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*"An artist is an explorer. He has to begin by self-discovery and by observation of his own procedure. After that he must not feel under any constraint." Henri Matisse*

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## Post Graduate Decisions: Part Four

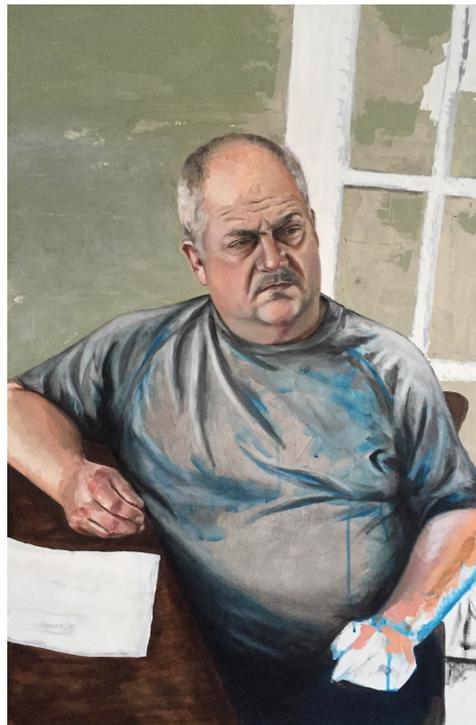
facilitated by Amber-Lynn Thorne

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.

-- Amber-Lynn Thorne --

Upon graduating with my BFA, I immediately began to feel a threatening push, wanting to steadily drive me out of my small rural community in order to pursue a career as an

artist. While my heart belonged in my tiny community, I knew that I would have to head out to the province's capital in order to nurture any semblance of a budding art career to the best of my ability. Although graduate programs sang to me from my computer screen, I decided it was best to initially cultivate my skills and develop as much as I could as an artist on my own. I quickly took a part-time job working at a gallery in St. John's, which allowed me to connect with a group of fellow artists on an individual level while also learning the ropes of the commercial arts sector in an experiential environment. In the fall of 2015 I received an emerging visual artist ArtsNL grant in support of my first solo exhibition which will take place in 2016. I also work part-time at The Rooms as an animateur, am a Visual Arts editor for Riddle Fence magazine and I teach private art lessons to young people. In pursuit of fulfilling my passion of guiding and sharing my knowledge with those who yearn for it, I am attending Memorial University in preparation of an education degree.



*"Father", Amber-Lynn Thorne, 2015, oil on cradled birch panel*



*Photo of Amber-Lynn Thorne by Jane Walker*