

# BRENDA DRANEY

## *DRINK FROM THE RIVER*

In her first exhibition in the United States, Brenda Draney (member of Sawridge First Nation, Treaty 8) shares narrative paintings made since 2009, along with newly commissioned works, that offer glimpses into her personal and communal experience. The basements, backyards, furniture and faces depicted draw on collective memory to portray a world that is at once particular and available.

*Brenda Draney: Drink from the river* further explores the notion of flux suggested by the unceasing flow of a river. Inspired by the classical aphorism stating that no person can step in the same river twice, Draney's oeuvre embraces the futility of recapturing past experience. Draney reconciles this impossibility by inviting silence. She leaves expanses of white space that require the collaboration of the viewer, while her sketchy, assured brushstrokes convey moments of intimacy, trauma, and gathering.

Born in Edmonton and raised in Slave Lake, Alberta, Draney and her community have encountered both flood (1988) and fire (2011). The painted flood line seen in these galleries brings the exhibition into the space of the river, evoking its powerful force that is both destructive and life-affirming.



En su primera exhibición en los Estados Unidos, Brenda Draney (miembro de la Primera Nación de Sawridge, Tratado 8) comparte pinturas narrativas realizadas desde 2009, junto con obras encargadas recientemente, que ofrecen destellos de su experiencia personal y comunitaria. Los sótanos, patios, muebles y rostros representados recurren a la memoria colectiva para retratar un mundo a la vez particular y disponible.

*Brenda Draney: Drink from the river* explora aún más la noción de flujo sugerida por la correa constante de un río. Inspirada en el aforismo clásico que afirma que ninguna persona puede pisar dos veces el mismo río, la obra de Draney abarca la inutilidad de recuperar experiencias pasadas. Draney concilia esta imposibilidad invitando al silencio.

Deja extensiones de espacio en blanco que requieren la colaboración del espectador, mientras que sus pinceladas incompletas y seguras transmiten momentos de intimidad, trauma y reunión.

Nacida en Edmonton y criada en Slave Lake, Alberta, Draney y su comunidad se han enfrentado a inundaciones (1988) e incendios (2011). La línea de inundación pintada que se ve en estas galerías lleva la exposición al espacio del río, evocando su poderosa fuerza que es tanto destructiva como afirmadora de la vida.

**BRENDA DRANEY: *DRINK FROM THE RIVER***

**The Arts Club of Chicago**  
**June 14- August 15, 2023**

1. *Rest*, 2021. Oil on canvas, 196 × 286 cm.  
Private collection.
2. *Flood*, 2009. Oil on canvas, 122 × 152 cm.  
Courtesy the artist and Catriona Jeffries, Vancouver.
3. *Strange Invitation*, 2020. Oil on canvas, 122 × 152 cm.  
Courtesy the artist and Catriona Jeffries, Vancouver.
4. *Orange Tent*, 2020. Oil on canvas, 122 × 152 cm.  
Collection of John Cook.
5. *Diane*, 2022. Oil on canvas, 91 × 91 cm.  
Commissioned by The Power Plant, 2022.  
Courtesy the artist and Catriona Jeffries, Vancouver.
6. *Visit*, 2021. Oil on canvas, 170 × 278 cm.  
Courtesy Gage and Luke Allard.
7. *Cut*, 2022. Oil on canvas, 64 × 51 cm.  
Commissioned by The Power Plant, 2022.  
Courtesy the artist and Catriona Jeffries, Vancouver.
8. *A Basement Party*, 2022. Oil on canvas, 170 × 297 cm.  
Commissioned by The Power Plant, 2022.  
Courtesy the artist and Catriona Jeffries, Vancouver.

9. *Lawyer*, 2022. Oil on canvas, 91 × 122 cm.  
Commissioned by The Power Plant, 2022.  
Private collection.

10. *Dart*, 2017. Oil on linen, 71 × 71 cm.  
Indigenous Art Collection, Crown-Indigenous Relations  
and Northern Affairs Canada.

11. *Self-portrait*, 2022. Oil on canvas, 63 × 50 cm.  
Commissioned by The Power Plant, 2022.  
Courtesy the artist and Catriona Jeffries, Vancouver.

12. *Women*, 2017. Oil on canvas, 71 × 71 cm.  
Courtesy M. Zita Cobb.

