

About the Artist



Melanie Daniel was born in Victoria, BC. She completed her MFA at Bezalel Academy, Israel where she later became a professor. She was recently the Padnos Distinguished Artist-in-Residence at Grand Valley State University, Michigan.

Daniel's psychedelic, unnatural palette, dense areas of vibrating pattern, and skewed perspectives underscore the uneasy relationship between the subjects and their environment. Her paintings poignantly capture the pervading duality of utopian and dystopian narratives. Daniel's big, brash, and strangely beautiful works are cautionary yet hopeful. They show the resilience of nature, as plants and flowers intermingle with graffitied ruins and threaten to overrun the canvas.

Thank you for visiting the Gallery today.
Visit us at www.kelownaartgallery.com.

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We acknowledge that the Kelowna Art Gallery operates on the unceded traditional territory of the syilx/Okanagan people.



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Melanie Daniel

Goin' Where the Climate Suits My Clothes

November 14, 2020 to April 4, 2021



Melanie Daniel, *Honeygrind*, 2019, oil on canvas, 87.5 x 71 inch. Courtesy of Asya Geisberg Gallery, NY.

Looking Closer A free gallery guide to get you started

Introduction

Melanie Daniel points to our uneasy relationship with planet Earth in *Goin' Where the Climate Suits My Clothes*. Facing possible extinction, the humans in her psychedelic worlds resemble Mad Max-like characters, trying to operate in an environment threatened by natural and social catastrophes. Through large-scale canvases, works on paper, papier-mâché sculptures, and stop-motion animation, Daniel presents both utopian and dystopian storylines. Her bold and strangely beautiful works are cautionary, yet hopeful, in that their protagonists demonstrate the will to adapt and survive.



Melanie Daniel, *Only Four Degrees*, 2019, oil on canvas, 77 x 120 inch. Courtesy of Asya Geisberg Gallery, NY.

The people who populate her luminous scenes seem to be painfully aware of their difficult circumstances and have adopted various methods to cope with their altered surroundings. In *Only Four Degrees*, a lone figure sits amidst a desolate post-disaster landscape and attempts to create a power source—perhaps to make contact with others.

Questions to Consider



Melanie Daniel, *Late Bloomers*, 2018, papier-mâché and found materials, variable sizes. Courtesy of the artist.

- Consider the landscapes that Melanie Daniel presents. What elements are familiar and what elements are foreign to you as a viewer?
- Daniel's exhibition focuses on the challenges of climate change and presents her unique vision of the future. What would your vision of the future look like if you painted it? Would it be similar or different from Daniels artworks?
- If you could contribute a sculpture to the collection of pieces titled *Late Bloomers*, what would you create? What would the object look like and what would you make it from?
- Consider the use of colour in Melanie Daniel's paintings and sculptures. Are bright neon hues colours that you would associate with the climate crisis?