

VESSELA BRAKALOVA

Born 1961, Sofia, Bulgaria

Lives and works in St. Philip's—Portugal Cove, NL

EDUCATION

- 1983–1985 National Academy of Fine Arts, Sofia, Bulgaria Master of Fine Arts
1979–1983 National Academy of Fine Arts, Sofia, Bulgaria Bachelor of Fine Arts
1974–1979 High School of Fine Arts, Sofia, Bulgaria Illustration Program Diploma

EXHIBITIONS, GRANTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- 2023 *Iceberg in The Bottle* public art for Quidi Vidi Brewery, St. John's, NL
2022 ArtsNL, *In Your Blood — The Chapel and Un-Natural (rapid) Developments*, Professional Project Grant Program, St. John's, NL
2022 Provincial Art Bank, *Synergy (360 degrees of Port Union)*, Purchased, St. John's, NL
2021 Bonavista Biennale, Participation in national contemporary exhibit, Bonavista, NL
2021 ArtsNL, *Wireless Charging Station for Weary Humans* and *In your Blood*, Professional Project Grant Program, St. John's, NL
2021 Provincial Art Bank, *Brake or Break #2*, Purchased, St. John's, NL
2021 Repair, *place, self, and future* group exhibit, UHA, Port Union, NL
2020 Provincial Art Bank, *Fitzpatrick's Pipe: The Great Fire of 1892*, Purchased, St. John's, NL
2020 ArtsNL, *360 degrees of Port Union/Life in patterns*, Professional Project Grant Program, St. John's, NL
2020 Artist-in-Residence at Union House Arts (UHA), Port Union, NL
2019 ArtsNL Profesional Artists' Travel Fund, St. John's, NL
2019 EVA VAN–CARFAC The Milestone Award-nominee, St. John's, NL
2018 ArtsNL, *Dynamics of Changing Life/Patterns*, Professional Project Grant Program, St. John's, NL
2018 *Calamity&Glass*, First solo mosaic exhibit by artist Vessela Brakalova, Craft Council Gallery, St. John's, NL
2018 *Sharing the rich waters of the North Atlantic, #1 and #2 and Portrait of St. John's*, public art. Three large-scale illuminated digital artworks, St. John's International Airport, St. John's, NL
2017 NLAC *Calamity and Glass // Contemporary Mosaics*, Professional Project

- Grant Program in support of first artist Solo Exhibit In Devon House Main Gallery, scheduled for October 2018, St. John's, NL
- 2017 *Blizzard it was // Contemporary Mosaic*, Orthodontics Associates, private commission, St. John's, NL
- 2017 32nd ArtsNL Arts Awards Gala // *Genesis*, six mosaics presented to award recipients, St. John's, NL
- 2016 Provincial Art Bank, *Weather Imprint*, Purchased, St. John's, NL
- 2016 NLAC *Safe Harbour // St. John's Mosaic Vintage Maps*, Professional Project Grant Program, St. John's, NL
- 2016 *The Free World*, group exhibit, The Rooms, St. John's, NL
- 2016 *Safe Harbour*, Purchased SJCC, St. John's, NL
- 2016 EDTC of St. John's City Hall Visual Artist, Grant, St. John's, NL
- 2015 NLAC *Moving Masses/Ravena Style Sculptural Mosaic*, Professional Project Grant Program, St. John's, NL
- 2015 *International Art and Contemporary Mosaic MUSIWA15*, Florence, Italy
- 2015 NLAC *Humans' activities Imprints*, Professional Traveling Grant, St. John's, NL
- 2014 NLAC *Humans' activities Imprints*, Professional Project Grant Program, St. John's, NL
- 2014 EDTC of St. John's City Hall Visual Artist, Grant, St. John's, NL
- 2013 NLAC *Weather Imprints* Professional Project Grant Program, St. John's, NL
- 2013 EDTC of St. John's City Hall Visual Artist, Grant, St. John's, NL
- 2003 Aliant-Arts Council Cultural Innovation Fund, Grant, St. John's, NL
- 2001 *Newfoundland & Labrador Icons*, Public Art for St. John's Airport in collaboration with Jerry Evans, Net Pratt and Veselina Tomova, St. John's, NL

REVIEWS AND MEDIA RELEASES

CBC Here and Now, *Iceberg in the Bottle* Public Art in Quidi Vidi, May 19, 2023
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BdW9Q2AtRaA>

CBC Here and Now, *In Your Blood*, July 27, 2022
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1z2fqBTsj0pqxKRpT2QYorjcljHpeXqCR/>

Le Gaboteur, *Portrait d'une artiste de la Biennale Une artiste Bulgare devenue Terre-Neuvienne*, June 14, 2021
<https://www.gaboteur.ca/edition-du-14-juin-2021-lete-et-ses-promesses/>

Business & Arts Newfoundland and Labrador, June 21, 2019

“Uniting business and artists to solve problems in unexpected ways”, Artist’s success story used as a spearheading of Business & Arts Newfoundland and Labrador new re-branding initiative

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=72&v=57aSd-djLu4&feature=emb_logo

CBC Here and Now, August 29, 2018

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rYvSSpaoHPM>

BG-Voice, Bulgarian created art mosaics for interior of Canadian Airport (video), August 29, 2018

http://www.bg-voice.com/articles/view/bulgarka_izraboti_kartini_mozayki_za_interiora_na_kanadsko_letishte/8732/

Business & Arts Newfoundland and Labrador, Q&A with Visual Artist Vessela Brakalova, August 14, 2018

<https://businessandartsnl.com/qa-visual-artist-vessela-brakalova/>

BiT, Digital mosaics of Bulgarian decorated Airport in Canada (Video), July 22, 2018

<https://www.bgonair.bg/reportazhi/2018-07-30/digitalni-mozayki-na-balgarka-ukrasiha-letishteto-v-kanada>

Business & Arts Newfoundland and Labrador, Spotlight on St. John’s International Airport & Visual Artist Vessela Brakalova, July 17, 2018

<https://businessandartsnl.com/spotlight-st-johns-international-airport-visual-artist-vessela-brakalova/>

The Telegram, July 11, 2018

<http://www.thetelegram.com/business/first-phase-of-st-johns-international-airport-terminal-building-expansion-offers-bevy-of-new-dining-and-retail-options-to-travellers-225517/>

Business & Arts Newfoundland and Labrador, Spotlight on Orthodontic Associates & Artist Vessela Brakalova, January 16, 2018

<https://businessandartsnl.com/spotlight-orthodontic-associates-artist-vessela-brakalova/>

32nd ArtsNL Arts Awards Gala, Award artist, St. John’s, NL, April 28, 2017

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ktMc-iJC5PM>

Downhome Magazine, February 17, 2016, "Home is where the art is", by Ashley Miller
<http://downhomelife.com>

Canadian Art, June 15, 2016, by Lisa Moore
<http://canadianart.ca/reviews/the-free-world-the-rooms/>

CBC News, June 20, 2016
<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/bulgarian-art-st-john-s-rooms-1.3642027>

BIT TV Network, August 1, 2016
<https://www.facebook.com/BITelevision/videos/1241266899239601/>

COLLECTIONS

City of St. John's
The Rooms Provincial Art Gallery Collections

Various private collections in Canada and Europe.