

MARINA PINTO MILLER, Ph.D.

ARTIST REPRESENTATION PROFILE

www.marinapintomiller.com

ARTIST PROFILE

Interdisciplinary artist and visual storyteller whose distinctive watercolour practice translates music and voice into colour, form and texture through colour-hearing synesthesia. Her work brings together original fine art, commissioned paintings, illustration, moving image and disability-centred storytelling. With a record of paid commissions, exhibitions, publishing and cultural collaborations, Marina is seeking commercial representation to develop commission opportunities, licensing potential and creative partnerships.

SIGNATURE ART PRACTICE

Marina paints music she experiences through synesthesia, creating watercolour works on paper inspired by natural and spoken voice sounds and by musical compositions. Her commissioned paintings have interpreted works by composers including Rachmaninov, Prokofiev, Mahler, Dvořák, Mozart, Beethoven, Sarasate, Sibelius, Bach, Monteverdi and Handel. She has developed an individual mapping and notation approach to capture the relationships between auditory stimuli and the colour, form and texture that emerge in each painting. Musicians have told her they can see the sounds they play.

REPRESENTATION OPPORTUNITY

Seeking a commercial art agent to build opportunities around original music-inspired paintings and related creative work, including commissioned artwork, potential licensing, and partnerships across music, publishing, film, cultural organizations and design. Licensing and partnership development are areas for future growth, not presented here as established licensing deals.

REPRESENTATION HIGHLIGHTS

- **Distinctive artistic proposition:** A recognizable, synesthesia-led way of translating sound into visual art, with opportunities for music-related commissions and cross-disciplinary projects.
- **Established commission experience:** 30+ paid commissions for paintings of classical music since 1998, with works in private homes across Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom.
- **Cross-format practice:** Experience spanning original paintings, illustration, print and video projects, animated videos, web design and social-media formats.
- **Collaborative and public-facing work:** Projects with musicians, arts organizations, educational partners and disability-focused initiatives, alongside documentary and broadcast appearances.

SELECTED COMMISSIONS & COMMERCIAL PROJECTS

- 30+ paid commissions for classical-music paintings for clients in corporate banking, real estate, film, television, arts, academia, music and holistic healing; works are held in homes across Canada, the US and UK (1998–present).
- Painted a musical score by Jason Cullimore for the documentary Lights, Camera and a Call to Action (2024).
- Created 10 full-page watercolour illustrations for The Olive Kingdom by A.B. Neilly, Prometea Press (2021).
- Created eight hand-drawn design elements for the cover and pages of The Beloved Equation, Prometea Press (2019).
- Designed an olive-tree wall graphic for a private Toronto home; the design was made into wall decals by Creative Silhouettes Inc. and published in Houzz (2016).
- Created 21 hand-drawn illustrations for educational math cards for Eyeseeme African American Bookstore and the St. Louis school board; the project became Jonathan's Number Party (2015).
- Created fundraising campaign logos for Hospice Toronto and Lucy's Angels for Breast Cancer Care (2009–2011).
- Designed wedding contract panels based on music by Bach, Mozart and Handel for The Ketubah Company (2007–2009).
- Created CD covers for singer-songwriters Joyce Aldrich, Maria Antonakos and Sibylle Preuschat (2001–2014).

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

- Toronto Outdoor Art Fair, Tangled Arts + Disability Booth — invited artist; new works titled "In Answer to A Dream, A Question" featured in the online catalogue (2026).
- Art featured in a professional demo reel by filmmaker Autumn Sky of Exuvium Productions (2026).
- Toronto Outdoor Art Fair, Tangled Arts + Disability Booth — invited artist; "Worlds in Green, Red & Blue" paintings, prints and video (2025).

- Tree Songs — physical installation and permanent online exhibition at Tangled Arts + Disability Gallery (2024).
- I AM HERE — “Old Woman, Clapsed Hands” included in the Portraits of Resilience exhibition at the Art Gallery of Ontario (2021).
- Presented “Marina Painting Sarasate” at the Art Gallery of Ontario and participated in the University of Toronto Faculty of Music’s Music Visualization Workshop as part of Crossing Sensory Boundaries (2013).
- Self-mounted solo exhibitions at community venues across Toronto; sold \$3,000 worth of work (2002).
- Invited group exhibition at the Toronto Arts and Letters Club (1999).

COLLABORATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS

- Humber Polytechnic University Self Advocacy Learning: co-developed a toolkit, created animated “Mindset Shift” videos supporting students with disabilities preparing for employment, delivered a keynote at the program launch and published the paper that inspired the project in CareerWise (2025–2026).
- The Music Recovery Project: supports the production and promotion of music by composer Cristian Pinto Ferré (1924–1947), including research, Spanish lyric translation, language coaching, grant applications and outreach to music organizations (2023–2028).
- Colours in Music: An Art Show and Concert — collaboration with Toronto Symphony Orchestra musicians, Five Small Concerts Series and the Canadian Synesthesia Association; paintings were performed in concert (2016).
- The Beloved Equation Workshop — arts-based workshop on creativity and music for adult learners at Gilda’s Place, Artscape and Humber Employment Center (2012–2015).

BOOKS & ILLUSTRATION

- The Beloved Equation: A True Story — author/illustrator; Golden Wizard Prize and Book Review; published 2022.
- Jonathan’s Number Party — author/illustrator; Golden Wizard Prize and Book Review; published 2018; both books are available through the Toronto Public Library and libraries across Ontario through the Indie Author Program.
- The Olive Kingdom — illustrations for a book authored by A.B. Neilly, Prometea Press (2021).

FILM, TELEVISION & RECOGNITION

- CBC News: Sunday — “Marina’s Art,” an award-winning short film about Marina’s art and life, broadcast nationally (2004).
- Synaesthesia: Marina’s Story — New York Film Festival, Silver Medal, Arts Category (2004).
- CBC News: Sunday — Winner of the first Innoversity Award (2003).
- “Bad Disability Words,” Moving On — Columbus International Film and Video Festival recognition (2000); New York Film Festival finalist (2000).
- Gracie Allen Award for Outstanding Reality Show, CBC Past Life Investigation (2005).

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Professional background in television production (1998–2006) and corporate communications (2007–2024), with earlier experience in language, translation, historical and archaeological research, archives, special collections, libraries, and museums.

Ph.D. in Anthropology, Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana (1998).

Portfolio and long-form CV available on request. Please visit the artist website for current work and portfolio context.