

NADIA CHANEY

Interdisciplinary Artist

Poetry • Visual Art • Music • Movement • Animation • Theatre • Social Practice

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Nadia Chaney is a first-generation Indian-Canadian interdisciplinary artist working across poetry, visual art, music, movement, animation, theatre, and social practice. Born in Saskatoon, raised in Ottawa, matured in Vancouver and Montreal, and currently based in Ottawa, all of which she recognizes as the traditional territories of Indigenous peoples who are its rightful stewards. Since 2002, Nadia has appeared on hundreds of stages, facilitated over 2,200 workshops on four continents, exhibited solo and group visual art shows across Canada and internationally, and published poetry, creative non-fiction, and peer-reviewed work in journals and anthologies. She specializes in creative risk-taking, community empowerment, and the intersection of contemplative and participatory practice.

Education

- **CAGS (Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies)**, European Graduate School, Art Therapy for Groups, 2019
- **M.A. Educational Philosophy**, Simon Fraser University, focus on Imaginative Education, 2010
- **Graduate Diploma in Dialogue and Negotiation**, Simon Fraser University, 2009
- **B.A. English Literature**, University of British Columbia, 2003
- **Royal Conservatory of Music**, Grade 10 Piano, 1998
- **ITF Tae Kwon Do**, Black Belt, 1998

Selected Awards, Honours & Nominations

- Expozine 2018 Award for Best Literary Publication, Reading Practice for Rust and Holograms (House House Press)
- Words Matter Slam, First Place Winner, Nuyorican Poets Cafe, New York City, 2017
- Cutthroat Magazine, Barry Lopez Creative Non-Fiction Contest Finalist, 2016
- Locked Horn Press America(s) Contest Finalist, 2015
- Lindenwood Review, Honourable Mention, 2016
- Cutthroat Magazine, Joy Harjo Poetry Contest Finalist, 2014
- Terrain.org 5th Annual Poetry Contest Finalist, 2014
- Georgia Straight, Best Open Air Interactive Theatre Event, Bollywood Wedding, 2009
- Leo Award Nomination, Best Scriptwriting in Lifestyle Category, I Sing On The Cake, 2009
- Vancouver Sun, Top 100 Most Influential Indo-Canadians living in BC, 2008
- Science Fiction Poetry Association, Judge's Pick, A Star Hunt, 2008
- Canadian Race Relations Best Practice Award, Peer Perspectives, 2005

Grants

- Ontario Arts Council exhibition grant through SAVAC, Ataraxia, 2023

Visual Art

Solo Exhibitions

- **Ataraxia**, paintings (acrylic on canvas) and pencil on paper, Lucki Delite, Montreal, March – May 2023
- **Travel Well**, micro-sculpture series with 21 drawings, Puny Gallery, curator Sarah Burgoyne, Montreal, February 2018
- **Eclectic Harmony**, Divination series, mixed media collage, Joe's Café, Vancouver BC, 2006

Selected Group Exhibitions

- **Healing Power of Art**, online juried exhibition, Manhattan Arts, September – November 2022
- **Fruition BIPOC**, juried group show, curator Raquel Paredes, Fish Dance drawing, Montreal, May 2022 (SOLD)
- **Embodied Resistance**, Feminist Art Conference, OCAD University, Toronto ON, January 2017 (two works from the Beautiful Ugly series)
- **Sacred Sisters**, Group Art Show, Witness series mixed media, Radha Yoga and Eatery, Vancouver BC, January 2007
- **Soul Call**, Group Show, Witness series mixed media, Interurban Gallery, Vancouver BC, 2007

Painting Commissions (direct-to-collector)

- Areeta Bridgemohan, 22"×31" watercolour on paper, 2025
- Michael Datura, 30"×36" acrylic on canvas, 2025
- Deepa Narayan, 30"×36" acrylic on canvas, 2024; 22"×31" watercolour on paper, 2026
- Venetia Vickers, 22"×31" mixed media on paper, 2024
- mia susan amir, 48"×48" diptych, acrylic on canvas, 2022
- Roger Sinha / Sinha Danse, two paintings on large circular drum skins, acrylic, 2016

