



— City of —
PICKERING

BANNER SERIES 2025

ARTWORK BY KHAULA SIDDIQU
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ARTIST STATEMENT: PICKERING; STORIES THROUGH THE SEASONS

The proposed artwork for the City of Pickering celebrates the vibrant connection between community, wildlife, and the ever-changing beauty of nature. I have sought to capture the essence of Pickering's landscapes—its lush forests, shimmering waterways, and the diverse species that call this region home. These pieces reflect the harmony between human activity and the natural world, illustrating how we share these spaces with wildlife while enjoying outdoor recreation, even if it is just a walk. The changing seasons play a central role in this series, from the first rays of the spring sun inviting pollinators to come out with its gentle warmth—to the crisp stillness of winter, where skaters trace patterns on ice. The passage of time is also marked by the shifting light of dawn and dusk, casting the scenery in new hues and moods. Whether it's the vibrant greens of spring, the rich tones of autumn, or the quiet serenity of a snow-covered trail, each moment invites reflection and appreciation for the world around us.

Wildlife is a vital thread throughout these compositions, reminding us of the delicate balance within our shared ecosystems. Birds in flight, a fox at the forest's edge, and other native species appear as quiet observers, coexisting with the human presence in these spaces. By highlighting these interactions, I hope to foster a deeper respect for the natural habitats that surround us and encourage stewardship of these environments for future generations.

Ultimately, this series is an invitation—to pause, to explore, and to reconnect with the outdoors. It is a tribute to Pickering's unique blend of urban life and natural beauty, where every season offers new ways to engage with the landscape. Through these banners, I aim to inspire a sense of wonder and gratitude for the fleeting yet enduring moments that define our relationship with nature.

ARTIST PROCESS: THE STORY BEHIND THE STORIES

As an avid story teller and nature lover, my process involves exploring the places I am making art for. The natural spaces, the built spaces, the inhabitants of both. I take endless photographs, trying to catch lighting and colours, emotions and nostalgia, hoping to evoke all these for my audience. I want them to feel what I feel when I see the last rays of sun hitting dandelion fluff at just the right angle, the childhood memories of long days, carefree times and the magic in everything. I want to remind everyone that it is still there, we just have to stop and notice it. As the daughter of immigrants, born and raised in Canada, the sense of belonging has been a roller coaster, I belong but sometimes I don't. Living in my parents home country it was the same, and it was a Rumi quote that made me realize we belong everywhere at different times, "Wherever you stand, be the soul of that place"-Rumi. We have a connection to everything and everyone, nature, people, places. We are all connected, in different ways at different times, but ultimately we are all bound together and depend on each other. We all love many of the same things, we have the same emotions and same needs. I just want to share stories that we can all relate to, to remind everyone that there is more that brings us together than that keeps us apart.

These are also some themes that are present in many Rumi quotes and they are the inspiration behind much of my art.













