

JP Morel



JP Morel is an accomplished visual artist and active youth workshop leader (*Lookup Theatre* and *Youth Literacy South Grey-Bruce*) who lives and works in Durham, Ontario. In 2017, JP was the lead mural painter mentoring local youth with Maria Hupfield in her exhibition *East Wind/West Wind* at the Tom Thomson Art Gallery. In January 2019, for her solo show at the Durham Art Gallery, she created a large scale triptyc and later that summer also completed a sixty-foot mural on a downtown building highlighting historical figures and members of the Durham Sauntering Band. In 2020, she designed and lead her

team of volunteers tackling another sixty-foot mural depicting various animals which habitate in the Saugeen Conservation Area, earning a certificate of appreciation from Mayor Christine Robinson from the Municipality of West Grey.

“I once taught comedy to a group of teenagers in Beijing who did not speak English. Even so, the Director of the boarding school expected them to do a show that evening. They did great, by the way. So, when invited by the Tom Thomson Art Gallery to lead a group of local grade-nine art students exploring the question of what is ‘essential’ through drawing classes to inform a larger community mural, I thought, at least we all speak the same language! But even this commonality presented its own challenges amidst a global pandemic. We have all had to adapt to the changing environment, using our technological tools for facilitating creative exchanges. We related the virtual drawing workshops to the analogy of myself as the astronaut and the students, my ground control. Their imaginative responses to the question “What is essential to you” would then guide my final seventy-foot mural rendering in the Gallery. I write this note pre-launch. We are all busy assembling the rocket boosters. Testing our equipment. Strapping in with a sense of adventure that is required when approaching a new mission. I already trust them, feel their excitement, and thank them in advance for bringing the fuel for this launch into community mural making in space.”

JP Morel
March, 2021
@painterjpm

Renowned for her reliability, collaborative nature, and passion for educating young minds on the importance of literacy, theatre and visual art, JP continues to paint the town, celebrating the vitality of mural making in our local community.

A special thanks to the students at OSDSS for virtually collaborating with the Gallery on this community project!