Recent Sales

- 8 paintings sold to private collectors in 2025 (studio sale of works from 2019–2024)
- 1 painting on canvas, Rachel Navaneelan, River Mirror, Ottawa ON, March 2024
- 1 painting on canvas, Madlove, Bifurcations and Solace, Vancouver, July 2023
- 1 painting on canvas, Jill Abrahamse, Polyphonic Intuitions, Vancouver, March 2023
- 1 framed drawing, Fish Dance, Lucki Delite, Montreal QC, May 2022

Other Visual Project

- **Manic Manicures**, over 100 art manicures (portrait, landscape, abstract), 2012–2017, focused largely on never-before-painted nails
- Two drawings in Pip Magazine, Volume 2 (online), 2017

Multimedia & Interdisciplinary Work

Performances and Inter-media

- **Disaster is a Healing Knell** (*poet*), with Katherine McLeod and Erin Robinsong, Jardin Crépuscule, Montreal, September 2022. Site-specific poetry, song, and flamenco performance.
- **Indivisible** (*visual artist, writer, animator, performer*), interarts piece featuring 88 animated drawings; four nights at the MAI for Festival Accès Asie, Montreal, 2018; three additional Montreal shows for CAM de Tournée, 2020–2021. Produced by Farah Fancy at Le Groupe Herencias.

- **Poésie Flamenco** (*poet*), with Katherine McLeod (dance) and Alvaro Echánove (guitar and voice), Café Dépanneur for Mile End Poets Festival, Montreal, November 2019; La Vitrola, Montreal, March 2019; Café Dépanneur, December 2019
- **Illuminator** (*visual artist, writer, performer*), poetry, sculpture, and drawing presentation for the Stay Happy Collective, curated by Simon Wolf, Seattle, December 2016
- **Drawings and Dreams** (*artist, writer, performer*), music, poetry, and drawing presentation for the Self Love Cabaret, curated by Kama LaMackerel, Montreal, February 2016
- **Myrtle Silverspot: A Kitchen Confidential** (*writer, director*), multimedia play for Sista'hood Festival, 2009
- **Bollywood Wedding** (*assistant director*), Open Air Interactive Theatre Event for South Asian Arts, 2009 (Georgia Straight Best Site Specific)
- **Zeroes and Ones** (*writer, contest winner*), long lyrical poem for performance by Roger Sinha, Sinha Danse, 2009; published online and regularly remounted, including major remount in Jaipur, India, 2026
- **Only Nothing Lasts Forever** (*poet*), long lyrical poem as part of installation by A440Hz Electromagnetic Explorations, curator Celia King, Vancouver New Media Festival, September 2007

Animation / Film

- **I Sing On The Cake** (*writer, director, score, lead animator*), National Film Board of Canada Digital Storytelling, September 2008. Group Leo Award nomination, May 2009; screened at San Diego International Children's Film Festival, August 2009

Publications

Mixed-Genre Chapbook

- **Reading Practice for Rust and Holograms**, House House Press, December 2018 (commission). Winner of the Expozine 2018 Award for Best Literary Publication.

Published Poetry

- "Dundas Street Walking Poem", with Erin Robinsong, *Glyphoria Magazine: Poetic Systems*, ed. Klara du Plessis, September 2023
- "Abnegation" and "His Hand", *Philomena the Bird*, ed. Natalie Hannah, Battle Axe Press, February 2016 (chapbook)
- "Chalcedony", *Lindenwood Review*, Issue 6, ed. Beth Mead, 2016 (honourable mention, print journal)
- "Wintering Place" and "Grade Six Phys Ed", Locked Horn Press America(s) Contest Finalist anthology, eds. H. Alluri, A. Fuller, K. Fagan et al., Spring 2016
- "Daily, Under Ice Eulogy", *Flycatcher Journal*, ed. Christopher Martin, June 2015 (online journal)
- "Wintering Place", *Cutthroat Magazine*, Joy Harjo Poetry Contest Finalist, ed. Pamela Uschuk, 2014 (print journal)
- "Floating Temple, Clean and Fresh Market I", *Terrain.org* 5th Annual Poetry Contest Finalist, ed. Simmons B. Buntin, November 2014 (online journal)
- "What You Come to Know", *Naugatuck River Review*, ed. Lori Desrossiers, Summer 2014 (print journal)
- "The Prince of Bats", *Songs for a Passbook Torch*, eds. Truth Thomas and Melanie Henderson, Cherry Castle Publishing (anthology) 2012
- "Sun Spots", *Stay Solid! A Radical Handbook for Youth*, ed. Matt Hern, AK Press, 2013 (anthology)
- "A Star Hunt", Science Fiction Poetry Association, Judge's Pick, 2008 (chapbook)

