



ROSHAN JAMES (SHE/HER)

Multidisciplinary Artist, Poet, Musician & Business Leader

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EDUCATION

Honours Bachelor of Arts, English, graduated in top 3%

York University, Toronto, ON

English Literature and Economics

Queen's University

English Literature and Philosophy

Centre For Medieval Studies,
University of Toronto

BOARDS & MEMBERSHIPS

**Board of Directors, CAFKA,
Kitchener, ON**

**Board of Governors, Lutherwood,
Region of Waterloo, ON**

**Member of Grand River Artist
Collective (formerly ArtsPay),
Waterloo, ON**

**Member of the Art Gallery of
Ontario, Toronto, ON**

Roshan James (she/her) is a Tibetan-Indian multidisciplinary artist, poet, musician, and business leader, living as a settler in southwestern Ontario. As part of the South Asian diaspora, Roshan researches and experiments to create work that embodies decolonization, identity, timelessness, mindfulness, purpose, and healing. Entrenched in her work is anti-oppression advocacy and representation of marginalized, queer, and melanated voices to help dismantle colonial, capitalistic systems. As a vocalist, musician, and sound composer, Roshan is a recipient of a 2023 Canada Council for the Arts grant. She is deeply involved in advocating for mental health and the arts - Roshan is on the Board of Governors for Lutherwood Canada, and she sits on the Board of Directors for the Contemporary Art Forum Kitchener + Area (CAFKA). Roshan studied at Queen's University and the Centre for Medieval Studies at the University of Toronto, and she holds an Honours Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature from York University, summa cum laude. You'll find her on social media, most active on [Instagram at @roshan_james](https://www.instagram.com/roshan_james).

ARTIST STATEMENT

My primary goal is to make art for **community and public spaces to shape a more inclusive, compassionate world**. I am currently focused on questions about identity, origin, cosmology, and entanglement.

In my studio, I experiment with deconstruction, balance, bold colours, textures, and simple, upcycled material. Through the use of dramatic proportions and playful pairing of media, I convey my sense of wonder and remind myself that life here on Earth is small and temporary, but we are so much more. We are infinite energy embodied in everyday places, people, and things.

Similarly, through poetry, I play with words, phrasing, and simple juxtapositions to turn old ideas on their side. In music, I incorporate different textures of analog and digital sound to create meaning from chaos, producing ethereal soundscapes.

GRANTS & AWARDS

- **2023 Ontario Arts Council Grant.** Exhibition Assistance, recommended by Gallery Stratford.
- **2023 Canada Council for the Arts Grant.** Professional development for vocal training.
- **2022 Annual Juried Exhibition, ArtsPay - Honourable Mention Award for 'Mythology'**
- **2022 Region of Waterloo Arts Fund Grant (Spring round)**

VISUAL ARTS, EXHIBITIONS & INSTALLATIONS

- **2023 Ontario Arts Council Grant.** Exhibition Assistance, recommended by Gallery Stratford.
- **2023 Canada Council for the Arts Grant.** Professional development for vocal training.
- **2023 Kissing Bridge Art Tour.** Elmira, ON; Oct 21 & 22, 2023.
- **'Building Bridges of Peace' community art project - concept to realization.** Multicultural Festival of Elmira. Elmira, ON; September 16, 2023.
- **2023 Globe Studios Show.** Invited Artist. Kitchener, ON; September 15 & 16, 2023.
- **Peaceful Gathering Mural and Augmented Reality Gallery.** Downtown Community Centre, Kitchener; June 2023. Project funded by the Region of Waterloo Arts Fund, Spring 2022 round.
- **'People of Colour' and 'Red Crane' murals.** Gaukel Block, Kitchener, ON; May 2023.
- **'Layers of Me' and 'Red Crane.'** Published in Issue 46.2, Room Magazine; June 2023.
- **'One Asia, Many Cultures' illustration.** Created for the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) for Asian Heritage Month 2023.
- **The Beasting 2023 Artist** – One of 23 participating artists. 44 Gaukel, Kitchener, ON; April 2023.
- **Art Installation and written reflection**, one of 16 artists featured in Long Con Magazine Issue #13; Halifax, Nova Scotia; February 23, 2023.
- **Hearts, Arts and Healing** – Juried group exhibition of seven artists; 44 Gaukel, Kitchener, ON; January 30 to March 11, 2023.
- **2022 Homer Watson House and Gallery Annual Juried Exhibition** – One of 41 artists selected out of 200+; Kitchener, ON; November 11, 2022 to January 8, 2023.
- **2022 ArtsPay Annual Juried Show** – 44 Gaukel, Kitchener; received one of three Honourable Mention awards; November 26 and 27, 2022.
- **Organisme** – Solo Exhibition of 2D and 3D work. Neruda Arts, St. Jacobs, ON; November 25 to December 31, 2022.
- **Akasha** - Solo Exhibition of 2D and 3D work, curated by Glodeane Brown. Mind's Eye Studio & Art Gallery, Kitchener, ON; July 11 to August 6, 2022.
- **Divergence** - Solo Exhibition, curated by Amanda Langis. Stratford Pride Community Centre, Stratford, ON; July 3-31, 2022.
- **Connexions** - Group Exhibition of 2D and 3D work, curated by Katherine Pickering. The Paris Bohemian Gallery, Paris, ON; June 15-September 15, 2022.
- **ArtsPay** – Group exhibition, curated by Lauren Prousky. WalterFedy office, Kitchener, ON; March to August 2022.