13. *Rose*, 2019. Oil on canvas, 91 × 122 cm.  
Courtesy the artist and Catriona Jeffries, Vancouver.

14. *Pray*, 2020. Oil on canvas, 64 × 51 cm.  
Courtesy Michelle Koerner and Kevin Doyle.

15. *Descendant*, 2013. Oil on linen, 122 × 91 cm.  
Courtesy the artist and Catriona Jeffries, Vancouver.

16. *Shan*, 2013. Oil on canvas, 20 × 25 cm.  
Payne-Moran Collection.

17. *Vanity*, 2019. Oil on canvas, 51 × 64 cm.  
Private collection.

18. *Legs*, 2022. Oil on canvas, 64 × 51 cm.  
Commissioned by The Power Plant, 2022.  
Courtesy Joe Friday and Grant Jameson, Ottawa.

19. *Theatre*, 2019. Oil on linen, 157 × 298 cm.  
Private collection.

20. *Toast*, 2022. Oil on canvas, 152 × 122 cm.  
Courtesy the artist and Catriona Jeffries, Vancouver.

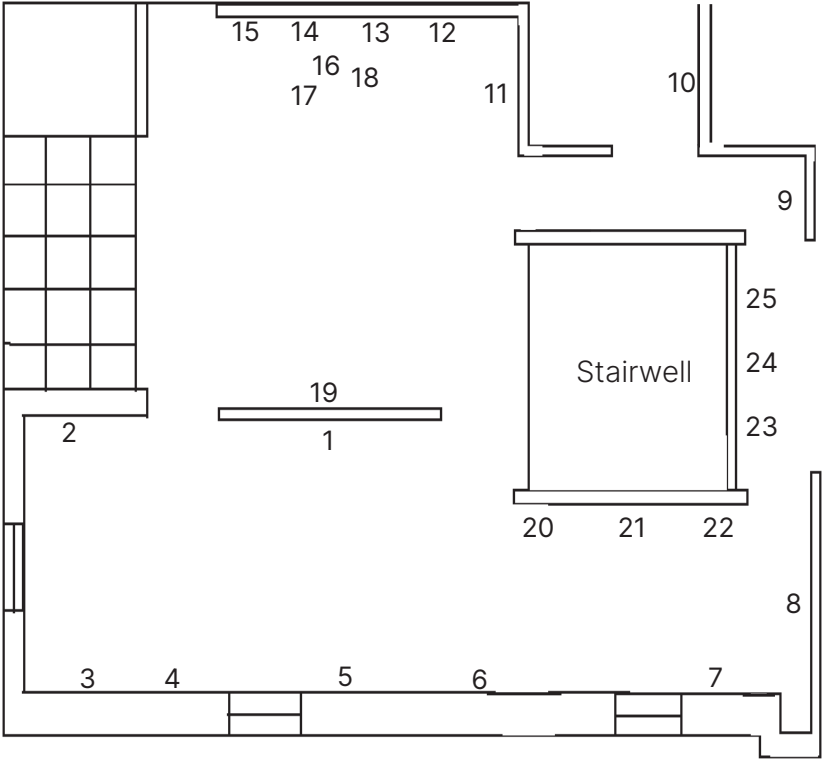
21. *Teenager*, 2019. Oil on canvas, 51 × 64 cm.  
Collection of Vicki and Bruce Heyman

22. *Accord*, 2021. Oil on canvas, 51 × 64 cm.  
Courtesy the artist and Catriona Jeffries, Vancouver.

23. *Tube Top*, 2015. Gouache on paper, 45.7 × 61 cm.  
Courtesy the artist and Catriona Jeffries, Vancouver.

24. *Jean Shorts*, 2015. Gouache on paper, 45.7 × 61 cm.  
Courtesy the artist and Catriona Jeffries, Vancouver.

25. *Winnebago*, 2015. Gouache on paper, 45.7 × 61 cm.  
Courtesy the artist and Catriona Jeffries, Vancouver.



*Drink from the river* was initiated, organized, and circulated by The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery, Toronto, in collaboration with The Arts Club of Chicago; and the Art Gallery of Alberta, Edmonton. The exhibition was curated by Janine Mileaf, Executive Director and Chief Curator, for the Chicago presentation.

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