Creative Non-Fiction & Articles

- "There's No Such Thing As the Voiceless", *Chicago Quarterly Review*, ed. Moazzam Sheikh, Spring 2017 (print journal)
- "The Hurlment of Generations", *Cutthroat Magazine*, Barry Lopez Creative Non-Fiction Contest Finalist, ed. Pamela Uschuk, 2016 (print journal)
- "Interview with Sayanthani Dasgupta", *Blood Orange Journal*, Fall 2016 (online journal)
- "Navigating into the Blue", *Kitch Art Magazine*, August 2009 (print journal)
- "Educating for Creativity", *Vancouver Sun*, February 4, 2009

Peer-Reviewed Journal

- "Book Review: The Great Image Has No Form", *CAET (Creative Arts in Education and Therapy) Journal*, ed. Tony Zhou, Spring 2018

Performance Poetry

Selected from hundreds of performances, 2002–present.

Selected Feature Engagements

- Love and Lingams, outside Article, Montreal QC (during lockdown), August 2020
- House House Press Quarantine Readings Series 4, online, May 2020
- House House Press Launch, Librairie Drawn and Quarterly, Montreal, February 2019
- Resonance Reading Series, Feature Poet, Montreal QC, February 2018
- Words Matter Slam Contest Winner, Nuyorican Poets Cafe, New York City, April 2017
- Café Co-Op Feature Poet, Verdun, Montreal, June 2016
- Mouth vs. Mic Feature Poet, Calabash Bistro, Vancouver BC, January 2013
- BEDROCC Feature Poet, Calabash Bistro, Vancouver BC, November 2012
- Bohemian Caress Feature Poet, Café Montmartre, Vancouver BC, September 2012
- SFPIRG (Simon Fraser Public Research Interest Group) Feature Poet, February 2012

Poetry Commissions

- Long performance poem, Polygon Gallery, Justin Ramsey, July 2021
- Long performance poetry, Roger Sinha / Sinha Danse, January 2021 (dance performance)
- "The Disappearance of Bees", Dr. Mark Winston, DIAL 10th Anniversary, WOSK Centre for Dialogue, January 2013 (performed and published online)
- Commissioned poem, Simon Fraser University Centre for Dialogue, January 2013
- "The Roundness", Dr. Joanna Ashworth, CIDA Diasporas in Development, June 2010 (performed live and on radio; published in conference report)
- Annual commission of one to five poems, Working Arts Society's Sistahood Celebration, 2006–2010 (except 2009, which was a play)

Other Selected Performances

- Epique Voices with Poésie Flamenco, La Vitrola, Dans Ta Tête Festival, Montreal, March 2020
- Performed with Abramz Tekya at World Music Day, National Theatre, Kampala, Uganda, 2014
- The Great Black North book launch, Frontenac House, Ottawa ON, February 2013
- Vancouver Carfree Festival, L.O.V.E Stage, June 2011
- Opened for D'bi Young Anitafrika, Nyala Café and Calabash Bistro, Vancouver BC, September 2010

- Governor General Michaëlle Jean Urban Arts Forum, Vancouver BC, January 2008
- Opened for Pacifica, Montmartre Café, Vancouver BC, February 2006
- Opened for Michael Franti, Sugar Refinery, Vancouver BC, 2001

