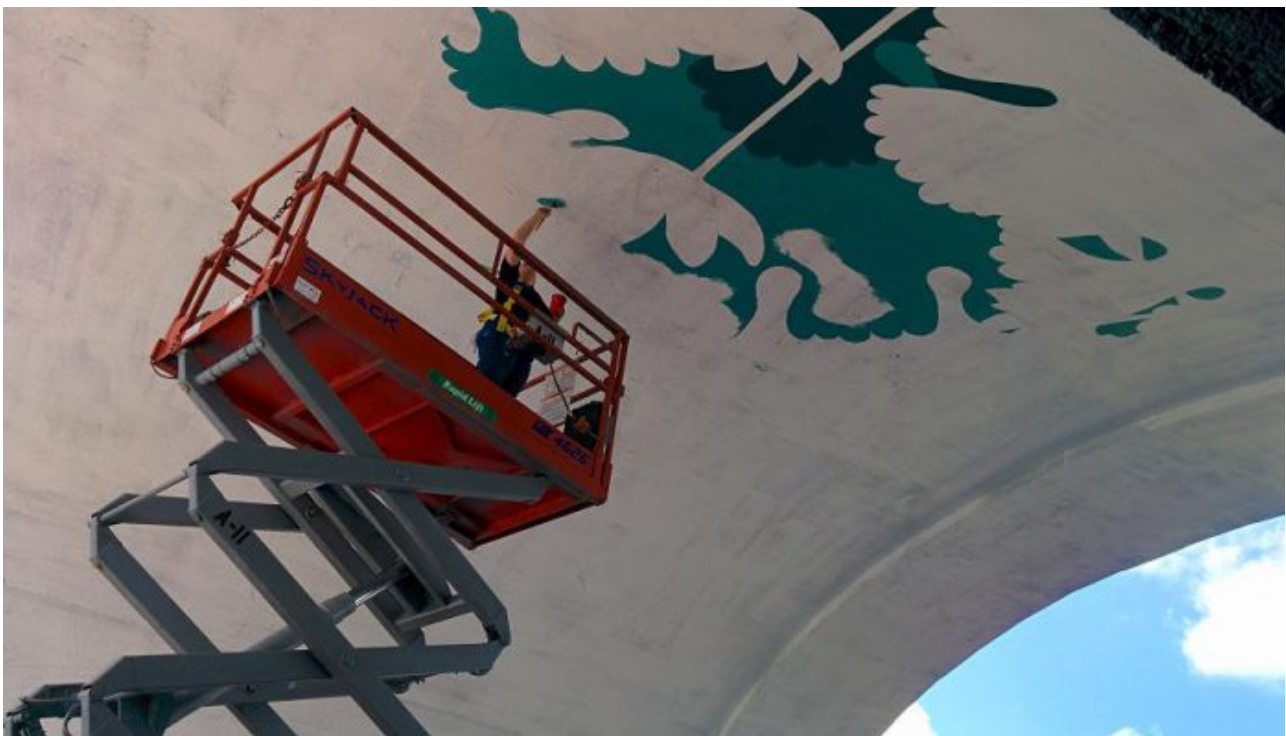
Bruce Head

- [News & Community](#)

Stanton's bloodroot-themed design expected to be completed by September

By [Bruce Head](#) -

Published August 11, 2016 | Updated August 17, 2016 at 9:47 am



Edmonton artist Jill Stanton on the scissor lift under the Hunter St. Bridge in Peterborough. After completing a pencil outline, she has begun to paint her bloodroot mural design. (Photo: Bruce Head / kawarthaNOW)

It's not the Sistine Chapel, but painting an archway ceiling under a bridge is challenging enough for Edmonton artist Jill Stanton.

In June, Artspace and the City of Peterborough selected Stanton from among 36 artists to paint the second mural for the Hunter Street Bridge Mural Project in Peterborough.

Stanton's winning design is based on the bloodroot, a flowering plant native to eastern North America.

Stanton has been working under the bridge for several days, using a scissor lift to sketch her bloodroot mural design in pencil on ceiling and walls of the archway.

"I'm operating it myself," she told CBC's Susan McReynolds in an August 11th interview on CBC Radio's Ontario

Morning. “I’ve got my lift ticket, as you call it. I’m verified to operate it. It’s just me up there.”



Stanton is painting her bloodroot mural in the archway connecting James Stevenson Park with Quaker Park. The existing mural “Electric City” by Kirsten McCrea is in the archway to the right. (Photo: Bruce Head / kawarthaNOW)

Other than the challenge of using the scissor lift, Stanton also needed to figure out how to translate her two-dimensional flat design to a three-dimensional curved space. While she creates murals for a living, she’s never tackled a project like this before.

“That’s one of the challenges of the space,” she said in the CBC interview. “I’ve never done a ceiling before first of all, but I’ve also never done an archway. It’s a bit of a different thing altogether when you’re doing an arched ceiling instead of just a wall.”

“That’s the toughest part: getting the space right, the proportions right.”

Stanton is an visual artist with a history of large-scale mural and public art projects. She uses the language of comics and graphic narrative to examine themes of dreams, nature, technology and the future. Her work spans various scales — from smaller drawings in graphic novels and comic books — to exploring pattern and environment in large-scale murals and transitory public pieces.

Right now, Stanton’s bloodroot mural is in its initial stages, with Stanton having just completed the pencil sketch.

