



The Queen's University Fine Art (Visual Art) Program is excited to announce that for the second time this year, one of our students, **Meenakashi Ghadial**, has won the **Elizabeth Greenshield Foundation's** grant for \$17,000 for work she produced in our Program. The Elizabeth Greenshield Foundation [website](#) describes these grants as "one of the most prestigious grants available to emerging representational artists, as well as one of the most substantial. It is one of the longest standing, with an illustrious history of recipients spanning more than half a century. It is also unique in its scope, in that it is available to students and artists around the world."

The Queen's BFA Program would like to acknowledge this award and congratulate Meenakashi on her success in securing it. Meenakashi is a fourth year in the BFA student.



Lover, 2021.

18" X 14", oil on canvas

Meenakashi Ghadial is an artist based in Brampton, Ontario who uses portraiture as a self-reflective form of art exploring themes of identity, vulnerability, femininity and sexuality. By using herself as the subject in many of her works, she uses intimate moments that are both posed and unposed to create a conversation around how the viewer interacts with the subject in a painting. From her artist statement Meenakashi says "I create a sense of intimacy by using perspectives that can only be seen from the privacy of my intimate spaces, as well as using subjects like my family and my partner outside of my self-portrait work... As both a queer woman of colour, and the first second generation immigrant in my family, I aim to explore the parts of myself that I have had to censor in my work while navigating my identity. Queer bodies that belong to women of colour that exist in art are often shamed from their native backgrounds and misrepresented in the western art context. Through my work I am on a journey to represent the bodies and identities of queer women of colour unapologetically and accurately through representational work, while simultaneously creating a space for them to exist within the western art world. Meenakashi's artwork can be seen here: <https://www.meenakart.com/>

BFA Assistant Professor Rebecca Anweiler says, "Meenakashi has pushed the boundaries of contemporary painting by exploring her sexuality within a traditional immigrant family structure, and her works exhibit both the love and the conflict this positioning entails for her. In the third-year paint course she took with me she challenged herself further, jumping off from her own photographs to develop an approach that was less overworked, more relaxed and expressive of, in particular, the potential of the portrait at capturing emotive moments."

Once again, the BFA Program would like to congratulate Meenakashi Ghadial on this wonderful and well-deserved recognition of her work.