

## Sheila Kernan: Our Calgary

Calgary artist Sheila Kernan's artwork titled *Our Calgary*, created for the Centre City Bridge Banner program, celebrates the diversity and beauty of Calgary and its distinctive architecture.

Kernan produced seven original canvas paintings for this project, which highlight Calgary's urban culture. The paintings integrate architecture from across the city to create unique streetscapes and skylines. This current work takes inspiration from a variety of structures and juxtaposes new with old, such as the 100-year-old Centre Street Bridge and recently built Peace Bridge. Other works incorporate form from up-and-coming infrastructure, such as the New Central Library.

The result is imagery that does not necessarily reflect one particular place; rather, it engages our imaginations. Kernan has drawn upon her personal memories of exploring Calgary during sunset, twilight and into the late hours of the night to create her artwork.

The juxtaposition of imagery alongside Kernan's use of thick texture marks, brilliant colours and one-of-a-kind stenciled patterns create many conversations. Each time you look at her work you might see something different.

2016 marks the 100-year anniversary of the Centre Street Bridge. Kernan has paid tribute to one of Calgary's oldest standing bridges by adding lion emblem motifs and stucco patterns into her seven canvasses.

The individual artworks for the series are showcased below and include (from left to right): *When I'm In My City*, *Celebrating Our City*, *Echoing Light*, *My Memories*, *Through My Eyes: You Look So Pretty*, and *I Can Feel My Dream When I am Here*.



### The art of Kernan's painting

Kernan explores the Canadian landscape and cityscape genre through her abstract paintings. Her brightly coloured, highly textured paintings are filled with thick juicy brushstrokes that glide across the canvas.

She transposes her vivid imagination into one-of-a-kind original mixed-media paintings that are anything but ordinary.