“Right now with the pencil, you really can’t see much,” she told Susan McReynolds. “People are really curious as to why I’m just going up and down on this lift. It doesn’t really look like much. Once the paint gets going, I think it’ll be a little more interesting for people.”

Along with an assistant, Stanton started applying paint on August 11th, with the objective of completing the mural by September.

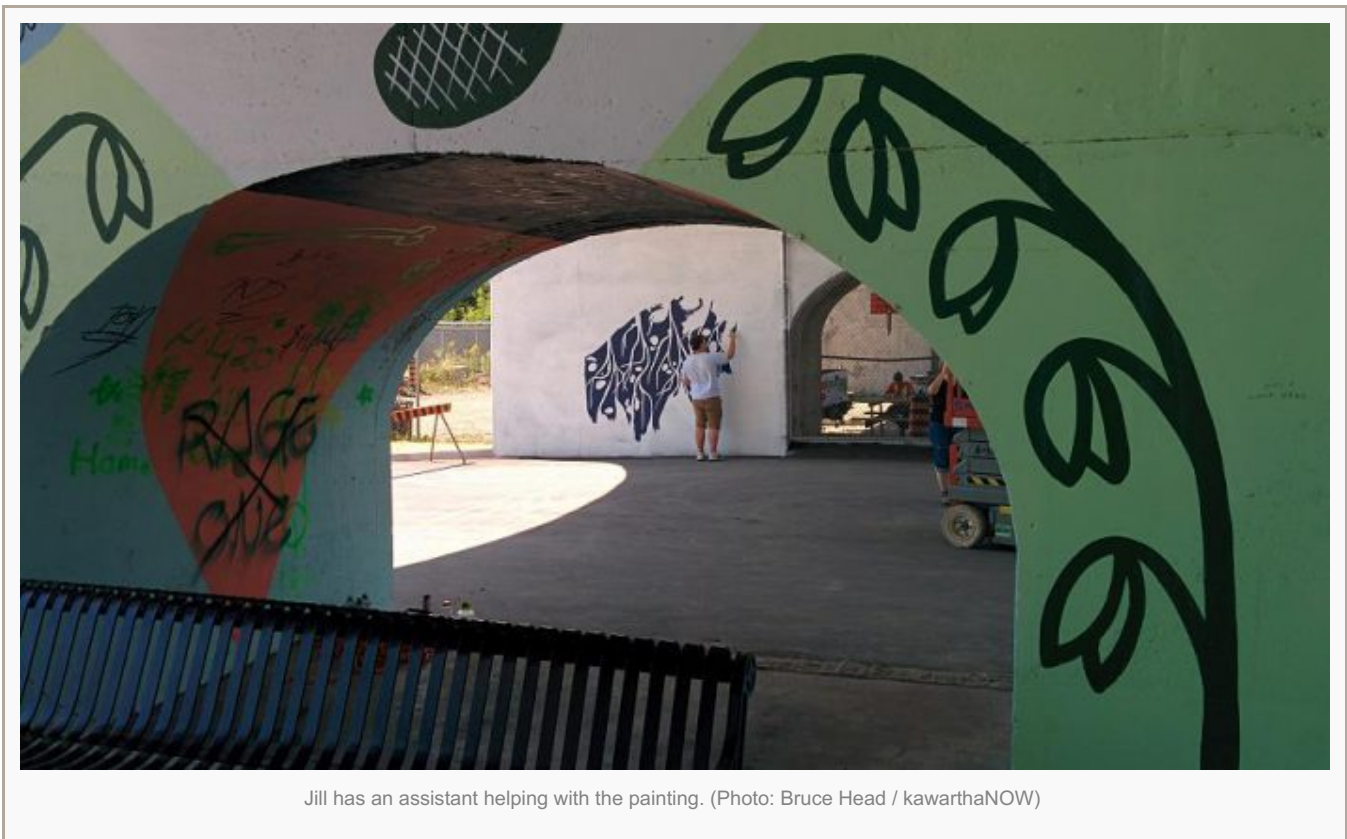
“We have a tentative opening party for the 1st of September,” she said in her CBC interview. “I’m hoping to be done by then, weather permitting.”

Along with the challenges of using the scissor lift, Stanton has been working during Ontario’s scorching heat wave (her home city of Edmonton has only averaged 23° C in July).

“I’m very lucky that it is an archway, so I’m mostly in the shade for the majority of the day. But is it quite hot out here.”

In 2014, the City of Peterborough completed renovations to James Stevenson Park, including the installation of decorative pavers and picnic benches under the east-end arches. Artspace was contracted by the city’s Arts Culture & Heritage Division to coordinate The Hunter Street Bridge Mural Project, funded by the city’s Public Art Program.

The first mural, “Electric City”, was completed by artist Kirsten McCrea last year.



Jill has an assistant helping with the painting. (Photo: Bruce Head / kawarthaNOW)



It's not visible in the photo, but the entire mural has been sketched in pencil on the archway. (Photo: Bruce Head / kawarthaNOW)



Jill consults with her assistant as they begin the painting process. The road under the archway is closed while the work is underway. (Photo: Bruce Head / kawarthaNOW)



A few days after this story, and painting has progressed even more (photo: Ryan Lalonde / Twitter)



Jill's winning design concept. She has completed sketching out the mural in pencil and has begun painting. (Graphic: Jill Stanton)