

Hot Jobs

Art-school grads are moving on to great careers and making their own jobs, too. Across media and across the country, they're defining the shape of art in the 21st century.



1. Stephen McLeod

"I started paying attention to these sounds—often only known by ceramicists—then I recorded and amplified them to integrate in sculptures."

— Amélie Proulx



2. Amélie Proulx



3. Layne Hinton

1. Stephen McLeod: Artist, web developer and part-time professor at Sheridan College

"I fell into art through modifying video games," says Stephen McLeod. "I never realized that being who I am now was even possible." Studying at Guelph, the self-described nerd took advantage of the art program's openness to pepper his studio education with courses in philosophy and computer science. On top of his own art practice and his collaborative work with Toronto's VSVSVS, McLeod now freelances as a web developer and teaches Interaction Design at Sheridan College. "It's all about how to use code creatively," McLeod explains. "I'm interested in thinking about the issues that technology brings up in my everyday life, and questions that I can pose to my students that are near to my heart."

2. Amélie Proulx: Ceramic artist and educator

In 2013, Amélie Proulx found a share of the limelight as the winner of the RBC Emerging Artist People's Choice Award. While pursuing her BFA at Concordia, Proulx became interested in the acoustic and kinetic properties of ceramics, prompting her to devour courses in micro-controller programming and mechanics as she began an MFA at NSCAD in 2008. Now, as an instructor who has taught at Concordia and CEGEPs in Quebec City, Proulx says, "My experience as a student taught me the language of different materials. My goal is always to facilitate my students' learning experience by encouraging them to develop a rigorous studio practice based on strong technical skills."

3. Layne Hinton: Artist and co-curator, Art Spin

Upon graduation from OCAD U in 2013, Layne Hinton was on to great things. She received the InterAccess Media Arts Award, which granted her access to workshops, gear, curatorial mentorship and space for her to hone her studio practice. But by that point, she'd also established herself as an ambitious curator. "My background as an artist influences Art Spin," says Hinton, who co-organizes the wildly successful cross-Toronto bicycle art tour. "It gives me and my co-curator, Rui Pimenta, a chance to create opportunities for other artists that we would want for ourselves: to create things like large and site-specific artworks in unconventional spaces."

4. Jordan Bennett: Artist and filmmaker

"Studying at Grenfell, we had a lot of great Indigenous artists come through who really showed how I could create work to help share my knowledge," says Jordan Bennett.

PHOTOS: JENNIFER TUDMAN