BOOKS, PUBLICATIONS, SPOKEN WORD, MUSICAL PERFORMANCES & ALBUMS

- **Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery.** Commissioned Spoken Word Performance, Waterloo, ON; Nov 25, 2023.
- **University of Waterloo Art Gallery.** Commissioned Spoken Word Performance, Waterloo, ON; Nov 25, 2023.
- **Black & Gold Gala, Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery.** Spoken Word Performance, Cambridge, ON; Oct 19, 2023.
- **Pink Moon.** ECW Press, Toronto; September 2023.

- **'To Be Free'** - City of Waterloo World Poetry Day, one of 10 poets selected; Waterloo, ON; March 20-25, 2023.
- **Spoken word performance.** 'Women Talking' film screening; Princess Cinemas, Waterloo, ON; March 8, 2023.
- **Spoken word performance.** Annual ArtsPay Exhibition; 44Gaukel, Kitchener, ON; November 26, 2022.
- **Warm Love EP** – Spoken word digital EP and mixtape featuring original poetry and music; available on all streaming platforms; October 2022.
- **'You Are the Magic'** - Live Performance. Neruda Arts mural unveiling. St. Jacobs, ON; September 2022.
- **'Spirit of Her'** - Live Performance. AKASHA Artist Reception, Kitchener, ON; July 29, 2022.
- **Breaking** – Coppel, TX: Kindle Direct Publishing, October 2020.
- **Art of the Unknown** – USA: Rad Press Publishing, April 2018.
- **This Is My Story, This Is My Song** – Bloomington, Indiana: Westbow Press, April 2017.

INTERVIEWS

- **HOWL 89.5FM - Valentino Assenza interview with Roshan James.** Toronto, ON. Nov 21, 2023.
- **On the Scene Interview with Roshan James.** Midtown Radio, Kitchener, ON. October 5, 2023.
- **Pink Moon Toronto Launch & Live Interview with Aashay Dalvi (they/them), founder of Rad Riot Books** (link forthcoming). Queen Books, Toronto, ON. September 20, 2023.
- **'Roshan James on Creating Poetry & Awareness About Canada's Deadliest Terrorist Attack.'** Open Book. September 12, 2023.
- **'All in a Day' with Alan Neale.** CBC Ottawa. Ottawa, ON; May 10, 2023.
- **"'Women Talking': Local filmmakers host International Women's Day event in Waterloo."** Ward, Marshall. Waterloo Chronicle. March 2023.
- **"Artist 'mad science-ing' ahead of Organisme exhibition in Waterloo Region."** Ward, Marshall. Waterloo Chronicle. November 2022.
- **"AKASHA: Interview with Roshan James."** Brown, Glodeane. Culture Fancier. July 2022.
- **"Roshan James creates art encouraging re-examination of societal norms."** Burrowes, Colin. Wood-Stein Media, July 2022.
- **"Episode 139,"** Bonn Park Podcast, May 11, 2022
- **"Paying it Forward."** Mangalaseril, Jasmine. The Grand Magazine: pages 44-47. Kitchener, ON. June 2021.

EXPERTISE

- Nationally-recognized poet, spoken word artist, and sound composer
- Visual artist – Mixed media, oil, acrylic, sculpture, photography, illustration, digital media
- Classically-trained pianist - Royal Conservatory, Grade 8 practical and theory
- Trained vocalist, coached by Emm Gryner and Mitch Seekins
- 20 years of experience in business strategy, governance, planning, reporting, and integrated communications and marketing
- Brand strategy and creative concept development; writing and editing
- Digital content creation and graphic design, including website layouts and augmented reality
- Academic research; business data analysis and insights