Music

Selected Performance Ensembles

- **BPM / Banyen Roots** (hip hop / bhangra fusion trio), *lyrics and vocals*. Performances since 2006; EP released September 2008; cross-Canada tour April 2011.
- **Metaphor Sound System** (youth-oriented hip hop collective), *founding member, lyricist*. Over 350 shows on Art Starts in Schools tours since 2007; Vancouver Folk Fest 2008. Left in 2012; the collective continues.
- **Heds Hi** (world fusion six-piece ensemble), *lyrics and vocals*. Performances 2002–2005, regular spot at Nyala Restaurant, Vancouver BC.
- **in.stead** (women's a cappella trio), *lyrics and vocals*. Performances 2005–2008, including World Urban Forum 2006 and World Peace Forum 2006.

Recordings

- **22 Degrees of Beatitude**, produced by Tarun Nayar; lyrics and vocals, 2011
- **BPM EP**, produced by Rupinder Singh Sidhu; lyrics and vocals, 2008

Selected Social Practice Arts

Over 26 years in community arts as a facilitator and trainer; more than 2,200 workshops globally.

- **The Time Zone Research Lab**, *founder, head researcher, convener*. International arts-based research project into the nature of Time and Temporality, 2019–2021.
- **Cat Call**, *emcee and poet-in-residence*. All-women's open mic, Café Deux Soleils, Commercial Drive, Vancouver BC, 2002.
- **The Psi Co Sly Sho**, *founder, lead facilitator, artist-in-residence*. Weekly community forum with drum-and-bass and projection installation, Clove Record Bar, Vancouver BC, 2003.
- **The Surrey Urban Youth Project**, *founding member, lead facilitator, teaching artist*. Yearly youth-driven multimedia performance, Surrey BC, 2005–2010.
- **The Address**, *co-founder, lead facilitator, artist-in-residence*. Weekly performance on international news and politics, Nuba Restaurant, Vancouver BC, 2007.
- **Vancouver Car Free Fest**, *founding collective member, stage host, performer, board member*, 2005–2009 (festival ongoing).
- **ParPar: A Game for Change**, *designer, facilitator*. Live-action game exploring participatory economics, 2007.
- **The Cultural Medicine Cabinet**, *choir member*. Radical choir for community events, 2007–2011.
- **The Solitudes**, *performer*. Radical clown duet, three public performances, 2006–2009.
- **Travelling Aerobics**, *consultant, dramaturgy*. Travelling performance for community health, SFU Undergraduate Semester in Dialogue, 2010.

Selected Professional Development

- Anaphora Arts, Four-day Publishing Pitch-Fest, 2024
- Anaphora Arts, Novel Writing Bootcamp with Chris Abani, 2023

- LA Writers Lab, Rewrite Class with Al Watt, Summer 2023
- Manitoulin Conservatory for Creation and Performance, month-long residential clown training with John Turner (including intensive mask creation), 2019
- Ruth Zaporah, Action Theatre, five-day training intensives, Montreal 2013 and San Francisco 2014
- Way Out West, weeklong dance intensive (studied with Ruth Zaporah, Li Suh-Feh and others), 2013
- Las Dos Brujas Writers' Conference, studied with Chris Abani, 2012
- Port Townsend Writers' Conference, studied with Chris Abani, 2011
- Heart of Facilitation (HOF) Training, 2010
- VONA (Voices of Our Nations) Writers' Residency, studied with Elmaz Abinader, 2008/2009
- NUYU Popular Theatre Training Intensive, studied with Victor Porter, 2008
- Pacific Northwest Facilitator Training, 2004

Selected Mentors & Teachers

Chris Abani (poetry, fiction) • Ruth Zaporah (Action Theatre) • John Turner (clown) • Linda Rabin (Continuum Dance) • Elmaz Abinader (memoir) • Nancy Lee (short fiction) • Rupinder Singh Sidhu (lyrics, performance) • Camyar Chiachen (theatre direction) • Matt Hern (social practice) • Yves Ma (animation) • Miguel Sosa (piano) • Kelly Craig (trumpet) • John Merritt (jazz improvisation) • Clarissa Pinkola Estés (dream creativity) • Ann Randolph (writing and performing comedy)

References available upon request.