

# CHRISTA GAMP P

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## Profile

Born and raised in the small town of Oberhausen, Baden in southwest Germany, I enjoyed growing up in an artistic family environment. My father operated a decorative arts and design business during his younger years. He was a skilled watercolourist, sign painter and calligrapher. The creative side of my mother was expressed in her keen eye for detail and design in everything she did, from floral arrangements to crafts of any kind. One of my brothers is a renowned mixed-media artist with an extensive exhibition record and numerous publications.

When I was in my early twenties, I chose to make Canada my new home. After a few years of immersing myself into the Canadian culture, I decided to further my art education at the Ontario College of Art in Toronto, where I graduated with honors in 1988 with a specialist in Drawing and Painting. After completing a B.A. at the University of Toronto ('90) and B.Ed. at Nipissing University ('91), I have worked as artist and educator in Toronto, Canada.

My artwork can be found in private and corporate collections in Canada, Germany and the US. The Chest of Hope torso sculptures were featured on Breakfast Television, CityTV, Toronto (October 2007) and Rogers Television 'In Toronto', with Host Veronica Chail (May 2008).

Over the past 20 years, I have produced figurative work and still life compositions on canvas, paper and wood. In recent years, I have developed a passion for mosaic sculpture, which was fuelled by my love for surface texture and pattern.

In the fall of 2006, I brought to life the **CHEST OF HOPE** Torso Art Project to raise funds for breast cancer research and breast health advocacy. It involves the creation of unique torso sculptures cast on volunteer models, some of whom are breast cancer survivors. This has been the most rewarding art project I have undertaken to date, as it allows me to engage in social activism in a time when the concept of 'Hope' provides much needed encouragement for many.

## Selected Exhibitions

- 2007** "Chest of Hope Exhibition and Silent Auction for Breast Cancer Research", THE GLADSTONE HOTEL GALLERY, Toronto, ON
- 2006** "Timeless Beauty", ARTA GALLERY, Toronto, ON
- 2006** "Canada Blooms", KIPLING GALLERY, Woodbridge, ON
- 2006** "21<sup>st</sup> Annual Juried Art Show", SCARBOROUGH ARTS COUNCIL, Scarborough
- 2004** "52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Open Juried Art Show", COLOUR & FORM SOCIETY, Etobicoke
- 2004** "31<sup>st</sup> Annual Juried Show", ART GALLERY OF PEEL, Brampton, ON
- 2004** "Great Art Glad Heart", GALLERY 1313, Toronto, ON
- 2002** "Art at the Heart Juried Art Show", SCARBOROUGH ARTS COUNCIL
- 2002** "Cabbagetown Arts and Craft Show", juried, Toronto, ON
- 2002** "Leathertown Festival Juried Art Show", Acton, ON
- 1998** Rocfern International Galleries INC., Woodbridge, ON
- 1996** "Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition", *juried, Toronto, ON*
- 1995** "The Jazz Series", Solo Exhibition, The Q-CLUB, Toronto, ON
- 1994** "Surgere ab Intra – The Surge from Within", Solo Exhibition, CAFÉ DES ARTS, Toronto, ON

## Curatorial

**2007** **Chest of Hope** Exhibition and Silent Auction, The Gladstone Hotel Gallery, Toronto, ON, Canada

## Grants & Awards

**2002** "Halton Hills Glass Award", LEATHERTOWN FESTIVAL, Halton Hills, ON

**1994** "Exhibition Assistance Grant", ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL

**1991** "Gold Medal", St. Michael's College, University of Toronto

## Visual Arts Workshop Instructor

**1990-2008** Private Art Instruction, Children and Adults

**2005-2007** YORK UNIVERSITY, FACULTY OF EDUCATION, Pre-Service Teacher Art Workshops

**2001-2007** TCDSB (Toronto Catholic District School Board), Teacher Art Workshops

**2002-2005** TCDSB Summer Institutes, Instructor of Mosaics (2005), Stained Glass (2003/04), Fresco Secco Painting (2002)

## Private & Corporate Collections

Rawlco Services, Thornhill, Canada

FRANKE & BILL JAMES, Toronto, Canada

EAGLE PARTNERS, Financial Solutions, Mississauga, Canada

GORDON KIRKE, Q.C., Toronto, Canada

MAGNOTTA CORPORATION, Vaughn, Canada

R+V INSURANCE, Germany

STATE WELFARE FEDERATION OF BADEN, Germany

PRIVATE COLLECTIONS, Canada, US, Germany

## Media & Publications

James, F. (2009). *Bothered by My Green Conscience: Where art meets personal activism*. Gabriola Island: New Society Publishers.

Mosaic Art Source Blog. **Mosaic Art Sculpture. Chest of Hope Torso Casts in Support of Breast Cancer**. [Internet]. Vancouver: Mosaic Art Source, September 2008 – [cited 11 March 2009]. Available from:

<http://mosaicartsource.wordpress.com/2008/09/17/mosaic-art-sculpture-chest-of-hope-torso-casts-in-support-of-breast-cancer-mosaic-artist-christa-gampp-toronto-ontario-canada/>

Grant, K., **Artist Watch: Christa Gampp & Torso Mosaics for a Great Cause**. Canberra, ACT: Kim Grant, February 2008 – [cited: 25 March 2008]. Available from: <http://kimgrantmosaics.wordpress.com/2008/02/10/torso-mosaics-for-a-great-cause/>.

Schmidhuber, W. (2008) **'Acht Meter langer Rosa Schal als Chest of Hope'**.

*Aktuell Oberhausen-Rheinhausen*, 18 January, p. 20. Available at:

[http://www.oberhausen-rheinhausen.de/59.0.html?&cHash=a3ee2893be&layout=&style=&tx\\_ttnews\[backPid\]=21&tx\\_ttnews\[pointer\]=3&tx\\_ttnews\[tt\\_news\]=464](http://www.oberhausen-rheinhausen.de/59.0.html?&cHash=a3ee2893be&layout=&style=&tx_ttnews[backPid]=21&tx_ttnews[pointer]=3&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=464) [Accessed: 25 March 2008].

Schmidhuber, W. (2007) **'Handgestrickter rosa Schal als Zeichen der Hoffnung'**, *Badische Neueste Nachrichten*, 29 December, p.25.

**Breakfast Television**, Host Dina Pugliese (2007). [DVD] City TV. 18 October.

**In Toronto**, Host Veronica Chail (2007). [Video Cassette] Rogers Television. 15 May.

**Canadian Treasurer Magazine** (1995 & 1997), Cover Art, August Issue.