

*“I decided to use the Garry oak as a vehicle to express the oral histories of the place. Stories discovered in the archives and with local residents are inscribed into the images of the trees within my artwork.”*

Blake Williams



**Saanich Comprehensive Arts Vision:**

Saanich is a lively and creative community accessible to artists, to a broad range of artistic expression and to the participation of all residents.

Saanich Comprehensive Arts Policy may be found online at: [www.saanich.ca/cap](http://www.saanich.ca/cap)



*The District of Saanich's 1% for Public Art Policy encourages the creation of new works of art to enhance public spaces throughout our community.*



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**Bridging Perspectives**  
 by Blake Williams

Public Art



“connections”

down through forests: dark, light breaking ahead the

Sel Kirk Water

Lekwungen

Gorge

Through his artwork Blake Williams hopes to create a space that intrigues and inspires visitors to respect and be guardians of the environment. He has created a space where stories of the area can be shared.



“reflect”

The District of Saanich is committed to improving services and the quality of life in the municipality. As part of that commitment Saanich partnered in the reconstruction of the Craigflower Bridge that crosses the Gorge waterway from Saanich to View Royal along Admirals Road. In connection with the construction of the bridge, Saanich dedicated funding toward a work of public art.

The bridge was completed in March 2014 and a public art competition was held in early 2015. A five member public art jury of artists, community representatives, and Saanich staff worked together to oversee the competition process as outlined in the “Comprehensive Arts Policy, 2002.”

The theme for the project and art work is “Bridging Perspectives;” promoting the variety of positive relationships between the local people and the local ecologies. The art work of Blake Williams was chosen through our jury review based on criteria outlined in the call for proposals.

Blake’s art work is a steel, concrete and glass form approximately 10’ long, clad in glass with fused imagery, colour and text. It’s curving serpentine form mimics the curving flow of the Gorge waterway, while the imagery is influenced by the history of the site and the huge Garry oak trees found in the vicinity of the bridge.

Blake Willimas is a Vancouver based artist working primarily in public art. He has a background in photography and film with digital studies at Emily Carr University and specialized photographic training at Langara College. His public art may also be found in Coquitlam, BC; Red Deer, Alta.; Port Moody, BC; and Calgary, Alta. In addition, he works in documentary film and video projects.

“landmarks”



“explore”

