

*"Everything passes. Robust art alone is eternal." Theophile Gautier*

## Post Graduate Decisions: Part One

facilitated by Amber-Lynn Thorne

The biggest question to follow the completion of your Bachelor's of Fine Arts degree is the daunting "now what"? These testimonials follow the different paths of four of 2015 Visual Arts program class graduates from Grenfell Campus, Memorial University.

*Jane Walker --*

There was an urgent sense of unfinishedness that I felt as I neared the end of my BFA, a feeling that I could approach my practice more holistically, with stronger and more informed results.

An interest in interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary art practice led me to the Masters of Research in Creative Practices at The Glasgow School of Art. The 12-month program consists of designing a practice-based research project supported with academic methodology, mixed-methods and techniques. During the final three months of the programme, I will conduct my research and present it as a body of practical work accompanied by a written dissertation.

My current research interests revolve around the feasibility of decentralized contemporary art practice within our province. Unfortunately, dichotomies between urban and rural art practice can exist hand-in-hand with the dichotomies between "high art" and "folk art". In Newfoundland and Labrador, we have a unique opportunity to invest in the value of permanent rural creative practice as a space for something new. Contemporary and distinctive work is capable of growing on the fertile creative grounds of our rural spaces if we provide appropriate support for the specific challenges of working remotely. Using successful models and support for contemporary artists in the Scottish Highlands and Islands, my research will aim to strategize ways of making rural creative practice a viable and sustainable option for contemporary artists in Newfoundland and Labrador.



*"Portrait of Myself as My Mother",  
Jane Walker, 2015, found textiles*



*Photo of Jane Walker  
by Amber-Lynn Thorne*